Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord

“The Journey”

Sioux Lookout • Lac Seul • Cat Lake • Slate Falls
Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord – Guiding Principles

SIOUX LOOKOUT FRIENDSHIP ACCORD

WHEREAS The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is committed to strengthening its relationships with First Nation governments and people in and around the Sioux Lookout area;

AND WHEREAS the Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord has been drafted to provide the overall framework upon which the Municipality will build agreements and action plans in partnership with First Nation governments and people;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout, within the traditional area of Lac Seul First Nation, recognizes the significant contributions First Nations people and organizations have made to this community.

Together, we acknowledge and honour our ancestors, traditions and the spirit of Sioux Lookout which first drew First Nations people together. We acknowledge and honour the long history of service to the community that continues to be embodied by the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and its employees. We acknowledge that we reside on Treaty 3 land and play an integral role as a ‘service hub’ to the Treaty 5 and 9 communities, and together we call upon our traditions and spirit to maintain a respectful and lasting relationship between the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and First Nation peoples.

We believe that all people in the Sioux Lookout Area are served well through positive relationships between the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and the First Nation communities. We have a mutual need for First Nation people to be involved in all aspects of the community to ensure the ongoing development of culturally-sensitive municipal services that meet First Nation needs.

We believe that good relationships must be based upon a foundation of shared values of honesty, respect, mutual sharing and contribution. These values enhance our community as well as our collective social, spiritual, economic and physical well-being. They also serve our shared interests within the guidelines of accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, responsiveness and shared stewardship.

This principle-based relationship agreement between First Nation communities, people in the Sioux Lookout Area, and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, establishes commitments and objectives to be put in place in order to make Sioux Lookout a better place for all residents and visitors. Milestone shall be set and our progress reviewed.

This Accord shall provide the framework for the development of agreements regarding, but not limited to, the following:

- The recognition and respect of the various levels of First Nation government, culture and people;
- Regional leadership, demonstrating how Municipal and First Nation governments can work together;
- The development of protocols to establish open and improved lines of communication;
- Supporting First Nation culture and the development of recreation and leisure activities that are culturally appropriate;
- Encourage First Nation investment in Sioux Lookout including, but not limited to, people, culture, business, community and social participation;
- Increase First Nation participation in our local economy;
- Improve our community by making it more economically vibrant and sustainable;
- Investing in our youth, the future of our community, by ensuring cultural, recreational, educational, and career opportunities are readily available; and,
- Addressing root causes relating to public safety, so that all residents and visitors feel safe and welcome in the community.

Mayor Dennis Leneen
Chief Clifford Bul
Chief Lorraine Crane
Chief Russell Wesley

Signed on this day of 2nd in the month of Dec, 2013
Sioux Lookout / Lac Seul Region

• 1873 Treaty 3 Signing
• 1912 Present day Sioux Lookout incorporates
• 1912 Lac Seul Reserve established pursuant to Treaty #3
Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord – Timeline

Several decades of relationship building
1980’s

- Radar Base Closes
- Federal and Provincial divestment of Social and Government Programs/Services
- First Nations Offices Open in Sioux Lookout
- Sioux Lookout Anti Racism Committee formed

A time of Economic Change for First Nations and Municipality
1990’s

- Sioux Lookout Indian Hospital (circa 1949)
  Sioux Lookout General Hospital (circa 1922)
  - Five years discussing amalgamation and building new hospital

- Historic 1997 Four Party Agreement between:
  - Nishnawbe Aski Nation
  - Municipality of Sioux Lookout
  - Canada
  - Ontario

**Engagement, cooperation around mutual health care needs;**
2000’S OUTREACH 2006-2010

- Sioux Lookout Mayor and Lac Seul Chief reach out
- 2007 Municipal Council visits Lac Seul
- 2008 Chief Bull and Mayor Poling march together in the Yellow Ribbon Walk
- 2008 Mayor and 2 Councillors visit neighbouring First Nation community after death of a teenager
- 2009 Mutual Planning for Economic Summit
- 2010 Municipal Council visits Lac Seul

Reaching out to each other;
Seeking “A Table of Common Understanding”

The “Journey” to Understanding
2010 – 2012

- Discussions between Lac Seul Elder Garnet Angeconeb and Municipal Councillor about the need for dialogue
- Councillor made an election promise to work on “A Process”
- Eight months of informal lunch meetings, phone conversations, and presentations to Council
- 2011 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) agrees to facilitate meeting between Municipality, Lac Seul and New Slate Falls

Creating the Process
2010 – 2012

• Garnet; “This feels like we are getting married. This is only our first date.” “We are friends – a Friendship Agreement”

• All agreed that signing an Accord would be Aboriginal Day 2012
2013-2014

- Cat Lake joins Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord
- First Nations-Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative launched by FCM
- Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) reaches out to the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and Lac Seul First Nation

The Circle Grows
2015

• Mishkeegogamang First Nation, and
• Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) express interest in joining Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord
Lessons Learned – Relationship Building

• Partnership 150 years in the making
• Outreach to each other – take the first step
• One leader invites the other for coffee, Band Council invite Municipal Council for tea at Band Office, vice versa
• Be informal, build the trust and good faith
• Organize around an issue of mutual interest
The recognition and respect of the various levels of First Nation government, culture and people;

Regional leadership, demonstrating how Municipal and First Nation governments can work together;

The development of protocols to establish open and improved lines of communication;

Supporting First Nation culture and the development of recreation and leisure activities that are culturally appropriate;

Encourage First Nation investment in Sioux Lookout including, but not limited to, people, culture, business, community and social participation;

Guiding Principles
Guiding Principles

- Increase First Nation participation in our local economy;
- **Improve our community** by making it more economically vibrant and sustainable;
- **Investing in our youth**, the future of our community, by ensuring cultural, recreational, educational, and career opportunities are readily available; and,
- **Addressing root causes relating to public safety**, so that all residents and visitors feel safe and welcome in the community.
Upon the signing of the 1874 Treaty Three Adhesion, Lac Seul Chief Sakatcheway expressed the spirit of the Accord when he said:

“.....the time may come when I will ask you to lend me one of your daughters and one of your sons to live with us: and in return I will lend you one of my daughters and one of my sons for you to teach what is good, and after they will have learned, to teach us. If you grant us what I ask, although I do not know you, I will shake hands with you.”

Reaching out, Co-operation and Learning from each other
The “Journey” Continues
First Nations-Municipal Community Economic Development

Coming together is a **BEGINNING**

Keeping together is **PROGRESS**

Working together is **SUCCESS**

Henry Ford
Regional leadership, demonstrating how Municipal and First Nation governments can **work together**;
Encourage First Nation investment in Sioux Lookout including, but not limited to, people, culture, business, community and social participation;

- Meno Ya Win Health Centre – 104 million
- Hostel – 7 million
- Keewatin Patricia District School Board – 30 million
• Creating economically sustainable communities

• Core Sectors
  • Forestry
  • Mining
  • Energy
  • Transportation
  • Tourism

**Increase First Nation participation in our local economy**;
• Creating economically sustainable communities
  • New Business
    • Tim Hortons
    • Giant Tiger

Increase First Nation participation in our local economy;
• Breaking **DOWN** Barriers, Building **NEW** Economies
  • Regional Distribution Centre Project
    • 31 Far North Communities
    • Nishnawbe Aski Nation
    • Preliminary Report to be published in June

**Increase First Nation participation** in our local economy;

[www.farnorthrdc.ca](http://www.farnorthrdc.ca)
The development of protocols to establish **open and improved** lines of communication;
Increase First Nation participation in our local economy;

• Creating economically sustainable communities
• Next Steps
  • Economic Development Zones
Questions ?