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January 22, 2009

The Hon. Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
330 Legislative Building
450 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Struthers:

RE: **Bill 6, The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act**
MKO Support - January 19, 2008 Letter of God's Lake First Nation

I am writing further to the January 19, 2009 letter to you from Chief Gilbert Andrews of the God's Lake First Nation regarding Bill 6, *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*:

1. MKO agrees that Bill 6 was not developed on a "government-to-government basis" under Article 1.1 of the April 3, 2007 Wabanong Nakayum Okimawin (WNO) Council of Chiefs *Accord* nor with the "First Nations governments' participation and approval" called for under Article 3.8" of the *Accord*;
2. MKO agrees that Bill 6 is not founded on the core principle that the planning and management of First Nation traditional territories will be carried out through a co-decision authority exercised jointly between Chief and Council and Manitoba such as has been established pursuant to the *Northern Flood Agreement* and so will undermine the "long tradition of co-management in northern Manitoba" referred to by Chief Andrews;
3. MKO is very concerned that s. 22 of Bill 6 represents a prerequisite that a participating First Nation must accept as lawful all existing authorizations within that First Nation's Traditional territory whether or not an existing authorization may be unlawful due to Manitoba's failure to have conducted a First Nation-Crown consultation process regarding the authorization; and
4. Manitoba must engage a duty to consult, justify and accommodate in respect of the proposed *East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*, particularly as Manitoba proposes that Bill 6 and its regulations would be paramount to all other provincial laws.

In light of the concerns raised by Chief Andrews, MKO requests that Manitoba defer any further consideration of Bill 6 until these matters have been addressed to the satisfaction of the God's Lake First Nation. Please contact me at (204) 792-8120 to discuss these matters.

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Minister Struthers

Sincerely,



Dr. Sydney Garrioch
MKO Grand Chief

cc: KTC Grand Chief
WNO Council of Chiefs
MKO Executive Council
Minister of Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines
Minister of Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport
Acting Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
MKO Natural Resources Secretariat