



STATEMENT OF PARTNERSHIP

BETWEEN THE
CANADIAN EXECUTIVE SERVICE ORGANIZATION (CESO)

AND THE
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS (AFN) / NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD



PREAMBLE

The Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO) is a registered charitable national organization.

CESO provides experienced Canadian volunteers to projects developed in cooperation with, and supported by community and funding partners with the aim of improving the social and economic well-being of individuals and communities.

CESO has provided its services to Aboriginal communities, organizations, businesses and individuals since 1969.

CESO Aboriginal Services offers First Nations communities the skills of senior Volunteer Advisors who have a broad range of senior executive and management skills.

The AFN is the national First Nations' organization in Canada.

The AFN is committed to strengthening First Nation families and communities, advocating for respect and recognition of First Nations' rights, advancing economic and environmental interests, supporting First Nation governments and nation-building, and strengthening and stabilizing First Nation governments and communities.

The AFN and CESO agree that enhancing institutional and human resources capacity are critical to the economic growth, community well-being, and nation-building of First Nations. The AFN and CESO partnership aims to enhance such opportunities for First Nations.

PRINCIPLES

Shared Commitment - The AFN and CESO are committed to the principles of Indigenous self-determination, economic self-sufficiency, and cultural continuity, and recognize that these are pre-requisites for First Nations' economic and social success.

Facilitate Capacity Building - AFN and CESO share a common interest in facilitating substantive community capacity building and enhancing First Nation self-government and self-determination.

Effective Government and Institutions - AFN and CESO agree that effective, accountable, and self-determined First Nation institutions and governance are critical to sustainable social and economic development and to improving the quality of life of First Nation citizens and the collective well-being of First Nation communities.

Strengthen Individual and Collective Capacity - AFN and CESO are committed to strengthening individual and collective capacity in First Nation communities, thereby supporting healthy, safe and prosperous families, communities, and nations.

Foster Access to Resources - AFN and CESO affirm First Nation governments as leaders in accountable, successful administration and agree that a critical element in fostering effective governments is access to resources and capacity-building.

Mutual Support to First Nations - AFN and CESO will work together with First Nations to build capacity at the local and regional levels.

Complementary Roles - While CESO will provide technical expertise, the role of the AFN relates primarily to advocacy, communication, and policy work.

Support Delivering Tangible Results - AFN and CESO agree to encourage and facilitate increased partnerships and cooperation between CESO, First Nation governments, and First Nation organizations to enhance capacity through direct support in a number of areas, including, but not limited to, governance, economic development, financial management, and emergency preparedness.

OBJECTIVES

The AFN and CESO hereby affirm their mutual intent to:

1. Support long-term and sustainable cooperation between the AFN, CESO, First Nation communities and governments, and funding and project partners to advance strong economic, social, cultural, and political structures.
2. Enhance institutional capacity at the regional and local levels through partnerships and skills development.

AGREEMENTS

The AFN and CESO will prepare a joint action plan that identifies specific areas of engagement and workplans that address existing gaps in capacity. Priority areas include, but are not limited to, governance, economic development, financial management, needs assessment, and emergency preparedness.

The AFN and CESO will involve and seek the guidance of their respective constituencies, boards, partners and experts to support initiatives that respect First Nations' principles and values and are compatible to each organization's mandate.

The results of this work will be reported on, at a minimum, once per year to the Chiefs-in-Assembly and CESO's Board of Directors.

AFN and CESO representatives will provide progress reports on work plans established to support implementing the Statement of Partnership. This will be accomplished through:

- a) Quarterly meetings
- b) Collaboration on initiatives
- c) Cooperation on public policy issues

GENERAL

Discussions pursuant to this Statement of Partnership are intended to enhance and support capacity building processes and opportunities and are without prejudice to, and not intended to replace or supersede any existing initiative between any First Nation and other key stakeholders.

This Statement of Partnership is intended solely to provide a framework for implementing the relationship described herein, but does not itself create legally enforceable rights or obligations for either party or its members and is not a legally binding agreement.

The actions contemplated in this Statement of Partnership will begin upon signing.

AFN or CESO may amend this document at any time by mutual consent of both parties.

Either the AFN or CESO may terminate this Statement of Partnership upon the delivery of written notice to this effect. This Statement of Partnership will be in effect for two years from the signing date, and after that two year period will be automatically renewed annually unless a written notice of termination is delivered by either party to the other.

Signed in the city of Ottawa, Ontario on the ____ day of December, 2010.

Canadian Executive Service Organization

Assembly of First Nations

Don Johnston, President and CEO

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief