

MUSKWA-KECHIKA MANAGEMENT AREA

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board:

**Strategic Direction
Business Plan**

2009 - 2011

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The establishment of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) can be traced back to consensus recommendations flowing from the Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP's). These LRMP's proposed the establishment of the M-KMA, formation of the M-KMA Advisory Board and creation of the M-KMA Trust Fund. The principal elements of the governance model for the M-KMA were given effect through the *M-KMA Management Plan Regulation* (1997) and the *M-KMA Management Area Act* (1998).

In February 2006 the Honorable Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, attended an Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB) meeting and provided direction to the Board regarding its future role in relation to the M-KMA and LRMP implementation. At the meeting the Minister indicated that the M-KMA and the M-KAB would continue to exist but requested the Board initiate a project to address and provide recommendations regarding:

- ❑ a strategic land use plan implementation and governance framework for both the M-KMA and the Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and Mackenzie LRMPs that would be fiscally prudent, increase certainty for the M-KMA and any potential resource development that may occur within the M-KMA
- ❑ an affordable and consistent framework for strategic land use plan implementation in the other regions of British Columbia
- ❑ mechanisms and processes to strengthen First Nations involvement in land use plan implementation, consistent with the evolving New Relationship protocols in development by the Province.

In April, 2006 the Minister followed up his verbal request in writing. Subsequently, the Minister and the M-KAB agreed that by June 30, 2007 the Board would bring forward to the Minister recommendations for his approval. In July, 2007 the M-KAB provided its final report to the Minister entitled "A Strategic Land Use Plan Implementation Framework for the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area and Land Use Planning in Northeastern BC" (SLUPIF Report).

In December of 2008, a letter from Minister Stan Hagen tabled ILMB's response to the SLUPIF 20 recommendations. Though several recommendations would not be accepted by government, the majority were. Those approved both support and enhance the direction in this Strategic Plan. (These recommendations are attached to this document for reference)

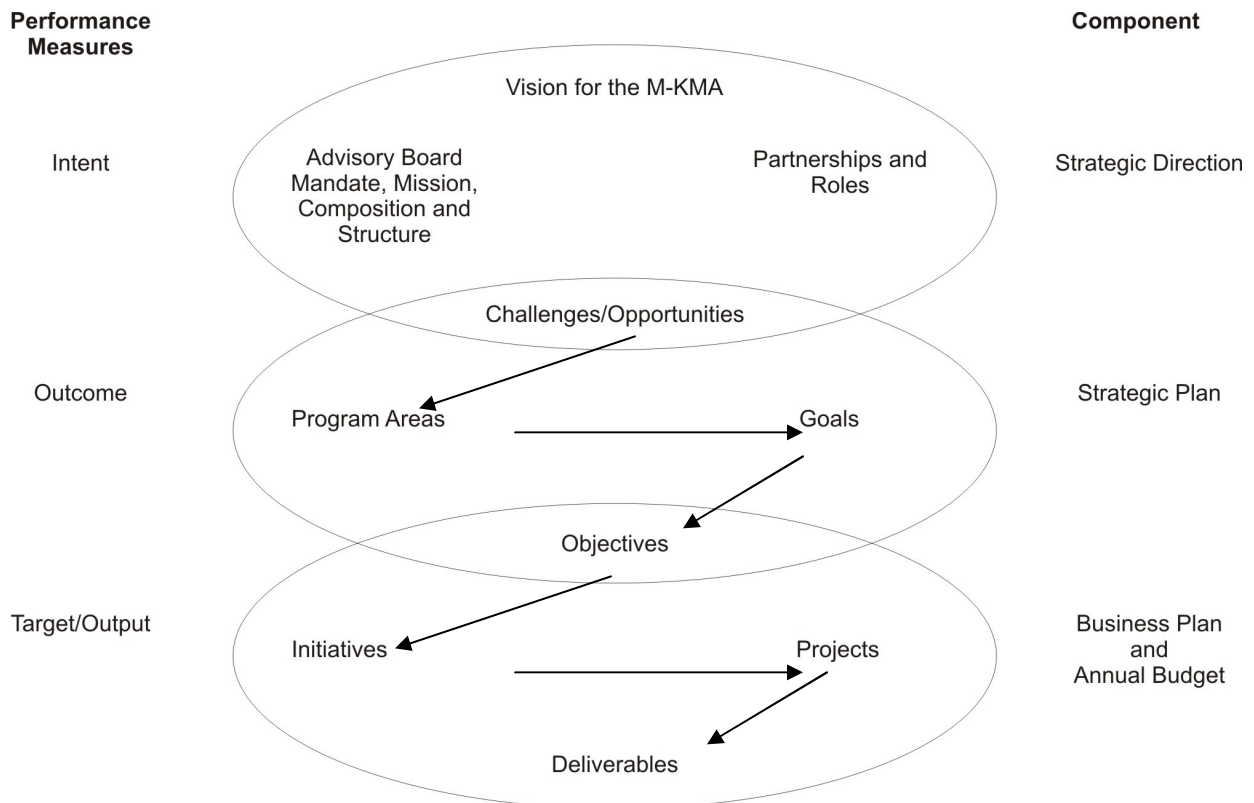
A key component is the Ministry has agreed to begin discussions on the "government to government" relationship with First Nations for the M-KMA. The M-KAB will be kept apprised of this important aspect for the future management of the M-KMA.

Further, in March 2009, the BC Government granted the M-KAB \$400,000 for it's operation for the next two years. This funding is held by Resource North Association. As well, the BC government confirmed that the M-KAB is required to utilize the remaining funds in the M-K Trust Account by March 2011. Approximately \$525,000 remains in this account.

1.2 Planning Framework

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board strategic and business planning takes place using a comprehensive Planning Framework. The Planning Framework (Figure 1) is comprised of the following three components: (a) Strategic Direction, (b) Strategic Plan and (c) Business Plan and Annual Budget. Each component contains a number of specific elements that together ensure coherence and integrity.

Figure 1: Advisory Board Planning Framework



2. STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The M-KAB strategy is defined as a pattern of purposes, policies, programs, actions, initiatives or decisions that define what the M-KAB does and why it does it. The Strategic Direction component of the Planning Framework sets the M-KAB directional intent expressed in terms of its Vision for the M-KMA, including Board Mandate, Mission, Composition and Structure, Partnerships and Roles and Code of Ethics.

2.1 Vision

The Vision for the M-KMA is:

“The Muskwa Kechika Management Area is a globally significant area of wilderness, wildlife and cultures, to be maintained in perpetuity, where world class integrated resource management decision-making is practiced ensuring that resource development and other human activities take place in harmony with wilderness quality, wildlife and the dynamic ecosystems on which they depend”

2.2 M-KAB Mandate

The Mandate of the M-KAB is:

- ❑ to provide advice to the Government of British Columbia and others regarding;
 - the integrated management of renewable and non-renewable resources within the M-KMA
 - the development and implementation of effective and innovative planning and management approaches within the M-KMA based on the most current and up-to-date research
 - the results of integrated resource management decision-making within the M-KMA
 - priority policy and regulatory issues that must be addressed to ensure the Vision for the M-KMA is realized
 - the effects of socio-economic and other human activity on the wilderness, wildlife, ecological and cultural values within the M-KMA
 - the globally significant wilderness, wildlife, ecological, cultural and socio-economic values of the M-KMA
- ❑ to build awareness, understanding and knowledge regarding;
 - the principles, processes and practices of integrated resource management decision-making within the M-KMA
 - the globally significant wilderness, wildlife, ecological, cultural and socio-economic values of the M-KMA
- ❑ to monitor and report on the ‘state of the M-KMA’ as it relates to the Vision for the M-KMA

2.3 Mission

The mission of the M-KAB is to:

- ❑ act as a catalyst, convener, facilitator and partner in achieving the Vision for the M-KMA
- ❑ provide respected and trusted advice to the Government of British Columbia that ensures the dynamic ecosystems, wilderness, wildlife and cultural values of the M-KMA are maintained in perpetuity

2.4 Composition and Structure

Appointed by the Premier of British Columbia, the M-KAB is made up of individuals noted for their scientific, financial, community service experience or expertise. M-KAB members are not appointed as formal representatives for specific constituencies but collectively reflect the diversity of groups and individuals with interests in the M-KMA.

Members are appointed to the M-KAB based on the following criteria:

- commitment to the Vision for the M-KMA
- diversity of age, gender and culture
- competency and experience
- geographic and/or sectoral representation
- leadership

The M-KAB is led by a Chair who is appointed by the Premier. Committees of the Board are struck to undertake specific tasks as required. Other than an honorarium for the M-KAB Chair, members do not receive remuneration for their services but are reimbursed for travel expenses incurred as a result of their M-KAB duties.

The M-KAB operating budget is set up with Resources North Association (RNA). The BC government provided a \$400,000 grant to RNA specifically for the operation of the M-KAB for two years. The Advisory Board may retain administrative and/or technical staff to assist it in the delivery of its Mandate and Mission with these operating funds

The M-KAB is considered a public body under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Minutes of all Advisory Board meetings and discussions are, therefore, public documents and available to the public on request.

The M-KAB's Policy and Procedures Document details the operating procedures for the Board. These policies and procedures comply with the prevailing Government of British Columbia policies for agencies, boards and commissions as set out by the Province.

2.5 Partnerships and Roles

Accountability for planning and management of Crown land and resources in the M-KMA rests firmly with the Government of British Columbia. Although the M-KAB receives funding from the Government of British Columbia to have the financial capacity and capability to deliver its Mandate and Mission, it operates at arms length from the Government.

Achieving the Vision for the M-KMA, therefore, requires collaboration and co-ordination between the M-KAB and Provincial policy and regulatory agencies as well as other non-government organizations and groups.

As a result, the M-KAB works closely with the Government of British Columbia to deliver its Mandate and Mission and ensures its reporting framework:

- reflects the principles of the Government-to-Government relationship between the Province and First Nations
- articulates the role of the Advisory Board in support of land and resource management planning within the M-KMA and northeastern British Columbia
- improves communication and working relationships with the Inter-Agency Directors Committee, and the Sub Regional Managers Committee (SRMC), specifically the North

East Managers and Omineca Managers Committees and the Fort Nelson, Fort St John and Mackenzie Plan Implementation Monitoring Committees

In addition, the M-KAB develops partnerships with other non-government organizations and individuals (e.g. University of Northern British Columbia) where the interests of those parties are aligned with the delivery of the Advisory Board's Mandate and Mission.

2.6 Code of Ethics

In the delivery of the Advisory Board Mandate and Mission, members are guided by the following code of ethics:

- ❑ **Respect**
Members are committed to inclusiveness and diversity and respect the rights, roles, responsibilities, interests and perspectives of others and the history and origins of the MKMA as a whole
- ❑ **Accountability**
Members are responsible for the consequences of their decisions and accountable for their actions
- ❑ **Transparency**
Members establish open and clear decision-making processes that include dialogue with those affected by their decisions
- ❑ **Aboriginal and Treaty Rights**
Members recognize Aboriginal and Treaty Rights within the M-KMA and acknowledge that these Rights must be addressed in all decision-making
- ❑ **Adaptive Management**
Members learn from the past and look for new and improved approaches in response to experience as well as changing external pressures and social values
- ❑ **Commitment to the North**
Members recognize that the Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and Mackenzie LRMPs are "made in the north" solutions and endeavour to ensure that activities of the Advisory Board provide benefits to the people and communities of the North

3. STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN

For the M-KAB, the Strategic and Business Plan component of the Planning Framework translates the Strategic Direction into a course of action for expressed in terms of Program Areas and Program Area Goals, Objectives and Outcomes.

In the development of this Strategic Plan the Advisory Board identified the following strategic challenges and opportunities that it believes will shape the future of the M-KMA and the M-KAB:

- ❑ challenges;
 - incomplete inventory information for many resource values in the M-KMA
 - existing information regarding the resource values in the M-KMA not readily available to decision-makers
 - incomplete linkages among the M-KMA-related LRMPs and Local Strategic Plans
 - traditional ecological knowledge and local community knowledge not yet well incorporated into decision-making
 - limited Government of British Columbia agency and Advisory Board capacity to meet the demands for planning and management in the M-KMA
 - existing industry 'best operational practices' used elsewhere may require refinement for use in the M-KMA to maintain the wilderness, wildlife, cultural and ecological values of the M-KMA in perpetuity
- ❑ opportunities;
 - build on the past successes of the Advisory Board over the last twelve years
 - capitalize on the scope and scale of the M-KMA landscape and ecological integrity to develop an adaptive management framework that is 'best-in-class' in North America
 - use the Advisory Board's profile and resources to bring partners together to provide learning opportunities for youth
 - use the M-KMA to pilot approaches for advancing the New Relationship protocols between the Province and First Nations
 - work with conservation community, industry and others to increase awareness and support (funding and 'in-kind') for the M-KMA and the role of the Advisory Board
 - capitalize on the existing good working relationships between the Advisory Board, the Inter-Agency Directors Committee, the North East Managers and Omineca Managers Committees and the Plan Implementation Monitoring Committees to advance the Vision for the M-KMA
 - work with industry to develop a suite of innovative industry 'best operational practices' that will maintain the wilderness, wildlife, cultural and ecological values of the M-KMA in perpetuity while at the same time unlocking the socio-economic values of the M-KMA
 - act as a catalyst to develop principles and templates for more effective resource management planning in other areas of the Province

3.1 Program Areas

The M-KAB delivers its Mandate and Mission within the following five program areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

Collecting, disseminating and understanding information, data and knowledge used in decision-making within the M-KMA

Resource Management

Developing and implementing decision-making processes and practices regarding the maintenance of the wilderness, wildlife, ecological, cultural values within the M-KMA and the management of renewable and non-renewable socio-economic resources and activities in the M-KMA

Monitoring and Reporting

Measuring progress toward the Vision for the M-KMA

Awareness and Support

Building a constituency of advocates for the M-KMA

Organizational Development

Strengthening the institutional and administrative structures supporting Advisory Board work

3.2 Goals, Objectives and Outcomes

Goals are general statements describing the overarching accomplishment that the Advisory Board seeks to achieve in each Program Area.

Program Area Objectives describe a measurable, quantifiable or time-defined Advisory Board plan of action on the way to achieving a Goal.

Program Area Outcomes describe the consequence of achieving an Advisory Board Goal and associated Objectives.

The Goals, Objectives and Outcomes for each Program Area are described in the following five tables:

Table 1: Knowledge and Understanding

Goals	Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Information Assembly: To facilitate the development, cataloguing and maintenance of western science, traditional knowledge, local community knowledge and other inventories or assessments necessary in support of the management of renewable and non-renewable resources within the M-KMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ encourage the development and implementation of strategies and initiatives that result in traditional knowledge and local community knowledge receiving greater consideration in the management of renewable and non-renewable resources within the M-KMA ❑ promote the development and use of a widely accessible data base that would include all M-KMA research results, inventories and other assessments for consideration in the management of renewable and non-renewable resources within the M-KMA 	<p>Through project work, partnerships and collaboration with BC, M-KAB members to keep this before government statutory decision makers.</p> <p>Up-to-date, comprehensive and easily accessible inventories research and assessments for resource management decision-making within the M-KMA</p>
<p>Use of Information: To encourage policy and regulatory decision-makers and all others active within the M-KMA to use the most current, comprehensive information available in determining activities that might occur within the M-KMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ promote the development and implementation of a multi-agency strategy to address identified inventory gaps in resource management decision-making within the M-KMA ❑ post to the M-KMA website Advisory Board recommendations to the Government of British Columbia and others regarding use of information in the management of renewable and non-renewable resources 	<p>Ensure the newly developed M-KMA data base is widely accessible to government, industry and stakeholders and kept up to date.</p>
<p>Research and Extension: To facilitate targeted and timely research that will advance the understanding of the significant M-KMA ecological, wilderness, wildlife and cultural values for consideration in renewable and non-renewable socio-economic resource management decision-making within the M-KMA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ encourage the development and implementation of a multi-agency inventory gap analysis to identify current and future management challenges and opportunities and their implications for the M-KMA ❑ encourage the development and implementation of a collaborative long term research agenda for the M-KMA, aligned with Provincial Government research strategies, directly linked to M-KMA management challenges and decision-making needs 	<p>The M-KAB, through it's Knowledge and Understanding committee will take the lead developing and implementing a scientific research strategy that will address issues such as ecosystem and integrated resource management for ensuring the vision for the M-KMA is met over time.</p>

Table 2: Resource Management

Goals	Objectives	Outcomes
<p>World Class Model: To facilitate the development and implementation of a comprehensive world class ecosystem management framework that ensures the maintenance of conservation, ecological, wildlife, wilderness and economic values in the management of renewable and non-renewable resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ promote the continued development and implementation of a management framework for the M-KMA that is 'best-in-class' in terms of scope and effectiveness with those in place in other North American jurisdictions, including the following components: (a) an adaptive management framework, (b) acceptable target levels for resource development at multiple scales through time and (c) a cumulative effects assessment and impact management framework ❑ encourage the Government of British Columbia to develop a resource management planning framework for the M-KMA that incorporates the principles of the New Direction document and New Relationship protocol with First Nations ❑ encourage Provincial Government resource managers to implement an improved M-KMA planning framework that addresses the immediate and long-term needs for access management within the M-KMA ❑ encourage the Provincial Government to develop and finalize a consistent and nested suite of Local Strategic Plans, consistent with the M-KMA-related Land and Resource Management Plans and First Nations' resource management plans as appropriate ❑ promote the development of a mechanism for the coordination of operational resource management decisions in the M-KMA among all resource management policy and regulatory agencies ❑ facilitate clarity regarding resource development opportunities in the M-KMA through regulatory alignment including necessary legislative changes to both the <i>M-KMA Management Plan Regulation</i> and the <i>M-KMA Management Area Act</i> and the proclamation of all relevant sections of the <i>Land Amendment Act</i> 	<p>A clearly defined, widely supported resource management framework that ensures the wilderness, wildlife and cultures of the M-KMA are maintained in perpetuity while allowing resource development and other human activities to take place in harmony with wilderness quality, wildlife and the dynamic ecosystems on which they depend</p>
<p>Innovation: Advocate and promote the development and implementation of industrial and commercial operational 'best practices' specific to the M-KMA that will ensure the wildlife, wilderness, cultural and ecological values of the M-KMA are maintained in perpetuity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ promote the development, compilation and maintenance of a 'library' of 'best operational practices' implemented in the M-KMA and facilitate widespread dissemination and use of this information ❑ encourage the development of industry and other commercial activity guidebooks containing M-KMA –specific 'best operational practices' ❑ promote the incorporation and use of new and innovative ideas by industry and other commercial activities that mitigate the effect of their activities within the M-KMA 	<p>All industrial and other commercial activities operating in the M-KMA using the most current 'best operational practices' and fully aware of the globally significant wilderness, wildlife and cultural values within the M-KMA</p>

Table 3: Monitoring and Reporting

Goals	Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Monitoring: To measure progress toward the achievement of the Vision for the M-KMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ encourage the Government of British Columbia to update, implement and monitor the Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and Mackenzie LRMPs ❑ encourage the Government of British Columbia to work with First Nations and help facilitate the development and implementation of First Nations ' land use plans for their respective territories that may include portions of the M-KMA ❑ promote the development and implementation of on-going linkages between monitoring, reporting and resource management policy and regulatory decision-making in the M-KMA ❑ work with the Inter-Agency Directors Committee and SRMC's in the development and implementation of a monitoring and enforcement program to ensure better compliance with M-KMA policies and regulations ❑ promote the development of a monitoring program within the M-KMA that would track trends and assess the effectiveness of resource management planning 	<p>Continuous improvement in decision-making ensuring the wilderness, wildlife and cultures of the M-KMA are maintained in perpetuity while resource development and other human socio-economic activities take place in harmony with wilderness quality, wildlife and the dynamic ecosystems on which they depend</p>
<p>Reporting: To inform Provincial Government decision-makers and others on the 'state of the M-KMA' and the implications this may have for resource management planning within the M-KMA and in other regions of the Province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ report at least every 3 years on the 'state of the M-KMA', challenges and opportunities, projects and initiatives and recommended strategies for improving renewable and non-renewable resource management within the M-KMA ❑ work with the Inter-Agency Directors Committee to develop a structured and co-ordinated reporting process between the Advisory Board and Government 	<p>Provincial Government decision-makers and others having up-to-date and comprehensive knowledge and information regarding the 'state of the M-KMA'</p>

Table 4: Awareness and Support

Goals	Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Informing the Public and Industry: To increase public and industry awareness of the remarkable ecological, wilderness, cultural and economic values within the M-KMA, the M-KMA management model, and the significance of the M-KMA at a continental scale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ implement the approved Advisory Board Communications Plan ❑ increase brand recognition of the M-KMA within target audiences at the local, regional, provincial, national and international level ❑ increase industry's awareness and understanding of how to conduct business within the M-KMA 	<p>Public and industry recognition of the inherent biological, social and economic values of the M-KMA</p>
<p>Constituency Building: To build and maintain an active constituency of support for the M-KMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ establish baseline data on the level and constituencies of support for the M-KMA ❑ increase the number of provincial, national and inter-national constituents actively supporting the M-KMA 	<p>Public support for the resource management approach for the maintenance of the ecological, wilderness and cultural values within the M-KMA and the enhancement of the M-KMA management model</p>
<p>Youth Engagement: To provide opportunities for youth to experience and learn about the M-KMA and careers related to the management of renewable and non-renewable resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ facilitate and support experiential education and training opportunities for youth in the M-KMA 	<p>The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Youth Camps has been an annual event since 1999. Other opportunities for youth will be explored by this committee</p>

Table 5: Organizational Development

Goals	Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Advisory Board Capacity: To establish and maintain clear and effective relationships with the Provincial Government, local and regional agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ encourage the BC Government to build on a broad base of local and regional membership, develop and implement an effective and efficient operating Advisory Board structure which contains a mix of sector perspectives, competencies and innovative thinking among its members ❑ develop and maintain contracted staff capacity and capability to support the Advisory Board in the delivery of its Mandate and Mission ❑ working with the Provincial Government, develop and implement a mechanism to assess Advisory Board performance in the delivery of its Mandate and Mission 	<p>An Advisory Board, reflecting local and regional interests in the M-KMA, supported by competent and capable staff, successfully delivering its Mandate and Mission</p>
<p>First Nations Linkages: To facilitate the development and implementation of institutional structures that enable closer liaison between the Advisory Board and First Nations with territories that may include portions of the M-KMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ increase awareness and understanding of the evolving “government to government” relationship between the Provincial Government and First Nations with traditional territory in the M-KMA ❑ work with the Provincial Government and First Nations to define and implement appropriate arrangements for continued First Nations participation on the Advisory Board 	<p>An M-KMA Advisory Board that reflects a positive, constructive, working relationship with First Nations whose territories may include portions of the M-KMA</p>
<p>Advisory Board Funding: Oversee the \$400,000 grant to the M-KAB by the BC government in 2009 and ensure that future funding is in place for the capacity of the M-KAB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Manage the \$400,000 grant to ensure the Board has capacity for at least 2 years with this funding ❑ Make recommendations to the Advisory Board and with government for future funding for the operation of the M-KAB. 	<p>An M-KMA Advisory Board with the financial capacity and capability to deliver its Mandate and Mission in perpetuity</p>

Recommendations from the *Strategic Land Use and Planning Implementation Framework* report provided to the Province of BC in July of 2008. (for full report, visit www.muskwa-kechika.com)

1. 10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Project Charter directed that a set of recommendations be developed to address the following matters:

- A strategic land use plan implementation and governance framework for the Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and Mackenzie LRMPs and the M-KMA that will be fiscally prudent and that increases certainty for the M-KMA and any resource development that may occur in the M-KMA.
- The manner in which the M-KMA fits into the new land use policies of the provincial government.
- Mechanisms and processes to strengthen First Nations involvement in land use plan implementation, consistent with the evolving New Relationship strategy being developed by the province.

RECOMMENDATION ONE:

That the M-KAB and Minister Responsible reaffirm a mutual agreement on the purpose and vision for the M-KMA. Important elements of such an agreement are:

- The M-KMA be managed within the context of the region, and not be managed in isolation.
- The Board operate at the 'strategic and policy level' and not become too operational or 'hands-on'.

RECOMMENDATION TWO:

That as the M-KAB and government proceed with delivering on their M-KMA responsibilities it is essential that those actions:

- Reflect the principles of a government-to-government relationship.
- Clarify the mandate of the M-KAB in relation to new land planning policies.
- Improve the coordination between the M-KAB and the associated LRMPs.

RECOMMENDATION THREE:

That to honor a government-to-government relationship with First Nations it is important that:

- Traditional ecological knowledge receives greater consideration in the implementation and monitoring of the M-KMA and associated land use plans.
- There must be sufficient funding to support First Nations' capacity to undertake First Nation land use planning.
- The long-term vision is to have one set of management objectives that addresses all values on the land base both inside and outside the M-KMA.

RECOMMENDATION FOUR:

That government provides the necessary funding to update, implement and monitor the Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and Mackenzie LRMPs to enable a consistent approach to land management over the entire land base encompassed by the three LRMPs.

RECOMMENDATION FIVE:

That the management and planning documents for the M-KMA and the five surrounding land use plans be updated and consistent in relation to those lands that directly abut the M-KMA's legislated boundary. Specifically:

Recommendations from the *Strategic Land Use and Planning Implementation Framework* report provided to the Province of BC in July of 2008. (for full report, visit www.muskwa-kechika.com)

- The Terms of Reference for each plan implementation committee be similar and reference their role *vis a vis* the M-KMA's legislated boundary.
- M-KAB and PIMC members, especially from the three northeastern land use plans, formally attend each other's meeting as part of their responsibilities to improve communication and information sharing.

RECOMMENDATION SIX:

That the provincial government, in cooperation with First Nations and the M-KAB, put forward legislated amendments to both the *M-KMA Act* and Regulation in relation to:

1. Keeping the original intent of M-KMA intact
2. Retaining the Preamble within the *Act*
3. Correcting identified errors
4. Ensuring consistency between the *Act*, Regulation and LRMP direction, as well as various other Acts and Regulations of government
5. Recognizing First Nation rights and interests
6. Bringing in the Mackenzie portion.

That, in the meantime, the M-KMA should continue to be operated and managed as if the Mackenzie LRMP were legally included.

RECOMMENDATION SEVEN:

That the M-KAB's current statutory advisory mandate include a provision for structured review and/or recommendations in relation to selected management activities and major strategic issues occurring with the M-KMA.

RECOMMENDATION EIGHT:

That the M-KAB, in partnership with government, lead the discussions related to improving and completing the M-KMA planning framework to better address mining, park management, access management, integrated value planning and completion of the local strategic plans. It is also essential to determine how this planning framework would be applied and monitored.

RECOMMENDATION NINE:

That the management provisions of the local strategic plans and the proposed M-KMA Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan be approved as legislated results based objectives under the appropriate Sections of the *Land Amendment Act*, 2003.

RECOMMENDATION TEN:

That the M-KAB leads the process for updating the M-KMA scientific research strategy to ensure its continuing ability to address such issues as ecosystem and integrated resource management and to improve its alignment with provincial government research strategies.

RECOMMENDATION ELEVEN: That

- a. The coordination, communication, staffing, financial, administrative and potential fundraising functions of the M-KAB staff be delivered through a service agreement with government, managed by the M-KAB. Managing these functions would require a senior person to lead the Fort St. John office.
- b. The M-KAB broaden their relationship with the provincial government beyond the Minister Responsible under the *Act* to include the Ministers and senior government

Recommendations from the *Strategic Land Use and Planning Implementation Framework* report provided to the Province of BC in July of 2008. (for full report, visit www.muskwa-kechika.com)

- officials within the Ministries of Environment, Forests and Range, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.
- c. The M-KAB meets annually in Victoria to maintain contact with senior government officials

RECOMMENDATION TWELVE:

Given that government is unable to support the option of special one-time-only investment to a M-K Endowment Fund, then government needs to provide the necessary funding from voted funds for the Board to fulfill its responsibilities.

(Note: The Integrated Land Management Bureau provided a \$400,000 grant to the M-KAB from voted funds in March 2009. These funds are housed with Resources North Association to support the operation of the M-KAB for two years.)

RECOMMENDATION THIRTEEN:

A mechanism to enable the M-KAB to transfer the funds in the existing Trust Account (approximately \$500,000) to a suitable external trust needs to be determined by the M-KAB in collaboration with government. The M-KAB, or a body established by the M-KAB, would retain the authority to manage this fund.

(Note: this recommendation not accepted by BC outlined in letter from Minister Hagen dated December 17, 2008)

RECOMMENDATION FOURTEEN:

That the M-KAB size and composition (government, sector and First Nation) should remain the same. If any changes are considered then government must work together with First Nations and the M-KAB before any final decisions are made.

RECOMMENDATION FIFTEEN:

That the M-KAB biennially measure the 'state of the M-K' against a set of indicators to determine whether its condition is improving, deteriorating or staying the same.

RECOMMENDATION SIXTEEN:

That the M-KAB continues to produce an Annual Report however more information should be included. In addition key documents related to strategy, work plans, finances and approved projects should be posted regularly on the M-KAB website to improve public communication.

RECOMMENDATION SEVENTEEN:

That the proposed Governance model in Figure Three for the Muskwa-Kechika and land use planning in the northeastern be adopted and implemented. During the transition process the current M-KAB governance and funding model should remain in place.

RECOMMENDATION EIGHTEEN:

The recommendations in this report provide an affordable and consistent framework for reconciling differing land use objectives, addressing the legitimate interests of First Nations and fostering greater certainty for resource uses, especially related to:

Recommendations from the *Strategic Land Use and Planning Implementation Framework* report provided to the Province of BC in July of 2008. (for full report, visit www.muskwa-kechika.com)

- The need for a consistent framework for land use plan implementation that incorporates the principles of the New Direction document and the New Relationship protocol.
- The requirement to fund plan implementation and monitoring committees to ensure that land use plans are implemented, monitored and updated.
- The necessity for government to work with First Nations on land use planning and to provide sufficient funding for resource management that enables traditional ecological knowledge and the principles of The New Relationship to be incorporated into these plans.
- The long term goal of having one land use plan addressing all values within a planning region that incorporates both government-led land use plans and the First Nations land use plans.
- The need to set out a process to initiate pilot land use plans to help rationalize First Nation and government land planning.

RECOMMENDATION NINETEEN:

1. June 30, 2007 the M-KAB formally presents the Final Report to the Minister Responsible.
2. Upon receiving this report, the provincial government will undertake consultations with the Kaska Dena, Treaty 8 and Tsay Keh Dene First Nations and interested sectors on the report's recommendations, as directed by the Project Charter.
3. Final implementation will occur upon completion of these consultations and after a full report on these consultations has been reviewed by the M-KAB for their additional advice.

RECOMMENDATION TWENTY:

Until the new governance and funding model is formally established the government needs to provide necessary funding and retain the current M-KAB composition.