

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING PROTOCOL

BETWEEN

HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,  
as represented by the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, ("British  
Columbia")

AND

MÉTIS PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (MPCBC)  
\*DBA as Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)

(collectively the "Parties")

**WHEREAS**

- A. This Protocol recognizes that the Parties have an ongoing collaborative working relationship and are seeking to improve upon that relationship with regard to post-secondary education and skills training outcomes for citizens/members of Métis Nation BC (MNBC) in British Columbia.
- B. Métis Nation British Columbia is a political organization that represents 39 Chartered Communities and their 30,000 citizens/members. It is mandated by and accountable to their citizens/members in British Columbia, to represent their interests with regard to post-secondary education and skills training.
- C. The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (the "Ministry") provides leadership and direction for the post-secondary education and skills training system in British Columbia as well as workforce information and programs.
- D. This Protocol does not replace any existing discussions or negotiations respecting Métis post-secondary education or skills training the Ministry may currently have underway with MNBC, nor does it preclude the Ministry from initiating new discussions or negotiations as needed. The Parties also acknowledge that this Protocol and the work it speaks to does not constitute the entirety of the negotiations and collaborations that are occurring elsewhere in the provincial government and may intersect with activities in post-secondary education and skills training.
- E. The Parties acknowledge that the gap in educational outcomes between Métis students and non-Métis students is a persisting legacy of colonialism, and that concerted efforts, and proactive measures are required to eliminate this gap and contribute to improved outcomes

for Métis students in post-secondary education and vocational/skills training.

- F. The Parties acknowledge their work supports and contributes to a new whole of government approach to Métis relations as a partnership between MNBC and the Province. A new BC-Métis Nation BC Relations Table is bringing Ministries, sectors, and stakeholders together to strengthen and advance the Province's relationship with Métis Nation BC and its citizens/members.
- G. Under the framework of the BC-Métis Nation BC Relations Table, the Parties are working together to advance the relationship between the Province and MNBC. This Protocol was created to support this important work.

The Parties' working relationship is informed, and Ministry representatives are guided, by the Government of British Columbia's *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples* (May 2018).

- H. The Parties acknowledge their working relationship is further guided and supported by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* ("Declaration Act"), which affirms the application of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* ("UN Declaration") to the laws of British Columbia and requires the provincial government to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the UN Declaration.
- I. Specifically, the Parties acknowledge their work must be based on a distinctions-based approach and the *Declaration Act Action Plan*:

The Province is committed to a distinctions-based approach. This requires that the Province's dealings with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples be conducted in a manner that acknowledges the specific rights, interests, priorities and concerns of each, while respecting and acknowledging these distinct Peoples with unique cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognizes and affirms the rights of Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, while all Indigenous Peoples have human rights that are expressed in the UN Declaration. However, not all rights are uniform or the same among or between all Indigenous Peoples. In many cases, a distinctions-based approach may require that the Province's relationship and engagement with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples include different approaches or actions and result in different outcomes.

- J. The Parties also acknowledge their work must be based on an approach consistent with:
  - The Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35:
    - Recognizes and affirms the rights of Aboriginal Peoples of Canada.
  - Principle 10 of the Province's Draft Principles:
    - Supports reconciliation and aligns with the recognition and reflection of the unique interests, priorities, and circumstances of Indigenous Peoples.
  - The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) and the Declaration Act Action Plan (DAAP):
    - The definition of "Indigenous peoples" in DRIPA is defined as "having the same meaning as Aboriginal peoples in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*."

K. The Parties acknowledge, in particular, Articles 14 and 21 of the UN Declaration:

Article 14

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
3. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for Indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

Article 21

1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

L. The Parties recognize the October 2022 document, *Interim Approach to Implementing the Requirements of Section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which provides interim guidance for implementing section 3 of the Declaration Act and, in particular, approaches for involving Indigenous Peoples in policy and legislative development. Further, as appropriate, the Parties intend to recognize and incorporate guidance on DRIPA from the Province as it is developed.

**THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:**

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

1.1 The Parties agree that the purposes of the Protocol are to:

- a) affirm and set out a formalized and effective bilateral process to work collaboratively to implement measures and identify resources to improve Métis post-secondary, skills training and adult education participation and outcomes, via a work plan as described in Section 5 below; and,
- b) contribute to the implementation of the Declaration Act, which affirms the UN Declaration as the Province's framework for reconciliation and requires the Province to

bring provincial laws into alignment with the UN Declaration and contribute to and report annually on the implementation of the Declaration Act Action Plan.

- 1.2 The Parties may, by agreement, extend discussions under this Protocol to include matters that would require or benefit from the participation of other ministries or agencies and invite appropriate representatives to participate in discussions.

## **2.0 Information Sharing**

- 2.1 Subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and any other legal requirements respecting the confidentiality of information, the Parties agree to identify and share information needed to further the purpose and objectives of this Protocol.
- 2.2 The Parties agree to continue their working relationship whereby staff and representatives of the Parties share information, communicate, and have culturally safe discussions with the goal of reaching agreement on the best path forward for initiatives related to Métis learners, communities, and any proposed Métis institute.

## **3.0 Annual Ministers Meetings**

- 3.1 In alignment with the BC-MNBC Relations Table structure, the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills will meet at the Political Table with the Minister of Skills, Training, Employment and Post-Secondary (STEPS) as required.

## **4.0 Bilateral Engagement**

- 4.1 The Parties commit to meet monthly on Métis post-secondary education and skills training to implement this Protocol.
- 4.2 The Parties may establish committees or working groups to assist in carrying out activities to implement this Protocol.

The Parties will maintain their own notes and records relating to this Protocol.

## **5.0 Workplan**

- 5.1 The Parties will develop an annual rolling workplan to be based on the fiscal year with agreed upon priorities and timelines.

## **6.0 Funding**

- 6.1 In addition to other annual training-based funding, the Ministry may provide funding to MNBC to support their participation in the processes and engagement with the Ministry under this Protocol.
- 6.2 Any funding provided under Section 6.1 will be under a separate agreement.

## **7.0 Term and Termination**

- 7.1 This Protocol is to remain in effect until it is terminated in accordance with Section 7.2 or

replaced by mutual agreement of the Parties.

- 7.2 This Protocol will be reviewed every 5 years or as agreed to by the Parties.
- 7.3 Either party may terminate this Protocol by providing a minimum of 30 days' written notice to the other party of their intent to terminate.

#### 8.0 General

- 8.1 This Protocol is not intended to be legally binding and does not create any contractual or other legal obligation or liability for the Parties related to the performance or non-performance of any or all of the provisions of the Protocol but is an expression and record of the understanding reached between the Ministry and MNBC.
- 8.2 This Protocol in no way creates, amends, defines, abrogates, or derogates from any rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

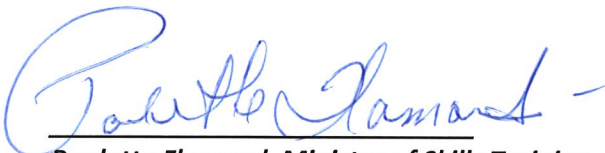
In witness thereof, the Parties have executed this Protocol on this 19 day of Nov, 2025

On behalf of British Columbia:



*Honourable Jessie Sunner, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills*

On behalf of Métis Nation British Columbia:



*Paulette Flamond, Minister of Skills Training, Employment and Post-Secondary*