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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

*between*

**The Government of Saskatchewan**

**Represented by  
The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs**

*and*

**The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan**

**Represented by  
The President of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan**

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## **I PREAMBLE**

**WHEREAS** the Parties wish to foster a co-operative partnership to develop and implement strategic initiatives in Saskatchewan that will strengthen the participation of Métis individuals and communities in the provincial economy, promote social equity and enhance and strengthen Métis governance of Métis institutions and Métis communities.

**WHEREAS** the Parties agree that federal jurisdiction under Section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* and the obligations of the federal government pursuant to that section, includes obligations to the Métis; and

**WHEREAS** the Parties agree that all activities, initiatives and discussions undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will be based on the Parties mutual desire to achieve practical results that improve the lives of Métis people. The Parties agree that all activities, initiatives and discussions undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will not be based upon the Parties views of the existing aboriginal rights of the Métis.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Parties agree to work toward the realization of the vision and goals described below and the joint development and implementation of the strategic initiatives listed herein.

## **II PURPOSE**

- 2.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is to implement the Process clause of *The Métis Act* through the bilateral process described in section 7.1.
- 2.2 Where the Parties consider it appropriate, they may enter into agreements that reflect the discussions resulting from the bilateral process mentioned in section 2.1.

## **III VISION**

- 3.1 The Métis are full participants in the provincial economy, and are equal members of Saskatchewan society with the capacity of governance over their own communities and culture, and with constitutional rights as one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

## **IV GOALS**

- 4.1 The Parties agree to develop initiatives to foster the achievement of goals which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Full Métis representation in the provincial economy via economic opportunities, business involvement, participation as employers and a representative workforce.
- (b) Social equity through improved individual and community well-being.
- (c) Enhanced and strengthened Métis governance of Métis communities and Métis institutions.
- (d) Secured federal acceptance of its responsibilities for Métis people.
- (e) Respect for Métis culture and rights.

## V PRINCIPLES

5.1 The Parties agree to base all initiatives undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding on the following principles:

- (a) Mutual respect;
- (b) Practical, timely, meaningful and sustainable responses to needs, in order to foster self-reliance;
- (c) Involvement of Métis in decision-making and the design and delivery of services;
- (d) Fairness and equity;
- (e) Partnership, cooperation, and collaboration among all key interest holders;
- (f) Openness, accountability and affordability;
- (g) Foster federal acceptance of its obligations to Métis people; and
- (h) Co-operation and capacity building.

## VI INITIATIVES

6.1 **Land:** The Parties agree to co-operate in identifying opportunities to enhance Métis access to lands and developing economic opportunities for Métis people with respect to land based activities including, but not limited to, Métis farms and farming, forestry and mining. The Parties further agree to identify and develop appropriate cultural initiatives related to the traditional Métis gathering places.

6.2 **Harvesting:** The Parties agree to work to improve economic development and harvesting opportunities consistent with sustainable management practices for Métis people in Saskatchewan's resource and other sectors. This may include improving opportunities in first level production activities, subsistence living, as well as value-added activities. The Parties further agree to work towards full and integral Métis involvement in resource management and economic development related decisions.

6.3 **Capacity Building:** The Parties agree to work towards the devolution of programs and services to Métis communities and Métis institutions. The Parties agree to undertake the necessary preparatory and planning work with respect to the development of a framework for the devolution of programs and services. This may include the identification of priorities, the identification of appropriate Métis service institutions, the development of program and policy guidelines, and the securing of necessary mandates and resources.

6.4 **Governance:** The Parties agree to continue building a Métis capacity for governance of Métis communities and Métis institutions. This "made in Saskatchewan" approach will respect federal and provincial jurisdiction and will build on existing and successful models and experiences, such as the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Dumont Technical Institute, and the Métis Addictions Council.

## VII FORUM

- 7.1 This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented through the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan – Government of Saskatchewan *Bilateral Process Agreement* signed in 1993.
- 7.2 In the event the bilateral process referred to in section 7.1 ceases to exist, the Parties agree to fulfill the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding through some other mutually agreed upon forum.

#### **VIII NO LEGAL OBLIGATIONS CREATED**

- 8.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create legal rights or legally enforceable obligations on the part of either party.
- 8.2 This Memorandum of Understanding does not abrogate or derogate from the existing aboriginal rights of the Métis, one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, as protected by Section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

**SIGNED BY THE PARTIES** this 28 day of January, 2002.

**For The Crown in Right of Saskatchewan**

Original signed by Chris Axworthy  
Honourable Chris Axworthy, Q.C., Minister of  
Aboriginal Affairs

**For the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan**

Original signed by Clem Chartier  
Clem Chartier, President, Métis Nation –  
Saskatchewan