



## Protected and Conserved Areas Investment Strategy Request for Proposals (Non-Binding)

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is not a call for tenders or a request for binding offers. No legal obligations shall arise between the Métis National Council (“MNC”) and any Proponent as a result of the issuance of this RFP or the submission of any Proposal in response to this RFP. This RFP does not commit the MNC in any way to treat Proponents in any particular manner, to select a Proponent, to proceed to negotiations with any Proponent or to enter into any contract.

### Proposals due on July 7, 2023

#### [About the Métis National Council \(MNC\)](#)

The Métis emerged as a distinct Indigenous people and nation in the historic Northwest during the late 18th century. The historic Métis Nation Homeland encompasses the Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and extends into contiguous parts of Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and the northern United States. In 1870 the Métis Provisional Government of Louis Riel negotiated the entry of the Red River Settlement into Confederation as the Province of Manitoba. The Métis Nation is represented at the national and international levels by the Métis National Council which receives its mandate and direction from its Governing Members, the democratically elected governments of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia.

The Métis Nation carries deep cultural ties to lands and waters across the Homeland and shares a kinship to, and respect for, complex and diverse ecosystems. The relationship to the land guides teachings on how to trap, hunt, fish, gather medicines and practice the Métis way of life. Through our Conservation Program, MNC supports Governing Members with advocacy, policy analysis and program development that advances Métis-led conservation and restoration of lands and waters. Programs like the establishment of Métis Protected and Conserved Areas (MPCAs), the Métis Guardians Program, and the protection and recovery of culturally important species, and species-at-risk are all areas that MNC is investing efforts to advance. MNC also advocates on the international stage to ensure agreements, like the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), respect and affirm Indigenous rights, and advance the protection of nature. The wellbeing of the environment – the birds, fish, plants and animals, is deeply tied to the wellbeing of the Métis Nation. MNC advocates for policies and programs that support a Métis vision for conservation.



### Project Overview

MNC is requesting proposals to assist the MNC Environment Department by creating an investment strategy that outlines and compares long term financial mechanisms that could be suitable for ongoing investment into Métis-led conservation projects. The Métis Nation's Protected and Conserved Areas Investment Strategy must consider the unique needs of Métis-led conservation projects and make recommendations on the best opportunities for long term investment across several financial tools like green bonds, endowment funds, or national and international philanthropy, among others. MNC is seeking a consultant(s) with expertise in conservation finance to support Indigenous-led conservation and a strong knowledge of the funding landscape for protected areas and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs).

### Project Goals

The primary goal in developing a Protected and Conserved Areas Investment Strategy is to provide MNC and its Governing Members with advice on which financial mechanisms are best suited to meet the long-term investment need of conservation projects. The ultimate long-term goal is to have stable and diversified investment streams into Métis led conservation to ensure their longevity for future generations. The creation of this strategy is the first step to exploring new financial mechanisms to support Métis-led conservation of the lands and waters of the Métis Homeland.

The key components for the investment strategy are that it compares multiple financial tools and ranks their appropriateness for supporting Métis-led conservation projects, and that it takes into account the unique needs of the MNC Governing Members.

### Scope of Work and Project Timeline

This project will require the delivery of the Protected and Conserved Area Investment Strategy by February 15, 2024. Interim milestones will be set collaboratively but will include the completion of initial research, completion of interviews, and a presentation on and submission of a draft report. The project will culminate by March 15, 2024.

The development of the strategy will be guided by input from the MNC Environment team with ongoing coordination through regular bi-weekly or monthly meetings. It will also include a small number of interviews with experts in the conservation finance field, as deemed necessary by the consultant and MNC.

### Submission Requirements

MNC invites submissions from all Proponents and, particularly, submissions by Métis or other Indigenous Proponents. Proponents shall bear all costs associated with or incurred in the preparation, presentation and submission of proposals in response to this RFP.



Please include a brief (5-page max) outlining relevant information about the Proponent (project team, relevant experience and qualifications, etc.); the Proponent's proposed approach and methodology; and an estimated budget (non-binding). The Proponent may also wish to include links to other similar published work or previous clients. As the Metis Nation representative at the national and international levels, MNC is looking for Proponents who have a demonstrated commitment to and history of providing meaningful and culturally relevant services to Métis and other Indigenous nations and institutions. MNC encourages Proponents to provide information in this respect and (if applicable) to indicate whether they are Métis or Indigenous owned.

The deadline for proposals is July 7, 2023. Please send proposals or any questions to [kelseys@metisnation.ca](mailto:kelseys@metisnation.ca).

If the Proponent is in doubt as to the meaning, intent or interpretation of any part of this RFP, find any discrepancies or omissions in this RFP, it is their responsibility to inquire about and clarify any requirement of this RFP. Questions regarding the project and this RFP can be submitted before June 27, 2023, 10 days before the submission deadline.

#### Evaluation of Proposals

Subject to the rights of MNC as outlined in this RFP, MNC will select the Proponent which, in MNC's sole discretion, best serves the overall needs of MNC and aligns with its mandate. Factors that MNC may consider include:

- the expertise, qualifications, certifications of the Proponent, including the relevance of the Proponent's training and experience;
- experience working with Métis and other Indigenous governments and institutions or organizations;
- proposed approach and methodology;
- estimated budget and price associated with the Proposal;
- overall impressions of the Proposal;

#### Rights of the MNC

The MNC may reject any or all Proposals, re-issue a new RFP or cancel this RFP process at any time, at its sole discretion – with or without notice. MNC also reserves the right to:

- reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP;
- enter into negotiation with one or more Proponents on any or all aspects of their respective proposals;
- accept any proposal in whole, or in part;
- cancel and/or re-issue the modified version of a given RFP requirement at any time;
- award one or more contracts;



- obtain further clarification or information from a Proponent;
- waive any irregularities in a Proposal submitted by a Proponent;
- award contracts without competition for follow-up work, if any, to the selected Consultant for a given project requirement;
- to accept a proposal, which in the sole opinion of the MNC is the most advantageous