



MÉTIS NATION BC - AND - BRITISH COLUMBIA JOINT COMMITMENT



Through this Joint Commitment document, the Métis Nation BC and the Province of British Columbia (the Parties) commit to collaboratively work towards Métis Nation BC authority over child welfare for Métis children and families in the province of British Columbia.

AGREED UNDERSTANDINGS

The Métis are a distinct Aboriginal people recognized in Section 35(2) of the Constitution Act (1982), and have their own language, history and culture.

The Parties signed the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II in November 2016, which committed, in part, to focus on children and families as key subject matters.

In 2016, the Métis Nation BC, the Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC and the Province of British Columbia signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the provision of child and family services for Métis People of British Columbia, which committed, in part, to:

- » Facilitate the involvement of Métis people in the development of programs and services affecting Métis children and families.
- » Determine key actions regarding systemic issues relating to the safety and well-being of Métis children and families.
- » Work together on behalf of the Métis people of British Columbia to ensure culturally appropriate services to Métis children and families.

The Province of B.C. has committed to fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Parties agree that the child welfare system in British Columbia has not met the needs of Métis children and families, as evidenced by the disproportionate number of Métis children and youth in care.

The Parties have been working together through the Métis Working Table and the Métis Practice Table to improve social work practice and make systemic changes to better meet the needs of Métis children, youth and families.

The Parties acknowledge that they must make a more focused effort to transform the system in order to address the impacts of colonialization and inter-generational trauma.

The Métis people in British Columbia are best situated to address the needs of their children, youth and families.

OBJECTIVES

The Parties have agreed that they must:

- » Continue the work to dramatically reduce the number of Métis children and youth in the care of the current system and support family preservation.
- » Develop the concept of, and requirements for, legislation to support Métis Nation BC authority over Métis children and families in British Columbia with the timeframe of January 2021.
- » Seek Canada's involvement and commitment to these objectives.

The Parties will work collaboratively in the spirit of reconciliation to achieve these objectives.

The Parties will develop a work plan in order to achieve these objectives within the timeframe, and terms of reference and governance structure to ensure that the Parties maintain their common focus.

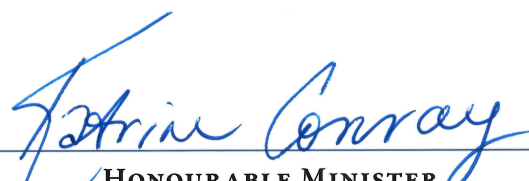
COMMITMENT

This document represents a high level commitment for the Parties to work together to achieve these objectives, within the aspirational timeframe of January 2021.


To this end, the Province of British Columbia commits to work with the Métis Nation British Columbia and support the further development of Métis institutions with increased capacity and support for the creation of a new Métis Nation child and family authority.

Witnessed and signed this 7th day of June in the year 2018, at Kamloops, B.C.

On Behalf of the:
Province of British Columbia:


HONOURABLE MINISTER
Ministry of Children and Family Development

On Behalf of the:
Métis Nation British Columbia:


PRESIDENT
Métis Nation British Columbia