

STRATEGIC METIS INITIATIVES IN SASKATCHEWAN

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Government of Saskatchewan

**Represented by
The Minister of Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Affairs**

And

The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan

**Represented by
The President of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan**

1. PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding wish to foster a cooperative partnership to implement strategic Metis initiatives in Saskatchewan; and

WHEREAS the Parties will work in partnership to strengthen the economy of Metis communities; and

WHEREAS the Parties will work together to promote social equity; and

WHEREAS the Parties will work collaboratively to enhance and strengthen the capacity for Metis governance of Metis institutions, organizations and Metis communities; and

WHEREAS the Parties will work with Ottawa to seek clarity on and protection of Metis constitutional rights as one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, and

WHEREAS both parties agree that the Metis are a federal responsibility under Section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*; and

WHEREAS this Memorandum of Understanding does not abrogate or derogate from the Aboriginal rights of Metis peoples as protected by Section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree to develop and undertake jointly the strategic initiatives set out below:

II. VISION

The Parties agree to work toward the realization of the following vision: "The Metis are full participants in the provincial economy, and are equal members of Saskatchewan society, with the capacity for governance over their own communities and culture, and with constitutional rights as one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada."

III. GOALS

The parties agree to pursue the following goals:

- Economic Development
- Social Equity
- Community Governance
- Respect for Metis Culture and Rights
- Federal Responsibility for Metis People

IV. PRINCIPLES

The Parties agree to base all initiatives on the following principles:

- Self-determination
- Mutual Respect
- Partnership, Cooperation and Collaboration
- Openness, Accountability and Affordability

V. INITIATIVES

To achieve the goals set out above, the Parties will work cooperatively to develop and undertake strategic initiatives. The Parties agree to:

1. Economic Development
 - Enhance and foster agricultural development, employment, skills training and small businesses in Metis communities by working with Metis entrepreneurs, Metis communities, investors, and public and private institutions.
 - Include Canada in cost sharing agreements for strategic economic initiatives through the *Tripartite Process Framework Agreement*;
 - Continue to support the Clarence Campeau Development Fund through contributions from the Associated Entities Fund.
2. Social Equity
 - Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on Social Development with Northwest and Northeast-central Metis community leaders.
3. Community Governance
 - Legislate a Metis Act.
 - Participate with Canada in an enumeration of Metis people in Saskatchewan and to enter into a cost-sharing agreement with Canada through the *Tripartite Process Framework Agreement*.
 - Strengthen Metis community governance and Metis service institutions through both the Bilateral and Tripartite Agreements.
 - Facilitate the participation of Metis people in government decision-making processes in northern Saskatchewan.
 - Continue emphasizing the *Bilateral Process Agreement* and the *Tripartite Process Framework Agreement*.
4. Respect for Metis Culture and Rights
 - Explore Metis rights under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* through the *Tripartite Process Framework Agreement*.
 - Make available up to 200 acres of land at Palmbere Lake to the appropriate Northwest Metis organization.
5. Federal Responsibility for Metis People
 - Work cooperatively under the Bilateral and Tripartite Agreements to assert Federal responsibility for Metis people and to develop the appropriate strategies.

VI. OTHER AGREEMENTS

This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to facilitate a partnership approach to achieving the vision, goals and objectives and implementing the activities described herein while recognizing that both parties are involved in other agreements.

This Memorandum of Understanding does not impinge or restrict the activities, either currently underway or planned, of either party.

This Memorandum of Understanding does not supercede or replace any other agreement currently in place between the Government of Saskatchewan or its departments and the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan or its institutions or agencies, such as the *Bilateral Process Agreement* or the *Tripartite Process Framework Agreement*.

VII. DURATION

The Parties agree that this Memorandum of Understanding will remain in force until the objectives set-out above have been achieved.

VIII. GENERAL

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding is intended to create binding legal obligations nor will it be used in the interpretation of any other agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties, in good faith and with a commitment to successful implementation of all agenda items in this Memorandum of Understanding set their hands on the 15th day of November, 1997.

Original signed by Bernhard H. Wiens

Honourable Bernhard H. Wiens

Minister

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs

Original signed by James Durocher

James Durocher

President

Metis Nation of Saskatchewan