



RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES  
**MÉTIS**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL



# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**Research Services: Traditional Métis Kinship Models**

December 19, 2025



## Request for Proposal (RFP)

### Research Project Objective

The Métis National Council (MNC) seeks the services of a qualified researcher or research organization to develop a comprehensive final report on traditional Métis kinship models and models of care. The work will involve both quantitative and qualitative research methods and may be expanded to include the collection and documentation of stories and experiences shared by Métis citizens and communities across our Governing Member regions (Ontario and Alberta). The resulting report will provide evidence-informed insights that honour Métis perspectives, cultural practices, and community realities.

**Type:** Research Services

**Submission Deadline:** January 23, 2026, 4:30 p.m. EST

**Questions:** May be received by January 14, 2026

**Email questions and submissions to:** [maddym@metisnation.ca](mailto:maddym@metisnation.ca)

**Project Completion:** Fall 2026

### RFP Application Form

Information collected in this RFP will be used by the Métis National Council to review and assess proposals. Personal information is protected by the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). Questions about the collection of this information may may be referred to the office of the Acting Director of Child and Family Services, Maddy Mayer, at [maddym@metisnation.ca](mailto:maddym@metisnation.ca).

#### Proponent Background Information

<b>Organizational Legal Name</b>		<b>Registry Number</b>	
<b>Contact Person</b>		<b>Email</b>	
<b>Position</b>		<b>Phone Number</b>	
<b>Mailing Address</b>			
<b>References: Please include two recent clients</b>			
<b>1. Client Name and Company</b>		<b>Phone Number</b>	
		<b>Email</b>	
<b>2. Client Name and Company</b>		<b>Phone Number</b>	
		<b>Email</b>	

The Proponent understands that:

1. If deficiencies in the organization’s response are identified, the Métis National Council may not award the contract to the organization.



2. If deficiencies in the organization’s response are identified and deemed to be remediable, the organization may be awarded the contract.
3. If the organization is successful in this RFP, the MNC Departmental Director will identify a timeframe for outstanding items. At any time during the contract, if the Departmental Director determines that the Contractor is not fulfilling undertakings described, the Departmental Director may provide the Contractor with written notice requiring it to remedy the situation to the satisfaction of the Métis National Council within 30 days.

### Declaration of Readiness and Self-Assessment

<b>Name of Signing Officer</b>	
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	

## General Instructions

### Invitation

The MNC seeks the services of a qualified researcher or research organization to develop a comprehensive final report on traditional Métis kinship models and models of care.

The research project will develop a detailed scoping proposal and coordinated research framework that reflects Métis priorities across the Homeland, centers community involvement, and engages Knowledge Keepers, Elders, and families throughout. It will gather quantitative and qualitative research, community-based stories and lived experiences, and translate the findings into accessible formats that inform advocacy, public education, and the design of future programs and services.

### Timing and Key Dates

Opening of RFP process	December 19, 2025
Questions received by	January 14, 2026
Proposal submission deadline	January 23, 2026
Contract awarded and project start date	February 2, 2026
MNC Kinship Gathering (Edmonton) - an opportunity to engage directly and incorporate community-based perspectives.	March 24-25, 2026
Project completion	Fall 2026
Note: This contract may be extended if required.	

### 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.



Proponents should submit a brief (two-page maximum) outline of relevant information about the Proponent (project team, relevant experience and qualifications, etc.); the Proponent's proposed approach and methodology to research; and an estimated budget (non-binding). The Proponent must also include links to other similar published work or work for previous clients. As the Métis Nation representative at the national and international levels, the MNC is looking for Proponents who have knowledge and commitment to Métis culture, values, and history to produce an impactful report. The MNC encourages Proponents to provide information in this respect and (if applicable) to indicate whether they are Indigenous, or the organization is Indigenous-owned.

The deadline for proposals is January 23, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Please send proposals or any questions to Maddy Mayer at [maddym@metisnation.ca](mailto:maddym@metisnation.ca) with the title "Proposal – Métis Research Services." Proposals received after the date and time specified for closing will not be considered. If the Proponent is in doubt as to the meaning, intent or interpretation of any part of this RFP, finds any discrepancies or omissions in this RFP, it is their responsibility to inquire about and clarify any requirement of this RFP prior to January 14, 2026.

### **Terms of Engagement**

It is expected that the successful Proponent will be the MNC's Research contractor for the full duration of this project. In addition, the MNC reserves the right to extend this contract.

### **Project Cost and Budget**

Proponents must provide a comprehensive quote for this project, itemizing all components of the project in a detailed budget. All travel expenses must be included in the Proposal Fee Schedule.

### **Background**

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 northern United States. The Métis National Council receives its mandate and direction from its democratically elected Governing Members; the Otipemisiwak Métis Government for the Métis Nation within Alberta, and Métis Nation of Ontario.

Since 2015, the federal government committed to renewing the Métis Nation-Crown relationship on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis. Canada and the MNC Governing Members are negotiating self-government agreements and, under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord of 2017, are co-developing policies and programs to advance socio-economic development and self-determination for the citizens of the Métis Nation.

The Métis Nation Child, Youth, and Family Services (CYFS) Technical Committee serves as an advisory and coordinating body to advance the shared vision and priorities for Métis children, youth, and families.



## Project Overview

Métis communities have long-standing ways of caring for children rooted in kinship, collective responsibility, and cultural continuity. These models remain relevant today but are not recognized or respected in Child, Youth, and Family Services systems. Historical and contemporary research is needed to surface and validate these practices; not as static history, but as a foundation for future systems that are culturally grounded and community-led.

The project will be composed of two stages: proposal development and implementation. To begin the project, the researcher is required to develop a thorough research proposal for review and approval prior to commencing any research activities. The proposal must include:

- Potential research questions and methodological approach
- Potential sources, data collection methods, and data governance frameworks
- Ethical considerations
- Proposed timelines; and
- An explanation of how Métis stories, memory, and lived experience will be respectfully incorporated.

Upon approval of the research proposal, the researcher will proceed with the implementation phase. This will include:

- Data collection,
- Engagements (meetings with Governing Members, Métis citizens and community organizations),
- Analysis; and
- Production of all required reports and deliverables.

## Project Goals

The overarching goals of this research project are to:

- Document existing quantitative (e.g., public-domain data) and qualitative (e.g., publications, videos) materials on traditional Métis kinship models and models of care, across the full spectrum of care.
- Document and preserve community stories, memory, and lived experiences related to traditional Métis kinship models.
- Examine historical and contemporary challenges that shape or limit traditional Métis kinship care models.
- Identify how traditional Métis kinship care is currently defined, resourced, and implemented across jurisdictions to inform a Métis-led kinship model of care.
- Translate findings into actionable, community-led recommendations for future systems.
- Serve as an advocacy tool to support policy change that better recognizes Métis understandings of kin, address inequalities in caregiver supports, and enhances community involvement in placement decisions.

## Deliverables

- Initial research proposal.



- Materials to support engagements.
- Regular progress reports.
- A comprehensive final report that is ready for publication.
- An executive summary to provide an overview of findings, insights, and priorities for Governing Members, leadership, and policy makers.
- A Community-facing summary to provide a plain-language overview of findings.
- Methodological Appendix to document research design, engagement methods, data sources, definitions, and ethical considerations.
- Engagement summary to record participants, engagement sessions, and how community guidance shaped research.

*This overview is presented as examples of the types of activities, outputs, and timelines expected to achieve the project goals and intended to guide Proponents in developing costing and timelines for a proposal. MNC welcomes the addition to or modification of the proposed activities, outputs, and timelines from Proponents, provided those additions or modifications clearly achieve the stated project goals.*

## Proposal Evaluation

Proponents are advised that subject to the rights of MNC as outlined in this RFP, MNC will preferentially select the Proponent which, in MNC's sole discretion, best serves the overall needs of MNC and aligns with its mandate. All documents submitted to the MNC as part of this RFP call become the property of the Métis National Council and are subject to the disclosure provisions as determined by privacy laws.

The proposal evaluation will include, among others:

- Expertise, qualifications, certifications of the Proponent;
- Experience working with Métis and/or other Indigenous institutions or organizations;
- Proposed approach and plan of action;
- Estimated budget;
- The Proponent is expected to support fair value and acceptable levels of service for the fees and expenses as proposed.

### **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 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.