



## BACKGROUNDER

# Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation

**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Government of Canada**

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The Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation is an historic step for Canada. It is a starting point for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada to begin to resolve many long-standing issues pertaining to Métis inherent Indigenous rights which are recognized in Section 35 of The Constitution Act (1982) of Canada.

The purpose of the Framework Agreement is to come to a clearer understanding of Section 35 rights as well as the broader inherent rights of Métis people. This understanding will inform efforts at reconciliation, such as rights to land and resources, education, self-governance, and preservation of the distinct culture of the Métis. These will include, for example, the Métis of Northwest Saskatchewan Land Claim filed in 1994 and the Île-à-la-Crosse residential school.

In the past, Métis people have had no option but litigation through the courts to address such issues. In contrast to this adversarial path, the intent of the Framework Agreement is to provide a forum for nation-to-nation discussion and collaboration. Updates and proposals for action will be brought to Métis citizens from all Regions and Locals to ensure transparency and that all voices are heard and considered.

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The Framework Agreement commits the Government of Canada to providing funds specifically earmarked for this process, easing the financial burden on the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. This is crucial as the Métis government is currently in a state of rebuilding, including a newly elected president and government. These funds will support government-to-government discussions between the Framework partners, as well as an extensive engagement process that will include broad consultations with Métis people across Saskatchewan.

Community consultation, feedback and acceptance remain key guides throughout the process, which dictates that Métis citizens will receive information for consideration that is timely, accurate and complete.

Métis citizens can expect extensive consultations to start as early as autumn, 2018. Ultimately, the goal is an agreement that addresses Métis Section 35 rights and broader rights as well as their implications and obligations for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada.

### **About Métis Nation-Saskatchewan**

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) represents roughly 53,000 Métis citizens, through a representative system based on 12 regions and 130 locals. MN-S advocates for the political, legal and constitutional recognition of Métis people. MN-S works to guarantee the rights of Métis people, including the right to a land and resource base, self-government, and self-government institutions.

The current president of MN-S is Glenn McCallum. The MN-S governance structure also includes its Senate, a Cabinet which is composed of the four-member executive, and elected officials from the 12 regions who hold a variety of Ministerial positions as well as a women's representative and a youth representative.