

Algonquins of Ontario

Request for Proposals

For

TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES IN LAND USE, PLANNING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Issued: June 23, 2006

Proposal Submission Deadline: July 24, 4:00 pm, EDT, 2006

1. Invitation to Candidates

In this Request for Proposals (“**RFP**”), the Algonquins of Ontario (“**Algonquins**”) request proposals for the provision of land use, planning and economic development professional advisory services to aid in the development of a comprehensive Economic Development Package (“**EDP**”).

2. Project Background

2.1 *Algonquin Land Claim*

In the mid-1980s, the Algonquins asserted a continuing land claim against the governments of Canada and Ontario to aboriginal rights and title in respect of approximately 9 million acres of land (36,000 square kilometres) in Eastern Ontario (**the “Claim”**). The Claim is linked to a series of petitions to the Crown dating back to 1772. The Claim area represents the Ottawa River and Mattawa River watersheds.

The governments of Ontario and Canada have both determined that there are sufficient grounds to enter into without prejudice discussions regarding the Claim, and all parties are now in the process of negotiations. Ultimately, the settlement of the Claim is expected to include, among other things, both financial compensation and parcels of land.

The Algonquins have elected 16 Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (“**ANRs**”) to represent their interests in negotiations with the Federal and Provincial governments. The 16 ANRs represent the following communities: Antoine; Ardoch; Bancroft; Bonnechere; Greater Golden Lake; Mattawa/North Bay; Ottawa; Sharbot Lake; Whitney; and the Pikwàkanagàn First Nation. The ANRs have retained Roberts J. Potts of the law firm Blaney, McMurtry LLP as their Principal Negotiator and Senior Legal Counsel. Mr. Potts is assisted by Legal Counsel Alan Pratt.

2.2 *Creation of Economic Development Package (EDP)*

The Algonquins seek to establish a Technical Advisory Group (“**TAG**”) that will produce a comprehensive EDP based on the input, guidance, direction and approval of the ANRs. The primary purpose of the EDP will be to provide the foundation for the future economic, social and cultural prosperity of the Algonquins.

Two important secondary objectives of the process of creating the EDP are the following:

1. To design and implement a system through which the Algonquins are able to respond in a constructive fashion (consistent with the EDP) to potentially related requests and inquiries from government (e.g. inquiries relating to excess Crown properties); and
2. To develop the internal capacity of the Algonquins to respond to, negotiate with, and ultimately resolve any outstanding claims with the Governments of Canada and Ontario.

3. Purpose of RFP

Through their counsel, the ANRs have retained Berenblut Consulting Inc. (“**Berenblut Consulting**”) to lead the TAG. Berenblut Consulting provides knowledge and expertise in economic policy, financial management, mediation, and project management.

Berenblut Consulting has identified the need for expertise in land use, planning, economic development, community consultation and, on an as-needed basis, other land use expertise in areas such as forestry, agriculture, mining or tourism, among others. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit proposals from individuals and/or organizations to become a member of the TAG and provide advisory services in these areas.

4. Project Details

4.1 Scope of EDP

The process of creating the EDP is expected to include (but is not limited to) the following tasks:

- **Develop goals and objectives of EDP:** Develop the guiding principles behind the production of the EDP. The TAG will need to guide the Algonquins in mapping out the overall approach to the creation of the EDP and determine (a) *what* is the objective of the process and (b) *how* it will function.
- **Establish communications plan:** Establish a communications plan specifically that establishes protocols, points of contact, methods of providing notice and obtaining input that comply with and support the goals and objectives of the EDP. A comprehensive method of obtaining the input of the Algonquins (and other stakeholders as deemed necessary) will need to be designed and implemented. Such information-gathering methods could include, among others, surveys and questionnaires.
- **Develop system to respond to governmental inquiries:** Establish a mechanism through which the Algonquins will begin to be better able to respond in a constructive fashion, and in a manner consistent with the EDP as it is developed, to requests and inquiries from the government including, for example, those involving excess Crown properties.

- **Assessment of existing conditions:** Meet with government agencies and departments, reviewing existing data and gather any other information that will be necessary to draft the EDP. For example, this process may include creating a comprehensive capital planning study and research into best practices in local and regional economic development. Information may be required in the following areas, among others:
 - regional and local community profiles (*i.e.* demographic and socio-economic characteristics)
 - regional and local existing land use (*i.e.* geographical, hydrological, commercial, industrial, residential, social, and cultural aspects)
 - existing Algonquin community buildings and facilities
 - Algonquin housing needs and projections
 - Algonquin residential development and concepts
 - Algonquin industrial development and initiatives
 - Algonquin commercial development and initiatives
 - existing social infrastructure and needs for the Algonquins
 - existing municipal services infrastructure and needs for the Algonquins
 - environmental constraints and screening

- **Identification of EDP options:** Identify options that support the package requirements and are based on determined goals and objectives identified earlier. Options will relate to several categories of the package, such as renewable resources, non-renewable resources, public infrastructure (e.g. transportation, communication), and private development (e.g. industry, commercial). This aspect of the process is expected to produce a clearer set of concrete ideas that will form the basis of the preliminary EDP.

- **Drafting of preliminary EDP:** Draft preliminary EDP based on broad-based Algonquin community input and evaluation of identified EDP options. This aspect will also involve presenting the preliminary EDP to the ANRs for input and engaging in a constructive feedback process.

- **Production of final EDP:** Produce final EDP incorporating input from ANRs, the Algonquins, and other stakeholders as deemed necessary.

4.2 Consultation

Implicit throughout this process is the requirement for extensive and broad-based consultation with the Algonquins. This consultative process will be the core of the planning process and the subsequent production of the comprehensive development package. While it is expected that the ANRs will lead the consultation process within their respective communities, the TAG will lead consultative discussions amongst and between the ANRs, government, and other stakeholders as deemed necessary.

4.3 Timeline for Drafting EDP

A preliminary EDP should be completed by late 2007. The final EDP should be completed by March 2008.

5. Required Skills, Experience and Credentials

The Algonquins seek the services of a firm that has a thorough knowledge and experience with the types of activities referred to above, and the ability to provide comprehensive, independent and objective advice in a confidential manner. The following skills, experience and credentials are required:

- Thorough knowledge of land use planning and experience in developing land use plans for communities and regions
- Previous experience in community consultation efforts
- Knowledge of relevant geographical area in Eastern Ontario
- Creativity, vision, flexibility and sensitivity, especially in land use planning and community consultation

The following skills, experience and credentials would be an asset:

- Relevant experience in dealings with ministries, boards commissions and agencies of the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada
- Experience in acting for and with aboriginal communities, particularly with respect to aboriginal land claim disputes and negotiations
- Experience in identifying economic development opportunities
- Knowledge of forestry, mining, and other natural resource industries

6. Presentation and Structure of Proposals

Candidate firms are requested to present their proposals in three (3) separate parts:

Part I: Qualifications and Experience

- A summary of the firm's relevant skills, experience and credentials, including those of the project manager and other staff to be assigned to the project;
- Each individual's experience, knowledge and performance in assignments of similar scope and complexity; and
- The professional qualifications of each of the staff assigned to the project.

Part II: Methodology

- A summary of the candidate's understanding of the scope and complexity of the assignment;
- An indication of the issues and problems likely to be encountered (e.g. challenges the firm expects to encounter in the process of creating the EDP); and
- A description of the candidate's approach and framework to be used (e.g. the candidate's vision and detailed plan for the creation of the EDP, including timelines and deliverables); and
- Any other information that the candidate deems relevant concerning their comprehension of the project and their approach to it.

Part III: Budget

- The candidate's detailed budget for the project including, as applicable, hourly rates for individuals to be involved as well as any anticipated expenses.

7. Terms and Conditions of the RFP Process

7.1 Submission of Proposal

Candidates are invited to submit 5 copies of their proposal to the following address:

Algonquins of Ontario – Economic Development Package
c/o Berenblut Consulting Inc.
970 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 800
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2G4

7.2 Questions

Questions about the project may be directed to the following:

Attention: Berenblut Consulting
Telephone: 416-783-3355
Facsimile: 416-352-1556
E-mail: rfp@berenblutconsulting.com

Responses to any questions or clarifications sought by candidates will be communicated to all candidates. Any such information will be available to all candidates on-line at <http://www.blaney.com/algonquin.htm>. Candidates are responsible for obtaining all further information concerning this RFP.

7.3 Timeline

The following is the schedule for this RFP:

Issue Date of RFP	June 23, 2006
Proposal Submission Deadline	July 24, 4:00 pm EDT, 2006
Interviews with Short-listed Candidates	Completed by August 15, 2006
Selection of Winning Bid	Completed by August 24, 2006

Dates after the Proposal Submission Deadline are tentative only and may be changed by the Algonquins in their sole discretion.

7.4 Proposals in English

All submissions are to be in English only.

7.5 Information in RFP

The Algonquins make no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy of the information contained in the RFP or issued by way of addenda. Any descriptions are general only and are for the sole purpose of indicating to candidates the general nature of the work.

It is the candidate's responsibility to avail itself of all the necessary information to prepare a proposal in response to this RFP.

7.6 *Cost of Proposals*

The candidate shall bear all costs associated with or incurred in the preparation and presentation of its proposal including, if applicable, costs incurred for interviews or demonstrations.

7.7 *Privileges and Discretions of the Algonquins*

This RFP is an invitation to negotiate, and not an offer or a tender call. The submission of a proposal by any candidate shall constitute an offer to the Algonquins, and the Algonquins reserve all of their rights as offeree, including without limitation, the right to accept or reject any proposal, to reject all proposals, to cancel this proposal call prior to notification of award, to seek clarification from any candidate, and to negotiate with any candidate. Each candidate shall be deemed to have submitted an offer in accordance with the terms of this RFP, except as may otherwise be expressly amended, qualified or changed in the proposal.

Any proposal submitted after the Proposal Submission Deadline set out in section 7.3, being 4:00 p.m. EDT on July 24, 2006, shall be considered late and shall be returned unopened to the candidate.

The Algonquins shall not be liable to any candidate for any costs, damages or liabilities whatsoever in connection with this proposal.