

MÉTIS NATION PROTOCOL

This Protocol is effective from the 5th day of September 2008

BETWEEN:

**Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada
as represented by
The Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians**

-and-

**The Métis National Council
as represented by
President Clément Chartier**

Canada



Whereas the Métis people emerged in west central North America with their own language, culture, traditions, and self-government structures;

And whereas the Métis Nation seeks to develop a new relationship with the Government of Canada in order to improve the quality of life outcomes for Métis people;

And whereas the MNC and MNC Governing Members are in the process of establishing a multilateral working relationship with the five westernmost provinces;

And whereas the Government of Canada is seeking to establish a structured process to conduct discussions with the Métis National Council on a range of issues outlined herein;

Now therefore the Parties agree as follows:

1. Bilateral Process

1.1 The parties agree to establish a bilateral process to examine the following issues:

- a) Jurisdictional issues relating to federal and provincial responsibilities and their effects on Métis People;
- b) Métis former students of the residential school system;
- c) Access to benefits and settlements by Métis veterans;
- d) Métis Nation Governance and Institutions including:
 - democratic accountability (national one person one vote ballot-box elections);
 - capacity, transparency and fiscal accountability;
 - administration of federal government programs by Métis institutions; and,
 - fiscal transfers.
- e) Economic development, including community capacity;
- f) Métis Aboriginal rights, including those that may be related to lands and harvesting; and,
- g) Such other issues as the parties may agree to from time to time.

2. Multilateral Discussions

2.1 Where appropriate, and upon the agreement of the provinces from Ontario westward, Canada agrees to participate within a multilateral process with the provinces, the Métis National Council and its Governing Members on subject matters agreed to by the multilateral parties.

2.2 Subject to paragraph 2.1 such multilateral discussions may relate to the following items, namely:

- Lands and resources;
- Harvesting rights;
- Economic development;
- Education and training;
- Health;
- Child and family services;
- Housing; and,
- Justice and policing.

3. General

3.1 This protocol does not affect or prejudice in any way whatsoever the respective legal positions of either of the parties with respect to any of the matters which are the subject of discussions referred to herein.

3.2 This protocol does not recognize, deny, define, affect or limit any Aboriginal or treaty rights within the meaning of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

3.3 This protocol shall be effective upon signing for a period of 5 years or until superseded by a subsequent agreement between the parties.

3.4 Either party may terminate this agreement by providing 90 days written notice to the other party.

Signed in Ottawa / Signé à Ottawa

On behalf of the Métis National Council / Au nom du Ralliement national des Métis



Président Clément Chartier / Métis National Council
Clément Chartier, president / Ralliement national des Métis

On behalf of the Government of Canada

Au nom du gouvernement du Canada



The Honourable Chuck Strahl

L'honorable Chuck Strahl

Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and
Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians
Ministre des Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada et
Interlocuteur fédéral auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits