



Metis Settlements General Council



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

METIS SETTLEMENTS GENERAL COUNCIL

On its own behalf and on behalf of all of the eight Settlements established under the MSA

And

MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

On behalf of the
Red River Métis

(known individually as a “**Party**” and together as the “**Parties**”)

WHEREAS the Red River Settlement is at the heart of the Red River Métis Homeland;

AND WHEREAS the Provisional Government, led by President John Bruce and later Louis Riel, the Father of Manitoba, brought the historic North West into Confederation through the *Manitoba Act, 1870*;

AND WHEREAS, after governing its territory and province peacefully, the Red River Métis faced a Reign of Terror resulting in many of its people being widely dispersed in search of peace and security;

AND WHEREAS, historically, a mobile population of Métis people was present in what is now Northern Alberta, which was connected to other Métis throughout what is now Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, as well as in contiguous parts of Ontario, British Columbia, the

Northwest Territories, and portions of the northern United States, particularly in Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota;

AND WHEREAS, following the collapse of the federal scrip system, the Métis of Northern Alberta organized politically, and in 1928, a specific group of Métis leaders known as the “Famous Five” founded L’Association des Métis d’Alberta et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest and successfully lobbied Alberta to establish 12 land-based Métis colonies under the *Metis Population Betterment Act*;

AND WHEREAS the founders of these colonies were all members of discrete branches of Métis families present in the area for generations, and these founders built farms, homesteads, and infrastructure on the colony lands, and created a home where they and their descendants could continue to practice their unique Métis culture and way of life;

AND WHEREAS in the 1970s, the Alberta Federation of Métis Settlements (the “Federation”) was formed by the five “Fathers of the Federation” to advocate for and pursue matters of specific concern to these colonies and their members;

AND WHEREAS, after a legislative package was negotiated by the Federation, which included the *Metis Settlements Act*, RSA 2000, c M-14 (the “MSA”), the Federation was replaced by the Metis Settlements General Council (“MSGC”) as the central governing authority of the Metis Settlements;

AND WHEREAS in *Alberta (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development) v. Cunningham*, 2011 SCC 37, the Supreme Court of Canada found that the goal of the MSA “is not the broad goal of benefiting all Alberta Métis ... but the narrower goal of establishing a Métis land base to preserve and enhance Métis identity, culture and self-governance”;

AND WHEREAS today the Metis Settlements have a land-based culture, identity, and way of life that is unique and has evolved over the course of many decades of living together on the land and continued family relationships;

AND WHEREAS each of the eight Metis Settlements has a unique history, community, culture, and membership;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) was established in order to represent and act on behalf of the Red River Métis who, subsequent to 1870, were also known as the Manitoba Métis;

AND WHEREAS after over one hundred fifty years of long, hard struggles and great sacrifices, the Parties have finally begun to secure constitutional recognition and receive the social and economic benefits well-deserved as a partner in Confederation;

AND WHEREAS the Parties are committed to working together to promote, enhance, and implement their respective rights, including section 35 rights;

AND WHEREAS the Parties possess a mutual concern over the recent identity theft crisis, which has negatively impacted Indigenous nations across Canada, and wish to work together toward the protection and preservation of our shared culture, history, kinship, identity, and Homeland;

AND WHEREAS the Parties also share a common interest in the present and future well-being of our shared Traditional Territories, including the management and conservation of our shared ecosystems upon which our families depend for sustenance, and addressing the consequences of climate change in the environment;

AND WHEREAS the MMF and MSGC are committed to collaborating and creating a process that will renew and enhance their government-to-government relationship, one that is founded on mutual respect and recognition.

NOW THEREFORE the Parties express their common understandings as follows:

1. The Parties are committed to working together in a collaborative manner and participating in constructive discussions that will ultimately further the rights and general well-being of their respective Citizens.
2. The Parties will immediately establish a joint working group (the “Working Group”) with each Party identifying senior officials with the purposes of organizing and coordinating discussions under this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”).
3. The Parties agree that the Working Group will begin meeting in the near future no less than once a month to engage on the following priorities, listed in no particular order:
 - a. protecting our shared and independent history and identity and identifying other areas of mutual concern to be addressed, including but not limited to issues relating to overlapping traditional territories, jurisdictions, membership, identity, and pursuing historic claims and grievances with the Crown,
 - b. exercising of rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* across the Homeland, including addressing trans-boundary challenges and opportunities,
 - c. strengthening the bonds of the nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationship between federal, provincial, and other Indigenous partners,
 - d. partnering to pursue legal, cultural, economic, environmental, business and other mutually agreeable opportunities,
 - e. honouring our Veterans, Elders, families, youth, and children,

- f. considering the establishment of a process of dispute resolution to discuss and resolve areas where there may be differences between MMF and MSGC, and
 - g. other priorities which may be jointly agreed to by each Party's President.
4. Through this MOU, the Parties are expressing a common understanding and good faith intention to work together while acknowledging and respecting the independence and autonomy of the other, and understand that this may lead to divergent approaches and goals.
5. This MOU does not create any legally binding rights or obligations between the MMF and MSGC, nor does it affect any Aboriginal and Indigenous rights, or any claims to lands or resources, or any other legal entitlements of the MMF and the MSGC.

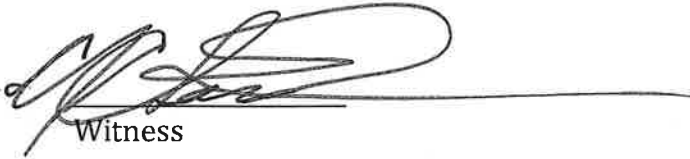
In witness whereof the MMF and MSGC have signed this Memorandum at the city of Edmonton, in the province of Alberta on May 21, 2026.



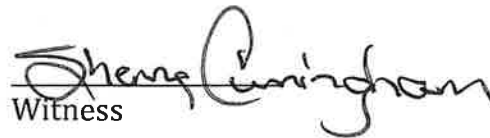
David Chartrand
President
Manitoba Métis Federation



Dave Lapouche
President
Metis Settlements General Council



Witness



Sherry Cunningham
Witness