

UNBC Office of Research  
3333 University Way  
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

11 June 2012

Re: **Report to the MKAB/UNBC Working Group on the MK Endowment Fund and Research Options**

## **Background**

This document addresses a number of issues and concerns raised during the 4 June 2012 teleconference between members of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (MKAB - Stephanie Killam, David Luff, and Juergen Puetter) and University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC - Gail Fondahl, Katherine Parker, and Mike Gillingham) constituting the MKAB/UNBC Working Group. During that meeting, questions arose about the history and integrity of the management of the MK Endowment Fund held at UNBC, as well as options by which the MK Research Professor might be able to undertake research with quicker deliverables (ideally by September 2012 and certainly by 31 March 2013) than those outlined in the Options Paper (17 April 2012) provided to the group by Drs. Fondahl and Parker. Before addressing a revised option for conducting research and expending some of the MK Endowment funds, this document reviews the context and contributions to the MK Endowment and outlines how UNBC manages endowments in those cases where donor bodies cease to exist. It also briefly defines what constitutes University-based research, given that MK Endowment funds are intended to support the MK Research Professorship related to UNBC-based research and synthesis, and in the context of the recently signed Collaborative Partnership Agreement.

## **UNBC, Endowed Research Chairs, and The MK Endowment**

UNBC manages numerous research professorship endowments, including some where the organization providing the endowment has ceased to exist. For instance, it manages several endowed research chairs, co-established by Forest Renewal British Columbia (FRBC) and the private sector, according to their original intent, even though FRBC no longer exists, and in one case the private company no longer exists. UNBC has considerable experience managing endowments for both continuing and past donors. In one case where it received a large provincial endowment, but the provincial program is now ending, UNBC was asked to develop and propose a rigorous review process to be used by all BC's research universities in the post-program situation. UNBC also has worked with cases where the donor 'changes' (e.g., when a donor company is acquired by another company, the University then establishes a relation with the new organization). In all cases UNBC is committed to retaining the original intent of the endowment, or consulting with current partners about any proposed changes in research focus

The original intent of the MK Endowment at UNBC was laid out in the 10 February 1999 Letter of Agreement<sup>1</sup> and created with the transfer of funds to UNBC on 7 April 1999<sup>2</sup>. The 1999 Agreement provided \$400,000 for "the Northern Land Use Institute of UNBC to establish a Muskwa-Kechika Research Professorship, Muskwa-Kechika student support and a wilderness planning presence in North Eastern British Columbia and a contribution of \$500,000 to the Northern Land Use Institute Endowment

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<sup>1</sup> UNBC 1999 Interim Agreement.pdf; attached

<sup>2</sup> Letter of Agreement UNBC.pdf; attached

Fund per attached Interim Letter of Understanding ...”<sup>1</sup> The Northern Land Use Institute (NLUI) was to provide administrative support for the MK Research Professor.

The NLUI effectively ceased to function with the resignation of the Institute’s director, Dr. Alex Hawley, in 2007, although the NLUI has never formally been dissolved through a motion of UNBC’s Senate. While the MK Endowment (“NLUI / Muskwa Kechika Endowment”) still includes reference to the NLUI, removing NLUI from the name of the Endowment would not affect the intent or use of the Endowment funds.

The MK Endowment received a second contribution of \$100,000 from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund provided by the BC Provincial Government on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2007. This contribution was made to the “Muskwa-Kechika Endowment Fund (part of the former Northern Land Use Institute Endowment Fund)”<sup>3</sup>.

Throughout its history, a primary goal of the MK Endowment has been to support the MK Research Professorship: “The MK Research Professorship will remain the cornerstone of capacity within UNBC in addressing the scope and purpose of this partnership. The contribution in March 1999 of \$500,000 from the MK Trust Fund to an endowment within UNBC continues to yield revenues that will be used specifically for support of the M-K Research Professorship”<sup>4</sup>, although it can also be used to “to enhance the research programs of the university that contribute to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area goals”<sup>3</sup>, and for “(a) support for the Ian McTaggart-Cowan Muskwa-Kechika Research Professorship and (b) knowledge transfer of research findings to empower the Advisory Board in its role of providing advice to the Government of British Columbia” (page 6 of the current Collaborative Partnership Agreement).

To date no monies have been spent from the MK Endowment.

One other piece of correspondence between UNBC and the MKAB illustrates the role of the Endowment relative to the Partnership Agreement and may be of assistance to the UNBC/MKAB Working Group. In September 2007, then MKAB Chair Tom Briggs along with Don Roberts, Wayne Sawchuck, and Howard Madill met with UNBC representatives to discuss renewal of the Partnership Agreement and to inquire about either temporarily placing monies in the MK Endowment Fund or setting up a separate investment account to deal with MKAB year-end monies. The letter from Ron Thring (then Vice-President Research), Bill McGill (then Dean of the College of Science and Management) and Katherine Parker (MK Research Professor) to Tom Briggs<sup>5</sup> clearly differentiates between the Endowment and an investment account, and stresses the specific teaching and research mandates of UNBC relative to the actions that UNBC can undertake with monies entrusted to the University.

## **University research and scholarship**

The Interim agreement that established the MK Endowment and subsequent Partnership Agreements between UNBC and the MKAB make continual reference to the MK Professorship as a Research Professor, and to building the research capacity of UNBC. It is important that all members of the UNBC/MKAB Working Group have some understanding of research and scholarship in a University context. As an example, the current MK Research Professor is a member of the Ecosystem Science and

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<sup>3</sup> RC06-1227-grant letter for endowment.pdf; attached

<sup>4</sup> Interim Letter of Understanding MK UNBC 2004.pdf; attached

<sup>5</sup> Letter Ron Thring Tom Briggs 2007.pdf; attached

Management (ESM) Program at UNBC, which has Program Scholarly Expectations for research and scholarship, against which the MK Professor is annually evaluated.

According to the ESM Scholarly guidelines, scholarly activities are those that meet most (but not necessarily all) of the following criteria: **new knowledge** (scholarly activities resulting in the generation of new knowledge, or in the application of existing knowledge to gain new insights or to generate new hypotheses); **new ideas** (scholarly activities giving rise to, transmitting, and/or acting upon new ideas); **creativity** (scholarly work resulting in publications, models, techniques, inventions, or processes that did not exist before); **originality** (scholarly work representing something fundamentally new or significantly different from what somebody has done before); **rigour** (scholarly work performed in a thoughtful, meticulous, and careful manner with respect to the principles and methods of science); **measurable standards** (work must be held to measurable standards of quality, and mechanisms must exist to reject that which does not meet those standards); **incorporation into the public domain** (scholarly work usually results in products and findings that are disseminated within scientific communities and/or are accessible to the public, although exceptions do exist); and **problem solving** (scholarly work usually contributes directly or indirectly to the solution of significant problems, including problem identification, problem analysis, participation in problem-solving processes, and development of information or insights that have application in problem solving). Those guidelines further recognize three types of scholarship: the scholarship of **discovery**, **integration**, and **application**.

The important point is that research and scholarship take time, must be rigorous, must contribute to new knowledge, must be impartial (both in reality and perception), and must be reviewed by peers and other experts. Research, therefore, is not normally something that can have final deliverables within periods of months.

### **The Challenge**

As outlined during Monday's conference call, the MKAB and perhaps the MK itself, faces significant short-term challenges. Timelines of having significant research deliverables by September 2012 or even March 2013, however, are not compatible with research, as described above and as envisioned in the documents establishing the MK Endowment, and in the recently signed Collaborative Partnership Agreement. While no members of the Working Group want to see the demise of the MK, UNBC cannot compromise research integrity to compensate for inactivity of the MKAB over the last several years.

One suggestion made during Monday's conference call was for UNBC to consider one location and one industry and then work to inform Government on how development could take place there in a sustainable manner. Such a narrow context without an integrated framework is not compatible with the vision for the MK Management Area (MKMA), which the Partnership Agreement directs us to follow: The vision for the MKMA is "a globally significant area of wilderness, wildlife and cultures, to be maintained in perpetuity, where world class integrated resource management and 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". Further, the role of University research is to aspire to objectivity, with intent to inform decision-making, but not to directly contribute to enabling or regulating particular activities over other values.

Within the Scope of the current Partnership Agreement (Part IV), there are two points that are likely the most pressing to address in terms of the current needs of the MKAB: "identifying additional criteria necessary for the Government of British Columbia to determine not only if but how, when and where resource development can take place within the MK Management Area while still meeting its encompassing vision for other values; and developing additional mechanisms to better understand and

address the cumulative effects of resource activities on wilderness, wildlife and cultural values within the MK Management Area". To be consistent with the vision of the MKMA, any identification of additional criteria for sustainable development in the MKMA must be considered in a cumulative effects framework.

### **Proposed work and timelines**

Although the UNBC/MKAB Working Group has yet to review the Options Paper prepared by Drs. Fondahl and Parker, we have tried to come up with an approach that may provide interim outcomes by March 2013. At this late date, it is highly improbable that a postdoctoral fellow with experience in a cumulative effects framework and with the ability to examine the range of current tools developed for the MKMA could be located and hired (as suggested in the Options Paper) in the next few months. Post-doctoral fellow recruitment usually takes 6-12 months itself. There may be the potential, however, to initiate some of the ground work required by hiring a qualified research assistant, directed by a team of researchers familiar with integrated resource management.

Consistent with the principles of the pre-tenure planning process and to be consistent with the vision of the MKMA, any development must anticipate the cumulative effects of subsequent development. Therefore we propose that the research team could begin to undertake an examination to evaluate whether the tools and current knowledge are sufficient to determine if development can coexist with the integrated MKMA vision. To that end, the research to be funded by the MK Endowment would:

1. Review and synthesize the tools/data that have been developed/collected within the MKMA;
2. Provide the MKAB with candidate areas for scenario planning from which the MKAB will identify the study locale. Suitable locations must be large enough to undertake watershed-level scenario planning (i.e., a mine 'site' would not be a suitable location by itself);
3. Use existing tools developed for the MKMA to undertake scenario planning for the identified area;
4. Through the scenario planning process, identify gaps or missing tools needed to ensure best practices for development consistent with the MKMA vision.

A timeline for the deliverables for such a project is difficult to assess until the actual participants are identified and hired. Timelines also will depend on the accessibility and availability of information needed for the synthesis (Point 1) and the time that it takes the MKAB to select a study area from a suggested list of locations. The intent would be that the research team could provide the MK/UNBC Working Group with an *interim* report as of 31 March 2013.

Prepared by:

Mike Gillingham (Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute),  
Katherine Parker (MK Research Professor), and  
Gail Fondahl (Vice-President Research)

**Interim Letter of Understanding**

**Between**

**The University of Northern British Columbia**

**And**

**The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Advisory Board**

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# Interim Letter of Understanding

Between

The University of Northern British Columbia

And

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Advisory Board

February 10, 1999

This Understanding is between:

The University of Northern British Columbia as represented by its President, Charles Jago (UNBC)

And, the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board as represented by its Chair, John Cashore.

This agreement outlines the potential relationship between the parties should the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Advisory Board recommend the allocation of funds from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund to the Northern Land Use Institute of the University of Northern British Columbia. This outline defines mutually acceptable terms and conditions that would form the basis of a contribution agreement should the board decide to recommend the allocation of funds.

## Part I: The Purpose.

The purpose of a contribution from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund to UNBC would be to help achieve the management intent of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act in concert with UNBC's mandate as a University *in the North for the North*, with a mission to improve the quality of life in its region, the province and beyond, by attaining the highest standards of undergraduate and graduate teaching, learning and research. The funds would provide the resources for results in three areas.

1. **A four-year action plan** promoting knowledge and awareness of the trust fund, the management area, and its wilderness values through promotional and educational programs and guiding research.
2. **The building of the university's capacity** to continue to advance the objectives of this agreement by building a component of the endowment fund for the Northern Land Use Institute which will support and implement research related to the scientific management of wilderness.
3. **The establishment of a collaborative partnership** between UNBC and the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board to promote and manage research of wilderness management and the

restoration of wilderness values in areas of integrated management. This partnership will include a process for UNBC and the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory board to establish a joint vision of research needs and research priorities in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area for the first decade of the new millenium.

## **Part II :BACKGROUND**

### ***UNBC***

The University of Northern British Columbia was established to be a *University in the North, for the North*. It will achieve this by addressing the educational, economic and social needs of the region through its commitment to teaching, research and community service. In the spirit of its Carrier motto, “ En cha huná ”, UNBC celebrates diversity and intends to reflect and to foster the rich cultural diversity of northern British Columbia and its people.

UNBC is one of a very few universities in Canada to have a strong *northern focus* in its research and its academic mission. In terms of academic programs, UNBC offers provincially recognized and specialized undergraduate degrees in Lands Planning, Resource-based Tourism, an Environmental Studies program (Energy Specialization), the only undergraduate Northern Studies Program in Canada and the highest number of First Nations programming in the province. Along with a Bachelor of Arts degree in First Nations studies, UNBC offers the unique Master of Arts in First Nations studies, certificate programs in First Nations public administration, First Nations general studies, Nisga’a studies along with Carrier language and culture.

Recently, in cooperation with Northern Lights College, UNBC expanded its academic offerings in the Ft. St. John/Ft. Nelson region. Moreover, in concert with the Yukon College, UNBC has signed an accord to cooperate both in serving the educational needs of northern residents and to collaborate by means of joint research commitments with a focus on the North. One of the important foundations for cooperative research initiatives is the Northern Land Use Institute at UNBC and the Northern Research Institute at Yukon College.

UNBC’s Northern Land Use Institute (NLUI) is a university-wide, inter-disciplinary research institute and it is oriented to improving land use, resource management , and environmental decision-making at the local and regional level. Serving as a link between the faculty and northern regions and communities, NLUI has developed partnerships with communities seeking research and planning expertise and the institute actively supports scientific inquiry into a wide range of social and natural science research topics. Some of the areas of faculty interest include; cross-cultural perspectives on wilderness and the environment, resource management of wilderness, wildlife, fish, and recreation resources, sustainable tourism development, remote sensing and digital imaging techniques, collaborative planning for economic development, environmental monitoring of problems facing northern communities; lifestyle shifts, planning activities at the local, landscape and strategic level, and the institutional environment within which planning and development take place. Through a community advisory committee, UNBC

faculty working at a community level, and NLUI linkages with other research institutes in the circumpolar north, meaningful research needs are continually being identified and carried out.

The Board of Governors and the Senate of UNBC in approving the creation and operation of the Northern Land Use Institute ( NLUI) as its first Research Institute, saw fit to ensure there would be opportunities for faculty members, graduate students and others affiliated with the University to link with public, private, and non-profit partners to undertake research related to land and resource use in the North. NLUI supports the mission and mandate of UNBC to contribute to northern communities, protected areas, and areas requiring special management.

### ***The Muskwa Kechika Management Area***

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is an area of unique wilderness in northeastern British Columbia that is endowed with a globally significant abundance and diversity of wildlife. The intent of the Land Use Planning processes that resulted in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area was to maintain in perpetuity the wilderness quality, and the diversity and abundance of wildlife, and the ecosystems on which wildlife depend, while allowing resource development and use in special management resource zones.

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is comprised of both Protected Areas (Parks) and Special Resource Management Zones. While the Protected Areas will not see any industrial development, the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area will have a variety of purposes including, recreation, hunting, timber harvesting, mineral exploration and mining, oil and gas exploration and development. The long-term maintenance of wilderness characteristics, wildlife and its habitat in both the Protected Areas and Special Resource Management Zones is critical to the social and cultural well being of first nations and other people in the area. In some portions of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, the integration of management activities, especially related to the planning, development and management of road access is central to achieving this objective. In areas where industrial activities take place, the long-term objective is to return lands to their natural state as development activities are completed.

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area was formalized in 1998 in the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act*. Section 4(1) of the act mandates the Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan. The objectives for the management of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area were developed as part of the Fort Nelson and Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plans and have been enacted as part of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan.

A trust fund was established by the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* :

- a) To support wildlife and wilderness resources in the Management Area through research and integrated management of natural resource development; and
- (b) To maintain in perpetuity the diversity and abundance of wildlife species and the ecosystems on which they depend throughout the Management Area.

The Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund was established as a trust fund as defined in the *Financial Administration Act* and is divided into two accounts known as the general account and the project account. The Minister of Environment Lands and Parks is the trustee of the trust fund.

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act creates a Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board, appointed by the Premier, to advise on natural resource management in the management area. The advisory board identifies suitable projects and proposals consistent with the purposes of the trust.

### **Part III: The Opportunity for a Partnership**

There is an opportunity for a collaborative partnership between UNBC and the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board to provide funding from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund to work together in the areas of research and community service. Such a partnership will support wildlife and wilderness resources of the Management Area through research and study of integrated management of natural resource development meeting the Fund's purpose of helping to conserve and enhance biological diversity, fish, fish habitat, wildlife, wildlife habitat and wilderness values. The research and community service mandates of UNBC's Northern Land Use Institute are consistent with the permissible expenditures of the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund in at least the following five areas:

- i. To conduct research into wilderness management, integrated management of wilderness, wildlife (with emphasis on large predator-prey ecosystems), fish, recreation and resource development;
- ii. To support planning initiatives regarding wildlife, recreation, parks, access, and resource development
- iii. To support inventories and mapping of wildlife, recreation, range and culture;
- iv. To involve and train persons from local communities in resource related career opportunities;
- v. To promote knowledge and awareness of the Trust Fund, the Management Area and its wilderness values, by way of promotional, educational or other programs or activities;

### **Part IV: The Scope of the Potential Agreement:**

The Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund will consider contributing to the Northern Land Use Institute of the University of British Columbia under the following conditions.

#### **1. Four year action Plan:**

A one-time contribution of four hundred thousand dollars from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund will be expended by NLUI at the rate of approximately \$100,000 per annum for the next four years on:

- i. The establishment of a new Muskwa-Kechika Research Professorship. The incumbent will work from the Fort St. John or Fort Nelson campus of Northern Lights College depending upon the nature of the plan of research set out by the individual. The work plan for this professor will address the research needs identified in section 12(2) b & c of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act.
- ii. The provision of eight semesters of student funding during the four years of this agreement. Students must be involved in programs consistent with the purposes of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act. Support for any one individual must not exceed two semesters.
- iii. Extending the NLUI distinguished speaker series to communities adjacent to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, with at least three presentations per annum. Preference is to be given to presentations that focus on land use planning and special management issues presentation each year must have a wilderness-related topic.
- iv. NLUI will undertake five community presentations per year on wilderness management issues in communities adjacent to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, with no more than two presentations per year in any individual community.

## ***2. Capacity Building***

A contribution of a minimum of one hundred thousand dollars to the Endowment Fund of the Northern Land Use Institute (NLUI) of UNBC would establish a Muskwa-Kechika component in the NLUI Endowment Fund, eligible to be matched by other UNBC partnership donors. The building of this fund over time would provide resources and focus for long term involvement in Muskwa-Kechika related research and scientific management of wilderness. For this to occur, the fund must be built to a level (in excess of \$ 1 million) where it will support a substantive contribution to wilderness research and planning in perpetuity. When required, UNBC, through NLUI, will be requesting further endowments from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust fund over the next four years to build this long-term capacity.

## ***3. The establishment of a collaborative partnership between UNBC and the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board***

This partnership will include a process for UNBC and the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board to establish a joint vision of research needs and research priorities in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.. UNBC's Associate Vice President of Research and/or the Director of the Northern Land Use Institute, will chair an ad hoc committee consisting of UNBC faculty, Muskwa-Kechika Board Representatives and Government Staff for the purpose of recommending to the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board a course of action pertaining to:

- i. A joint vision statement, outlining goals and objectives for research in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area for the first decade of the new millenium;
- ii. The completion of a research needs problem analysis with a ten year research plan and defined funding targets;
- iii. The adoption of a research approval process to implement the vision statement, goals, and objectives;
- iv. A program for recognition of the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund's contribution to northern research, which includes a publication series for reporting on the research projects and community service initiatives associated with the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area;
- v. Establishing a program of joint sponsorship of relevant conferences, seminars etc.;
- vi. Recommending a framework for secondment and exchange opportunities for researchers interested in large predator and other types of wilderness research;
- vii. Recommending options for partnership framework/organizational structure for the management and delivery of these programs.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

Nothing in this Understanding affects:

- UNBC and or NLUI from applying for project funds from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund;
- The parties from establishing other operational agreements for administration or furthering awareness of their mandates; or
- Either party from undertaking other partnerships for similar purposes.

**SIGNED on behalf of The University of Northern British Columbia**

Charles Jago, President

**SIGNED on behalf of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board**

John Cashore, Chair



## LETTER OF AGREEMENT CONTRIBUTION

BY FAX: (250) 960-7301

**TRANSITORY**

University of Northern British Columbia  
3333 University Way  
Prince George BC V2N 4Z9

Attention: Dr. Charles Jago, President

This Agreement confirms that the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund (MKTF) will provide a contribution of **\$900,000.00** to the **University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)** (the "Recipient").

### PURPOSE

A contribution of **\$400,000.00** is provided for the **Northern Land Use Institute** of the UNBC to establish a Muskwa-Kechika professorship, Muskwa-Kechika student support and a wilderness planning presence in North Eastern British Columbia, and a contribution of **\$500,000.00** to the **Northern Land Use Institute Endowment Fund** per the attached Interim Letter of Understanding between the University of Northern British Columbia and the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual consent of the parties.

### TERMS

1. The Trust Fund's contribution is to be used only as described in the attached Interim Letter of Understanding between the University of Northern British Columbia and the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual consent of the parties. In addition, activities must reflect the attached Letter of Understanding amongst the Government of British Columbia and the Kaska Dena Council.
2. The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board must have a direct role in reviewing and approving, at a minimum, an annual research plan for UNBC and the NLUI on Muskwa-Kechika Management Area related research.

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Land Use  
Coordination Office

Muskwa-Kechika  
Management Area

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9426, STN PROV GVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9V1

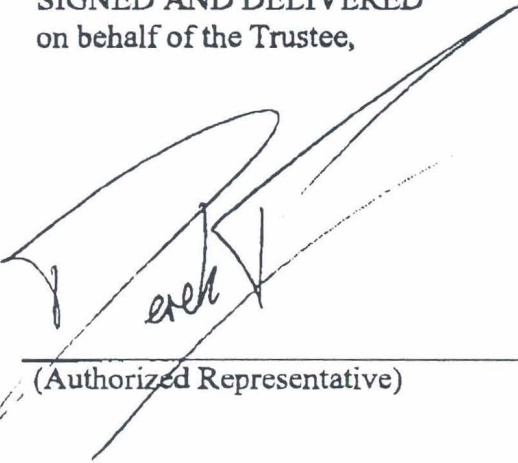
Facsimile: (250) 953-9481

ACCEPTANCE

If the above conditions are acceptable, please indicate by signing all three enclosed copies of this letter, retaining one for your files and returning the other two to this office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have duly executed this agreement as of  
the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_.

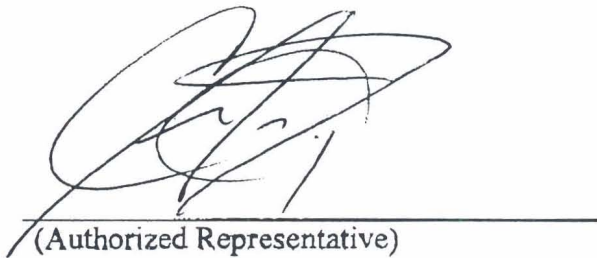
SIGNED AND DELIVERED  
on behalf of the Trustee,



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is slanted and appears to contain the letters 'ereh'.

(Authorized Representative)

SIGNED AND DELIVERED  
on behalf of the Recipient,



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is slanted and appears to contain the letters 'ereh'.

(Authorized Representative)

**Record of Decision**  
**1998-99 Contribution Agreement; University of Northern British Columbia**

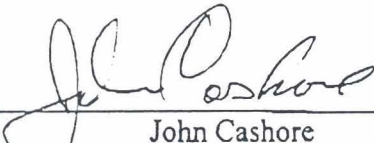
**Background;**

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board held its second meeting on February 13-14, 1999 to review the final allocation of funds for the 1998-99 fiscal year. The board considered a proposal to build leadership and research capacity at the University of Northern British Columbia as documented by an Interim Letter of Understanding between Dr. C. Jago, president UNBC and board chair John Cashore.

The board recommends the expenditure of \$500,000 of previously unallocated Muskwa-Kechika Trust funds and the reallocation of up to \$400,000 of unexpended but previously allocated Muskwa-Kechika Trust funds.

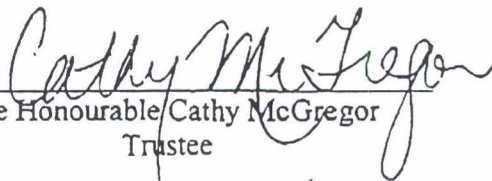
**Approvals:**

The recommended contribution to the University of Northern British Columbia of \$500,000 previously unallocated funds and the reallocation of up to \$400,000 of unexpended previously allocated funds.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Cashore  
Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

Feb. 18, 1999.  
Date

I accept the recommendations of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board on the Contribution to the University of Northern British Columbia.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honourable Cathy McGregor  
Trustee

March 23/99  
Date

**Subject:** RE: Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund Contribution

Carolyn, to confirm our conversation. <sup>✕</sup> Payments made from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund are not subject to review by Treasury Board. (I also looked at the MK Management Area Act to confirm that it doesn't have some type of requirement for Treasury Board to review expenditures of the Trust.)

John Fuller,  
Treasury Board Analyst,  
Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations  
Phone: (250) 387-9040  
Email: John.Fuller@gems3.gov.bc.ca

**From:** Zyha, Carolyn FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 1999 12:49 PM  
**To:** Fuller, John W FIN:EX  
**Cc:** Mitchell, Warren FIN:EX; Nicholson, Judy FIN:EX; Stusek, Glen FIN:EX  
**Subject:** Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund Contribution

John, further to our conversation, can you please confirm that contributions made by the Trust Fund (outside of the CRF) are not subject to review by Treasury Board?

In particular, this fiscal year, the Board and Trustee have agreed that the Trust Fund shall provide a contribution of \$900K to UNBC's Northern Land Use Institute and its Endowment Fund, based on an Interim Letter of Understanding between UNBC and the Chair of the M-K Advisory Board.

Thank you for your help.  
Carolyn Zyha  
Financial Officer  
EAO/LUCO/CRII  
2-836 Yates St, Victoria  
Ph: 356-8707 Fax: 953-3481  
<http://www.luco.gov.bc.ca/>

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."  
Gandhi

**GRANT LETTER**

March 7, 2007

University of Northern British Columbia  
3333 University Way  
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

Dear Dr. Ronald Thring, Acting Vice-Provost, Research and Graduate Programs,

**Re: Grant of \$100,000.00 to the Muskwa-Kechika Endowment Fund**

This letter confirms that Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia, as represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands (the "Province"), is pleased to provide funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 to the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) (the "Recipient") to the Muskwa-Kechika Endowment Fund (part of the former Northern Land Use Institute Endowment Fund) as additional support for the research collaboration between the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board and UNBC.

The intention of this financial support is to enhance the research programs of the university that contribute to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area goals. This includes continuation of the university's capacity to support the Ian McTaggart Cowan Muskwa-Kechika Research Professorship in wildlife ecology. Research associated with the professorship is directed towards wildlife and wilderness values, and related resource management efforts in support of the research needs, priorities and integrated management goals of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

Yours truly,

Tom Kearns  
Regional Executive Director

---

**Integrated Land  
Management  
Bureau**

*Ministry of  
Agriculture and Lands*

Address:  
Sta 200  
1488 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Prince George, BC V2L 4Y2

Ph: (250) 565-6519  
Fax: (250) 565-6941



## LETTER OF AGREEMENT

BY FAX: (250) 960-5746

University of Northern British Columbia  
3333 University Way  
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

Attention: Dr. Ronald Thring, Acting Vice-Provost, Research & Graduate Programs

This agreement confirms that the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (the "Province") will provide a grant of \$100,000.00 to the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) (the "Recipient") to the Muskwa-Kechika Endowment Fund (part of the former Northern Land Use Institute Endowment Fund) as additional support for the research collaboration between the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board and UNBC.

### PURPOSE

The intention of this financial support is to enhance the research programs of the university that contribute to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area goals. This includes continuation of the university's capacity to support the Ian McTaggart Cowan Muskwa-Kechika Research Professorship in wildlife ecology. Research associated with the professorship is directed towards wildlife and wilderness values, and related resource management efforts in support of the research needs, priorities and integrated management goals of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

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**Integrated Land  
Management  
Bureau**

*Ministry of  
Agriculture and Lands*

Address:  
370 10003 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Fort St John BC V1J 6M7

Ph: (250) 787-3634  
Fax: (250) 787-3219

ACCEPTANCE

If the above conditions are acceptable, please indicate by signing all three enclosed copies of this letter, retaining one for your files and returning the other two to this office.

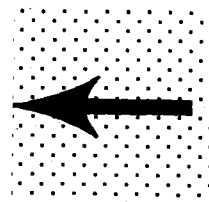
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have duly executed this agreement as of the 20 day of March, 20 07.

SIGNED AND DELIVERED  
on behalf of the Province,

SIGNED AND DELIVERED  
on behalf of the Recipient,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Representative)

*Phuong*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Representative)



**Interim Letter of Understanding  
Between  
The University of Northern British Columbia  
And  
The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board**

August 1, 2004

The Understanding is between:

The University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) as represented by its President,  
Charles Jago

And,

The Muskwa-Kechika (M-K) Advisory Board as represented by its Chair, Ross Peck.

**Introduction:**

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB) and the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) entered into a formal agreement in 1999 to support research and education activities in the MK Management Area. The resulting work has been of great value to both parties and to the people of British Columbia. This agreement is an extension and refinement of the relationship to March 31, 2006.

**Part 1: Purpose**

The purpose of the agreement is to outline and support the collaboration between the MK and UNBC in support of the management intent of the M-K Management Area Act and in concert with UNBC's mandate as a university *in the North for the North*, with a mission to improve the quality of life in its region, the province, and beyond, by attaining the highest standards of undergraduate and graduate teaching, learning and research. The agreement will lead to:

1. A **four-year action plan** to continue and enhance the promotional, educational, and research programs of the university in support of MK management goals.
2. The enhancement and continuation of the **university's capacity** to advance the objectives of this agreement through support of the Ian McTaggart Cowan M-K Research Professorship in wildlife ecology.
3. The continuation of a **collaborative partnership** to promote and manage research into wilderness and wildlife management and the maintenance and restoration of wilderness and wildlife values.
4. Continuation of the M-K Research Professorship and establishment of a joint vision of research needs, priorities, and integrated resource management goals in the M-K.

5. The establishment of a **framework for joint projects and funding initiatives** to continue wildlife and related resource management efforts in support of the research needs, priorities and integrated resource management goals of the M-K.

## **Part 2. Background**

### **UNBC**

UNBC has established itself as a university *in the north for the north* by addressing the educational, economic and social needs of the region through its commitment to teaching, research and community service. In the spirit of its Carrier motto, *En cha huná*, UNBC celebrates diversity and reflects and fosters the rich cultural diversity of northern British Columbia and its people.

UNBC is one of the few Canadian universities with a strong northern focus in its research and its academic mission. The university occupies a unique position of academic, research and developmental contribution and cooperation with the people of northern British Columbia and the northern environment. Through its institutes, schools, research professorships and academic programs, UNBC seeks to ensure opportunities for faculty, graduate students and others affiliated with the university to link with public, private and non-profit partners to undertake research and development related to resource use in the north.

The establishment of the M-K Research Professorship supports the mission and mandate of UNBC to contribute to northern communities, protected areas and areas requiring special management.

### **M-K Management Area**

The M-K Management Area is an area of unique wilderness in northeastern British Columbia that is endowed with a globally significant abundance and diversity of wildlife. The intent of the planning processes that resulted in the M-K Management Area was to maintain in perpetuity the wilderness quality, cultural diversity, diversity and abundance of wildlife, and the ecosystems on which wildlife depend, while allowing resource development and use in special management resource zones.

The M-K Management Area is comprised of both Protected Areas (parks) and Special Resource Management Zones. While the Protected Areas will not see any industrial development, the M-K Management Area will support a variety of activities including recreation, hunting, timber harvesting, mineral exploration and mining, oil and gas exploration and development, and cultural use by First Nations. The long-term maintenance of wilderness characteristics, wildlife, and its habitat in both the Protected Areas and Special Resource Management Zones is critical to the social and cultural well-being of First Nations and other people in the M-K Management Area and surrounding region. In some portions of the M-K Management Area, the integration of management activities, especially related to the planning, development and management of road access, is central to achieving this objective. In areas where industrial activities take

place, the long-term objective is to return lands to their pre-disturbance state as development activities are completed.

The M-K Management Area was formalized in 1998 in the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act*. Section 4(1) of the Act mandates the M-K Management Plan. The objectives of the M-K Management Area were developed as part of the Fort Nelson and Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plans, and have been enacted as part of the M-K Management Plan.

A trust fund was established by the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* :

- To support wildlife and wilderness resources in the M-K Management Area through research and integrated management of natural resource development; and
- To maintain in perpetuity the diversity and abundance of wildlife species and the ecosystems on which they depend throughout the M-K Management Area.

The M-K Trust Fund was established as a trust fund as defined in the *Financial Administration Act* and is divided into two accounts known as the general account and the project account. The Minister of Sustainable Resource Management is the trustee of the trust fund.

The M-K Management Area Act includes provision for the work of the M-K Advisory Board, appointed by the Premier, to advise on natural resource management in the M-K Management Area. The M-K Advisory Board identifies suitable projects and proposals consistent with the purposes of the trust fund.

### **Part 3: The UNBC M-KAB Partnership**

UNBC and the M-K Advisory Board entered into a four-year agreement extending from March 1999 to March 2003 to:

- conduct research into wilderness management, integrated management of wilderness, wildlife (with emphasis on large predator-prey ecosystems), fish, recreation, and resource development;
- support planning initiatives regarding wildlife, recreation, parks, access, and resource development;
- support inventories and mapping of wildlife, recreation, range and culture;
- involve and train persons from local communities in resource-related career opportunities;
- promote knowledge and awareness of the Trust Fund, the Management Area and its wilderness values, by way of promotional, educational or other programs or activities.

This agreement resulted in, but was not limited to, the following:

- the creation of the Ian McTaggart Cowan M-K Research Professorship at UNBC;
- successful implementation of a large wildlife research and extension program by the M-K Research Professor;
- the funding of several graduate research projects within this program;

- the funding of additional UNBC faculty and graduate student research projects within the M-K;
- the preparation by UNBC of a Strategic Research Plan for the M-K;
- the provision by UNBC of advisory services to and participation on the M-K Research Subcommittee;
- the provision of research review services to the M-K Advisory Board;
- the preparation and update by UNBC of a comprehensive bibliography of research in the M-K Management Area;
- the implementation of regular community presentations on research in the M-K;
- the regular communication of the M-K Research Professor with the M-K Advisory Board;
- the provision of other services to the M-K Advisory Board related to research within the M-K Management Area (e.g. identification of existing research capacities and relevant research);
- the provision of annual reports and other documentation, including a summary of UNBC's contribution to the M-K over the term of the first four-year agreement (1999-2003).

#### **Part 4: The Continued Partnership Between UNBC and the M-K**

##### **1. Scope and Purpose**

In recognition of the success of their previous partnership, the MK Advisory Board and UNBC seek to enter into a renewed agreement reflective of the current conditions, priorities and circumstances within the MK Management Area and the university. The scope of this agreement incorporates:

- a. A broad range of research including wildlife, resource management, and planning;
- b. extension and communication of research results;
- c. educational opportunities;
- d. collation and evaluation of research results;
- e. dialogue with the MK Advisory Board on research priorities and related management issues.

##### **2. Capacity Building**

The MK Research Professorship will remain the cornerstone of capacity within UNBC in addressing the scope and purpose of this partnership. The contribution in March 1999 of \$500,000 from the MK Trust Fund to an endowment within UNBC continues to yield revenue that will be used specifically for support of the M-K Research Professorship. The M-KAB and UNBC will endeavour to jointly seek sources of funding and other support in accordance with a collaborative partnership established to further the goals of the M-K Advisory Board and UNBC.

##### **3. Collaborative Partnering**

This partnership will include a process for UNBC and the M-K Advisory Board to establish a joint vision of research needs, priorities, and integrated resource management goals in the M-K Management Area. UNBC's M-K Research Professor and the Chair of

the M-K Advisory board will select and convene an ad hoc committee for the purpose of recommending to the M-K Advisory Board and UNBC a course of action pertaining to:

- a. development of a joint vision statement, outlining goals and objectives for research and integrated resource management in the M-K Management Area;
- b. establishment of a process for identifying research needs, priorities, and integrated resource management goals within the M-K Management Area;
- c. establishment of a process of joint initiative for the purposes of securing funding and support for research and development projects and related initiatives undertaken by UNBC and M-K Advisory Board;
- d. establishment of a process for review, reporting and evaluation of research and its relevance to management goals of the M-K Advisory Board.

**General Provisions:**

Nothing in this Understanding affects:

-UNBC and its faculty and students from applying for project funds from the M-K Trust Fund or any other granting body;

-either party from establishing other operational agreements for administration or pursuit of their mandates;

-either party from undertaking other partnerships in pursuit of their mandates.

Signed on behalf of The University of Northern British Columbia

Charles Jago, President, \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed on behalf of The Muskwa-Kechika Management Advisory Board

Ross Peck, Chair, \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*also sent via mail.*

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Office of Research and Graduate Programs

Telephone: (250) 960-5820

Facsimile: (250) 960-5746

E-mail: [allysont@unbc.ca](mailto:allysont@unbc.ca)



**Facsimile**

To: Mr. Tom Briggs, Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board  
c/o Tara Forest in the Muskwa-Kechika Office

Cc: Drs. Ron Thring, Bill McGill and Katherine Parker

Fax# (250) 262-0077

From: Allyson Truant, Executive Assistant to the Vice-Provost Research and  
Graduate Programs

Date: October 5, 2007

Re: Letter from Drs. Ron Thring, Bill McGill and Katherine Parker, dated October 5,  
2007

No. of Pages: 3

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Please find attached a letter from Drs. Thring, McGill and Parker of October 5, 2007.

Thanks,  
Allyson



Office of Research and Graduate Programs  
3333 University Way, Prince George, BC, V2N 4Z9  
Tel 250.960.5820  
Fax 250.960.5746  
e-mail: [thring@unbc.ca](mailto:thring@unbc.ca)

5 October 2007

Mr. Tom Briggs  
Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board  
Muskwa-Kechika Information Office  
Suite 200 9523-100<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fort St John, BC V1J 4N4

Dear Tom:

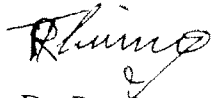
We wish to thank you, as well as Don Roberts, Wayne Sawchuck, and Howard Madill, for meeting with us at UNBC last week on 26 September. We appreciate your efforts to maintain the collaborative partnering and history of mutual cooperation between the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board and the university.

We look forward to working with you to extend our previous Interim Letter of Understanding into a signed long-term partnership agreement. We have begun working on updating the agreement, and will soon be sending it to you for your suggestions. The new agreement will include your recommendations to have a yearly meeting with Muskwa-Kechika and UNBC representatives to exchange ideas and information, and a requirement to report annually on the use of funds from the Muskwa-Kechika Endowment at UNBC. We also will propose a framework by which funds will always be used towards a long-term research agenda in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

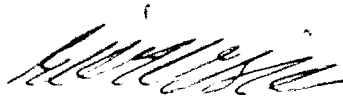
Relative to your inquiries about transferring the remainder of your MK Trust Fund monies to UNBC, this would be possible if those monies were added to and combined with the existing Muskwa-Kechika Endowment. As such, they would be used along with the original monies given to UNBC towards the long-term research agenda that advances the goals and objectives of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. This option would be available to you if you decide the funds should be allocated towards research endeavours only. Because the university has specific teaching and research mandates, we are unable to set up a separate investment account for MK Trust funds for the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board. If you wish to allocate the Trust Fund monies towards multiple venues, then it would be best if you place them in one of the other foundations that you are now considering. We would of course welcome the additional funds to increase the current MK Endowment above \$1 million, which might help leverage additional monies, but we also respect that you have many different mandates that enhance the integrity of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

We look forward to continued communication and collaboration. Please convey our enthusiasm regarding the MK-UNBC partnership to your Advisory Board members at your next meeting in Mackenzie.

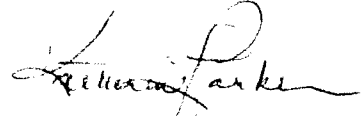
Sincerely,



Dr. Ron Thring  
Acting Vice Provost,  
Research and Graduate Programs



Dr. Bill McGill  
Dean, College of  
Science and Management



Dr. Kathy Parker  
Muskwa-Kechika  
Research Professor