



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND
NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA CONCERNING INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN ISSUES**

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and **THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA**, hereinafter
referred to as “the Participants”;

RECOGNIZING that Canada and the United States of America work on a wide
range of common interests and issues in the context of indigenous and northern
issues;

WISHING to promote mutually beneficial exchanges in areas of policy
development, institutional building, program delivery, research, legislation, and other
pertinent areas;

TAKING DUE NOTE that Indigenous peoples and communities in each country
have different languages, political structures, customs and beliefs, and that
Indigenous peoples and communities are located in urban, rural and remote settings;

DESIRING to respect the dignity and rights of Indigenous peoples within the
respective countries through mutual cooperation; and

INTENDING to strengthen cooperation in indigenous affairs through processes
that facilitate the mutual exchange of information, experiences, ideas and
knowledge, in order to improve the quality of life of Indigenous peoples in each
country.

HAVE REACHED the following understanding:

- 1.** The Participants intend to develop bilateral cooperation in accordance with
paragraph 2, concerning indigenous and northern issues in the following
areas:
 - (a) policy and legislation experience;
 - (b) socio-economic development of Indigenous peoples and the North;
 - (c) institutional building and governance for Indigenous peoples;
 - (d) northern environment and sustainable development;
 - (e) capacity building through partnerships;

- (f) preservation and development of traditional Indigenous economies, traditional way of life and unique cultures of Indigenous peoples;
- (g) indigenous education;
- (h) consultation with and accommodation of indigenous communities;
- (i) indigenous land tenure, title and planning;
- (j) emergency preparedness and law enforcement on indigenous reserves, including how related cultural concerns are addressed in indigenous communities located near our shared border; and
- (k) other mutually decided issues.

2. The Participants intend to cooperate by:

- (a) visiting and/or exchanging officials and experts;
- (b) meeting and video conferencing on indigenous and northern issues;
- (c) Cooperating in projects and consultations through existing and ongoing means;
- (d) exchanging information, sharing experiences and research; and
- (e) other mutually decided forms of cooperation.

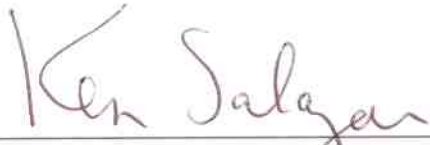
3. For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Participants intend to encourage and facilitate direct contacts between tribal/aboriginal governments, regional, territorial and local governments of both countries, academic institutions and the private sector.

4. Where travel is involved, the sending Participant should pay for international travel expenses, as well as in-country travel expenses of its participants and representatives, unless otherwise arranged. The Participants intend to make arrangements in advance regarding the payment of any other expenses incurred in consequence of this MOU.

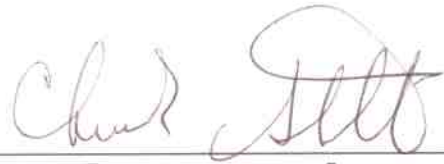
5. Cooperation under this MOU is subject to Canadian and American laws and regulations, and treaties and international agreements to which Canada and the United States of Americas are both a party.

6. The Participants intend to designate officials to co-ordinate activities under this MOU through the development of a joint work plan.
7. Activities pursuant to this MOU may commence upon its signature by the Participants.
8. Either Participant may discontinue its participation in activities under this MOU at any time by providing a written notice to the other Participant.
9. The Participants may modify this MOU in writing at any time upon their mutual written consent.

SIGNED In duplicate at OTTAWA this 29 day of MARCH 2010 in the English and French languages.



**THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN
AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA**