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BILATERAL PROTOCOL

BETWEEN:

**FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS
(the “FSIN”)
as represented by the Chief of the Federation**

AND

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF SASKATCHEWAN
(the “Province”)
as represented by the Premier of Saskatchewan**

WHEREAS the Parties are desirous of entering into a Bilateral Protocol to establish a framework for effective communications and to continue their harmonious relationship.

NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1.0 Principles

The Parties agree that:

- 1.1** This Bilateral Protocol is not a treaty and does not create any legal obligations;
- 1.2** Canada has constitutional, fiduciary, treaty, and fiscal obligations to First Nations peoples both on – and off – reserve; and this Bilateral Protocol does not abrogate or derogate from those obligations;
- 1.3** The primary relationship between Saskatchewan First Nations and the Crown is, and will continue to be, between those First Nations and Canada;
- 1.4** Notwithstanding the primary relationship with Canada, First Nations and the Province benefit from a working relationship where issues of mutual concern are effectively communicated and addressed; and
- 1.5** Each Party respects the differing views and positions of the other while committing to create effective processes to address these differences.

2.0 Process

2.1 The Bilateral Protocol establishes a three-tier process:

(a) A Leaders' Forum:

The Premier of Saskatchewan and the Chief of the FSIN will meet quarterly, or otherwise as mutually agreed: to consult about and discuss matters of common interest, to set agendas for the Political Steering Committee, to receive reports, and to review progress on agenda items.

(b) Political Steering Committee:

Cabinet Ministers and FSIN Executive Council will meet quarterly, or otherwise as mutually agreed, to address the agenda items agreed to at the Leader's Forum. The Premier and Chief of the FSIN will be *ex officio* co-chairs of the Committee, and in their absence will be represented by permanent co-chairs. The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs will be the permanent co-chair representing the Province and an assigned Vice-Chief will be the permanent co-chair representing the FSIN. The co-chairs of the Committee will co-manage its activities, including the direction to the Senior Officials Committee.

(c) Senior Officials Committee:

Saskatchewan and the FSIN agree to appoint Senior Officials to carry out tasks assigned by the Leader's Forum and the Political Steering Committee. The Chief of Staff of the FSIN will be the co-chair representing the FSIN and the Deputy Minister of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs will be the co-chair representing the Province. The co-chairs of the Committee will co-manage its activities, including providing technical support to and carrying out any direction provided to it by the Leaders' Forum and the Political Steering Committee.

3.0 Mandate and Agenda

3.1 As its first order of business, the Leader's Forum shall identify immediate priority issues of mutual interest and identify the manner in which issues will be addressed. Priority issues will be mutually determined and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Federal off-loading;

- (b) Strategies to increase federal funding for First Nations people both on – and off – reserve;
- (c) Strategies to increase federal involvement in addressing diabetes and other health issues;
- (d) Strategies to increase federal involvement in addressing lands and resources issues; and other lands and resources issues of a purely bilateral nature;
- (e) Treaty land entitlement issues of a purely bilateral nature;
- (f) Economic development opportunities of mutual interest to the Province and First Nations;
- (g) Gaming; and
- (h) Social Union Framework Agreement.

4.0 Link to the Common Table with Canada

4.1 The Parties have concluded a separate protocol with Canada that established a Common Table to facilitate tripartite discussions on matters of mutual concern.

4.2 The linkage between this Bilateral Protocol and the Common Table shall be that as the Parties identify issues requiring the participation of Canada, the Parties shall advance those issues to the Common Table for Discussion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE PARTIES HERETO AFFIX THEIR SIGNATURES this 19 day of March, 2003 at Regina, in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Original signed by Perry Bellegarde

Original signed by Lawrence Joseph

 The Federation of Saskatchewan
 Indian Nations as represented by
 the Chief of the Federation

 Witness

Original signed by Lorne Calvert

Original signed by Eldon Lautermilch

 Her Majesty in Right of
 Saskatchewan as represented
 by the Premier of Saskatchewan

 Witness