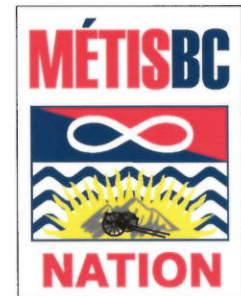




# MÉTIS NATION RELATIONSHIP ACCORD II



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

**AND WHEREAS** Métis people have played an important role in the history of Canada, guiding the early explorers and working as fur traders;

**AND WHEREAS** these Métis people refer to themselves, and are referred to by others, as the Métis Nation;

**AND WHEREAS** this recognition of the participation of the Métis people 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 peoples of Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** the Supreme Court of Canada has declared that Métis people, including those residing in BC, are included and recognized under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867;

**AND WHEREAS** 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;

**AND WHEREAS** the Province of British Columbia and Métis Nation British Columbia signed the Métis Nation Relationship Accord in May 2006 specifically to strengthen relationships with Métis people and close the gap in the quality of life for Métis people in British Columbia, and now wish to renew and build upon that Accord;

Now therefore the Parties agree as follows:

## 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE MÉTIS NATION RELATIONSHIP ACCORD II

- » Continue to strengthen existing relationships based on mutual respect, responsibility and sharing.
- » Continue to improve engagement, coordination, information sharing and collaboration.
- » Continue to 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 II PROCESS

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

- » Children and Families
- » Education (Lifelong Learning) and Training
- » Economic Opportunities (Including Procurement Opportunities with Crown Corporations)
- » Health (Community, Family, Individual)
- » Housing

- » Information sharing
- » Justice
- » Métis Identification and Data Collection
- » Wildlife Stewardship

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

## 3. THE MÉTIS NATION RELATIONSHIP ACCORD II PROCESS

The Parties agree to continue to work toward the 2005 First Ministers' Meeting commitments and when appropriate, utilize a tripartite process in order to implement the objectives of the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II.

To support this relationship, the Parties to the agreement will each appoint two senior officials. These officials shall constitute the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II Secretariat. The Secretariat's primary roles will be to encourage the implementation of the provisions of the Accord and to review the progress of the implementation on an ongoing basis.

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 Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

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

## 4. ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The Secretariat will prepare a joint progress report on results achieved under the Accord no later than March 31st each year, which the Parties will post on the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Métis Nation British Columbia websites.

## 5. GENERAL

The Métis Nation Relationship Accord II 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 complement and enhance 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.

The Parties acknowledge the Government of Canada also has an important role to play in closing the gap in quality of life for Métis people in British Columbia. The Parties will work diligently to engage the Government of Canada while maintaining their shared commitment to progress towards the objectives of this agreement Accord.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year 2016.

On Behalf of the:  
Province of British Columbia

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Province of British Columbia

On Behalf of the:  
Métis Nation British Columbia

THE HONOURABLE JOHN RUSTAD  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations  
and Reconciliation

MARC DALTON  
Parliamentary Secretary for Métis Relations

CLARA MORIN DAL COL  
President, Métis Nation British Columbia