

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
ON DEVELOPING CANADA-MÉTIS NATION EDUCATION SUB-ACCORDS**

WHEREAS Canada is committed to achieving reconciliation with the Métis Nation through a renewed nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership as the foundation for transformative change;

WHEREAS the Prime Minister's mandate letter directs the Ministers and Departments of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and Indigenous Services Canada to work with other Ministers to establish a new relationship with Indigenous Peoples including the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS Canada and the Métis Nation (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties") entered into the Canada-Métis Nation Accord on April 13, 2017, which commits the Parties to work, on a government-to-government basis, to renew the relationship, based on cooperation and respect for Métis rights and to improve the socio-economic conditions of Métis;

WHEREAS in 2016 the Supreme Court of Canada in *Daniels v. Canada (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)* declared that the Métis are within section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* and that "reconciliation with all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples is Parliament's goal"; and

WHEREAS the Parties under this MOU seek to establish new approaches towards improving the educational outcomes of Métis and facilitating enhanced Métis Nation participation in the design and delivery of culturally appropriate educational services and programs; as well as to facilitate Métis access to educational systems that best address their needs.

Now therefore, the Parties agree as follows:

Purpose

1. The Parties will immediately initiate a process for Canada and the Métis Nation to jointly undertake the development of a ten-year Canada-Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Sub-Accord and a ten-year Canada-Métis Nation K-12 Education Sub-Accord.

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Structure and Membership

2. To advance this goal, the Ministers and the Presidents of the Métis National Council and Governing Members will establish a Canada-Métis Nation Working Group on Métis Education (the Working Group). The Working Group will report back to the Ministers/Leaders of the Canada-Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism.
3. The Working Group will be comprised of representatives from Canada, the Métis National Council and each Governing Member, and will develop terms of reference for its operations.

Mandate

4. The Working Group will examine the current approach in Canada for meeting the educational needs of Métis and to identify any services gaps and areas for improvement. Working Group discussions will include issues relating to:
 - a. Identify innovative long-term institutional approaches to better support education outcomes for Métis students;
 - b. Identify resources for addressing the post-secondary education needs of Métis students;
 - c. Identify options for strengthening the role and scope of Métis post-secondary education institutions;
 - d. Examine jurisdictional issues and ways to enhance Métis Nation capacity to participate in the K to 12 education systems;
 - e. Establishing linkages and cultural supports for Métis students (K to 12) to improve their education outcomes;
 - f. Increase the understanding of the education "landscape" for the Métis Nation across jurisdictions including, but not limited to, legislation, systems, regulations and policy; and
 - g. Create an education data strategy to increase inter-jurisdictional data collection, sharing and reporting and to monitor and assess Métis student education outcomes.
5. The Parties agree to share relevant research and information in their possession and to jointly produce proposals, options, and recommendations to support a government-to-government relationship in the area of education.
6. The Parties will be guided by the following factors in developing the Sub-Accords and related proposals and recommendations:
 - a. Improving the education outcomes for Métis students is a shared responsibility of all orders of government including the Métis Nation;

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- b. The Sub-Accords recognize the historic evolution of Canada's education system and the imperative to strengthen culturally appropriate systems and supports to benefit Métis students;
- c. Evidence-based promising practices should be used to inform proposals and recommendations; and
- d. Proposals with significant policy and/or financial implications will require vetting through appropriate federal policy approvals processes and will follow the budgetary timelines of the Government of Canada.

Reporting and Implementation

- 7. Discussions of the Working Group shall result in joint proposals and recommendations for ten-year Canada-Métis Nation Education Sub-Accords.
- 8. Best efforts shall be made to conclude the development of a Canada-Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Sub-Accord and related proposals and recommendations by October 31, 2018.
- 9. Best efforts shall be made to conclude the development of a Canada-Métis Nation K-12 Education Sub-Accord and related proposals and recommendations by October 31, 2019.
- 10. The Sub-Accords and related joint proposals and recommendations will be presented for approval to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, the Presidents of the Métis National Council and its Governing Members through the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism.

Respecting Bilateral and Tripartite Reconciliation Processes

- 11. Nothing in this MOU shall alter, affect, limit, constrain or impede existing or future exploratory discussions or negotiations processes to address Métis rights, interests or outstanding claims against the Crown that are put into place between and Governing Member and the Government of Canada.
- 12. The Parties recognize that bilateral or tripartite exploratory discussions and negotiations processes agreed to by a Governing member and the Government of Canada also advance reconciliation with the Métis Nation and that the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism is designed to complement and enhance those provincial and/or regional processes.

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13. The Parties expressly agree that nothing in this MOU and subsequent Sub-Accords shall alter, affect, limit constrain or impede the bilateral negotiation processes established between the Government of Canada and any Governing Member including processes established by the Manitoba Metis Federation in the Canada-MMF Framework Agreement that was executed on November 15, 2016 in order to advance reconciliation in a manner consistent with the 2013 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada (Attorney General)*.

Term

14. This MOU shall be effective from the date of signature and will remain in effect until March 31, 2020 (the term) and may be extended by agreement in writing.

General

15. The Parties may revise this MOU in writing during the term or any extensions.

16. The Parties acknowledge that this MOU is not a legally binding instrument but rather a statement of common resolve to establish a joint process to develop ten-year Canada-Métis Nation Education Sub-Accords on Post-secondary Education and K-12 respectively.

17. All communication and notices to any of the Parties to this MOU shall be in writing.

Signed this 25th day of October, 2018.

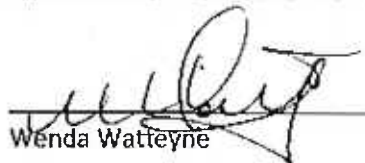
ON BEHALF of the GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:




Margaret Buist
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ON BEHALF of the MÉTIS NATION:

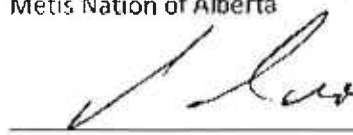

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