

CO-DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES: A GUIDE TO COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MÉTIS NATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



Co-development is a collaborative process involving mutual respect, shared decision-making, and joint action between the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada. It is crucial for fostering sustainable and respectful partnerships.

KEY POINTS:

- **Distinctions-Based Approach:** These principles recognize the unique legal, political, social, and economic circumstances of the Métis Nation.
- **Meaningful Integration:** The principles ensure that the Métis Nation is meaningfully involved in Canada's governance and policy-making.
- **Framework for Collaboration:** The principles provide a framework for fair collaboration and mutual respect, turning respectful interactions into a reality characterized by transparency, inclusivity, and accountability.
- **Commitment to Reconciliation:** These principles represent a shared commitment to reconciliation, justice, and mutual prosperity, ensuring that Métis rights and interests are addressed.

AUTHORITY FOR CO-DEVELOPMENT:

The authority for co-development comes from the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA), specifically Sections 5 and 6.

- **Section 5:** Mandates that all federal laws and policies must be consistent with the rights and principles in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). This ensures the Métis Nation is actively involved in co-developing laws and policies that affect them.
- **Section 6:** Requires the Government of Canada to develop and implement an action plan to operationalize the principles of UNDRIP, including co-development initiatives.

UNDA ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS:

Canada has made commitments through the UNDA Action Plan, including Shared Action Plan Measures (APM) and Métis Action Plan Measures (Métis APM):

- **Shared APM 66:** Requires the collaborative development of legislation, policies, programs, and regulations that respect Indigenous self-determination.
- **Shared APM 67:** Requires ongoing dialogue and partnership with Indigenous communities to ensure their rights are integrated into the development of policies and regulations.
- **Métis APM 10:** Focuses on co-developing approaches for implementing the right to self-determination with the Métis Nation.

UNDRIP ARTICLES 18 AND 19:

These articles emphasize the critical role of Indigenous peoples in decision-making processes:

- **Article 18:** Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making through their own representative institutions.
- **Article 19:** States must obtain the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous peoples before implementing measures that affect them.

CORE PRINCIPLES OF CO-DEVELOPMENT:

- **Principle 4:** Co-development must advance the nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship based on mutual recognition of rights, respect, and cooperation required for reconciliation. Co-development is the default approach for laws and policies impacting Métis rights.
- **Principle 5:** Co-development must respect the internal policies, decision-making processes, and governance structures of all parties involved, including the Métis Nation's right to participate in decisions that impact their rights and to provide free, prior, and informed consent on any measures that may affect them.
- **Principle 6:** Both Parties have distinct decision-making processes that are considered of equal validity and weight. The Métis National Council and its Governing Members must be involved in decisions affecting the rights and interests of their citizens.
- **Principle 7:** Co-development must be inclusive and intersectional, recognizing the rights and needs of elders, women, youth, children, 2SLGBTQQA+ individuals, and gender-diverse persons.
- **Principle 8:** Requires transparency and forthrightness at every stage of co-development, including early and continuous information sharing.
- **Principle 9:** Parties will work together on all elements of Co-development processes, including scope, objectives, desired outcomes, drafts and texts, timelines, and how decisions will be made.
- **Principle 10:** In areas where constitutional conventions apply, the Parties will prioritize developing options to enable full and effective Métis Nation participation.
- **Principle 12:** Adequate resourcing is needed to address power imbalances and enable full and effective Métis participation in co-development processes.

