PROTOCOL OF MUTUAL COOPERATION

BETWEEN:

The First Nations Tax Commission (Hereinafter referred to as "the FNTC")

AND

Natural Resources Canada, as represented by the Earth Sciences Sector, Surveyor General Branch (Hereinafter referred to as "the SGB")

WHEREAS, the FNTC is a national indigenous institution in Canada that was established by the *First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act* in 2005;

WHEREAS, the First Nations Tax Commission has a mandate to assist First Nations in building capacity to administer their taxation systems, to promote understanding of First Nation property taxations systems, and to assist First Nations achieving sustainable economic growth;

WHEREAS, the Surveyor General is responsible, subject to the direction of the Minister of Natural Resources, to manage all surveys on Canada Lands, and to maintain all the original plans, journals, field notes and other papers connected with those surveys;

WHEREAS, Canada Lands also consist of Indian Reserves;

WHEREAS, the First Nations Tax Commission has been leading an initiative to create a federal First Nations Torrens title system and a new model for property ownership for participating First Nations;

WHEREAS, SGB agrees to provide services to the First Nations for surveys under the Canada Lands Surveys Act (R.S.C. 1985, c.L-6); and will maintain a working relationship with FNTC's First Nations Property Ownership initiative; and

WHEREAS, the above and stated purposes of the FNTC and the SGB respectively, involve matters of mutual support and benefit and reinforce their cooperation and the changing relationship of the SGB with the participating First Nations in the area of their land title, governance and management;

NOW THEREFORE, the FNTC and the SGB hereby enter into this Protocol for the orderly and satisfactory conduct of their respective purposes and hereby agree to the following:

1. The representatives of the FNTC and the SGB shall meet to work together for the purposes of furthering the design of the federal Torrens Registry and developing the survey components required for the First Nations Property Ownership Act.

- 2. The parties will work together on projects related to the implementation of the FNPOA including: defining lands and describing lands in support of the development of First Nations capacity to govern and effectively manage their lands; and helping to resolve parcel and boundary related issues for participating First Nations.
- 3. The said officials and members shall work in good faith and jointly or in collaboration with First Nations and undertake the necessary communications and produce any mutually beneficial and mutually agreed upon documents and strategies in furtherance of the undertakings agreed to under the Protocol. The FNTC and the SGB will meet to discuss matters of mutual interest and mutual concern under the Protocol at mutually agreeable locations. The meetings of the FNTC and the SGB shall be jointly chaired by the Chair, of the FNTC or delegate and the Surveyor General for Canada or delegate.
- 4. Travel costs to attend the above-mentioned meetings will be the responsibility of the travelling party. Any expenditures incurred as a result of hosting the meetings (i.e. facilities, equipment, etc.) will be paid for by the hosting party.
- 5. This Protocol will come into effect as of the day and year written below and will expire on March 31, 2015. This Protocol will come into effect upon signing and either party may terminate this Protocol upon thirty (90) days written notice to the other party.
- 6. This Protocol may be amended upon mutual written consent of the parties and any amendments made will form part thereof.
- 7. This Protocol does not create any legally binding obligations or rights between the parties.

For and on behalf of the **First Nations Tax Commission**

C. T. (Manny) Jules Chief Commissioner

Signed this Of day of OQ, 2012

For and on behalf of the Natural Resources Canada as Represented by the Earth Sciences Sector, Surveyor General Branch

Peter Sullivan Surveyor General for Canada

Signed this 1 3 day of 01, 2012