



MÉTIS NATION RELATIONSHIP ACCORD

between

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AS REPRESENTED BY THE
MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

and

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

AS REPRESENTED BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The history of Canada has been greatly influenced by the Métis peoples who emerged in west central North America with their own language (Michif), culture, traditions, and self-government structures.

These Métis people refer to themselves, and are referred to by others, as the Métis Nation.

This recognition of the participation of the Métis peoples in the development of Canada is noted in section 35(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982, which states that the Aboriginal peoples of Canada includes the Indian, Inuit, and Métis people of Canada. On May 31, 2005, Canada and the Métis Nation entered into the Métis Nation Framework Agreement that identified the need to address five objectives with the Métis Nation and its Governing Members.

At the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues in Kelowna on November 25, 2005, First Ministers committed to strengthening relationships with Aboriginal people based on mutual respect, responsibility and sharing as well as collaboratively working with Aboriginal people in order to close the gap in the quality of life for Aboriginal people in Canada.

The Métis Nation British Columbia embraces these commitments and undertakes to work with the Province of British Columbia in order to make progress and achieve results on a number of fronts including, but not limited to, relationships, education, housing, health and economic opportunities.

A positive working relationship between the province and the Métis people of British Columbia is essential to moving forward on the goals and outcomes identified by First Ministers in Kelowna.

1. Objectives of the Métis Nation Relationship Accord

- Strengthen existing relationships based on mutual respect, responsibility and sharing.
- Improve engagement, coordination, information sharing and collaboration.
- Work toward meeting the commitments of the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues as they pertain to Métis people and their aspirations to close the gap on the quality of life between Métis people and other British Columbians.

2. Subject Matters for the Métis Nation Relationship Accord Process

The Parties agree on the following as a preliminary list of subject matters for the Métis Nation Relationship Accord process. The Parties recognize that some work is already being undertaken in these areas and these efforts provide a foundation for enhanced work, utilizing the existing tripartite process where appropriate:

- Health (Community, Family, Individual)
- Housing
- Education (Lifelong Learning)
- Economic Opportunities
- Collaborative Renewal of Métis Tripartite Processes
- Métis Identification and Data Collection

Additional topics may be added at the request of the parties to the agreement.

3. The Métis Nation Relationship Accord Process

The Parties agree to work toward FMM commitments and utilize and enhance the existing tripartite process in order to implement the objectives of the Métis Nation Relationship Accord.

To that end, the Métis Nation and the Province will build upon current processes, such as the existing Tripartite Management Committee. Those processes will develop ongoing discussions and planning in relation to the social and economic challenges facing Métis people.

To support this relationship, the parties to the agreement will each appoint two senior officials. These officials shall constitute the Métis Nation Relationship Accord Secretariat. The Secretariat's primary role will be to review the progress of the Métis Nation Relationship Accord.

The Secretariat will assist in the coordination of strategies designed to address the social and economic "gaps" and arrange meetings on subject matters listed in section 2. Each party will have the responsibility to ensure that relevant representatives will be in attendance based on the agenda topic.

Once a year, the Parties will make best efforts to convene a meeting between the President of the Métis Nation British Columbia and the Province of British Columbia as represented by the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

The Parties agree that the Métis Nation Relationship Accord process will support the overall multilateral process agreed to at the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues on November 25, 2005.

4. General

The Métis Nation Relationship Accord process will also recognize and respect existing bilateral and tripartite processes that are in place between the Parties.

For greater certainty, nothing in this Accord changes, affects, infringes on, or limits existing bilateral and tripartite processes now in place between the Parties but is intended to compliment and enhance these existing dialogues.

This Accord does not recognize, deny, define, affect or limit any Aboriginal rights within the meaning of Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

PRESIDENT
MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

MINISTER OF
ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SIGNED THIS 12th DAY May, 2006.