



JOINT DECLARATION
Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council
Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council
Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

WHEREAS the Métis are a distinct Indigenous people (who have called ourselves the Michif, the ‘nouvelle nation’ and the Métis Nation over the generations) based on our shared history, collective consciousness, language, laws and self-government structures, unique culture and our emergence as a distinct people within our Homeland;

WHEREAS, like all Indigenous peoples, the Métis people possess the inherent right to self-government and self-determination as well as all the rights described in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, including, but not limited to, our right to the lands we emerged from, the lands we continue to rely on today to sustain ourselves and the lands that were taken from us by the federal government and/or provincial governments from Ontario westward;

WHEREAS at various times in our history and in various locations of our Homeland our people and communities have come together and organized to collectively assert themselves nationally, provincially and at the community and local levels to resist the stealing of our lands, defend our rights against the outlawing of our culture and way of life as well as to resist colonization and the marginalization of our people by other governments;

WHEREAS from the first and second provisional governments established in 1869/70 and 1885 respectively through to the Laws of the Hunt and the Laws of the Prairies, including our unique Métis land holding systems and community governance structures, as well as our ongoing assertions against colonial governments through petitions, resistance and uprisings, our people have consistently demonstrated that we have our own Métis self-government, Métis laws and Métis legal traditions that must be respected;

WHEREAS based on the will and determination of our people and communities, our objectively verifiable registration systems and our democratic elections at the local, regional and provincial levels, the Métis Nation of Alberta (“MNA”), Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (“MNS”) and Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) are the modern day manifestations of our inherent right to self-government and the only Métis-created and legitimate representative governments of rights-bearing Métis citizens in Alberta, Sasaktchewan and Ontario (the “**Métis Governments**”);

WHEREAS the longstanding goal of each of the Métis Governments has been to have our existing governments, as Indigenous governments, recognized as such by other governments as

well as formalize our bilateral government-to-government relationship with Canada based on Métis rights recognition, including the inherent right of self-government and self-determination;

WHEREAS on June 27, 2019, after years of advocacy, successive Métis legal victories at the Supreme Court of Canada and years of negotiations, Canada signed a Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (“**MGRSA**”) with each of the Métis Governments;

WHEREAS the MGRSAs represent significant victories and turning points in Crown-Métis relations in Canada through the immediate federal recognition they provide to our Métis Governments as well as the mutually agreeable processes to achieve the formal recognition of the Métis Governments in Canadian law;

WHEREAS the processes set out in the MGRSAs do not limit, compromise, change or affect Métis rights, interest or claims in any way or undermine the position of the Métis Governments that we are already self-governing Indigenous governments based on Métis law and traditions and our inherent right of self-government;

WHEREAS given the new and distinct status of our Métis Governments as compared to other Governing Members of the Métis National Council (“**MNC**”), combined with the current dysfunction and lack of accountability within the MNC, the democratically elected leadership of the Métis Governments have come together and direct and declare the following:

- A. That the Métis Governments agree to continue to work together at the national level in their ongoing collaborations and negotiations with Canada in a manner that:
 - a. respects their mutual roles, responsibilities, mandates, and autonomy as Métis Governments;
 - b. recognizes the benefits and efficiencies of co-operation and the sharing of information, where appropriate;
 - c. ensures transparency, and, at all times, accountability to their citizens and communities; and
 - d. demonstrates unity and achieves effectiveness in implementing the MGRSAs.

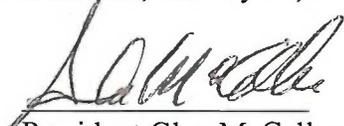
- B. That the Métis Governments fully endorse the letter jointly sent by the Presidents of the Métis Governments to the Prime Minister dated December 13, 2019, including the identification of the following priorities with Canada:
 - a. developing mutually agreeable Federal Recognition Legislation for the MGRSAs;
 - b. co-developing with Canada a Federal Métis Claims Policy to support ongoing discussions and negotiations on Métis lands and breaches of federal Crown promises, commitments and duties to the Métis;
 - c. negotiating stable, long-term fiscal financing agreements to address the pressing socio-economic needs of our citizens and communities as well as the unique

realities of the Métis Governments as distinct from other organizations or the Métis National Council (“MNC”);

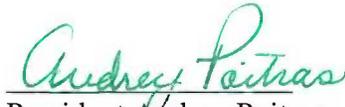
- C. That officials and legal counsel for the Métis Governments be directed to develop a memorandum of understanding or protocol that formalizes the working relationship of the Métis Governments at the national level for consideration at a future Métis Government tri-Council meeting;
- D. That the Presidents of the Métis Governments be directed to jointly inform Canada of the outcomes of this tri-Council meeting as well as indicate the desire of the Métis Governments to improve and reform the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism (“PBM”) process, including the re-negotiation of the Canada-Métis Nation Accord to better reflect the new realities of the MGRSAs;

Carried by consensus

Edmonton, January 16, 2020



President Glen McCallum
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan



President Audrey Poitras
Métis Nation of Alberta



President Margaret Froh
Métis Nation of Ontario