



# Memorandum of Understanding

## Working Toward a Healthier Population

Métis Nation of Saskatchewan  
And  
Saskatchewan Health Authority

July 2018



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**Working Toward a Healthier Population**  
Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority

**Preamble**

**WHEREAS** the history of Canada has been greatly influenced by the Métis people who emerged in the west central North America with their own language (Michif), culture, traditions, and self-government structures;

**WHEREAS** Métis people have played an important role in the history of Canada, guiding the early explorers and working for fur traders;

**WHEREAS** Métis people refer to themselves as Métis, and are referred to by others as the Métis Nation:

**WHEREAS** this recognition of the participation of the Métis people in the development of Canada is noted in section 35(2) of the Canadian Constitution, 1982, which states that the Aboriginal peoples of Canada includes the Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada;

**WHEREAS** SHA recognizes and respect that the Métis Nation and Canada have committed to reconciliation and a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship to renew the relationship through cooperation, to further Métis self-government, while respecting Métis rights and ending the status quo;

**WHEREAS** SHA recognizes and respects that Canada and the Métis Nation are further committed to reconciliation and a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship through establishing a permanent bilateral mechanism between Canada and the Métis National Council and its Governing Members.

**WHEREAS** the mission of SHA is to improve health through excellence and innovation in service, education and research, building on the strengths of their people through partnerships; and, through their commitment of Better Health, Better Care, Better Teams and Better value.

**And,**

**WHEREAS** both parties recognize the need for enhanced communication to build a cooperative and more collaborative relationship to ensure the most effective mechanisms for the delivery of health related services to and for Métis people;

**WHEREAS** both parties have a common goal in supporting and ensuring Métis have an opportunity to train for health related careers and obtain gainful employment within Saskatchewan Health Authority.

**NOW THEREFORE** Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MN-S) and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) enter this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

## Purpose

The primary purpose of this Memorandum is to formalize the relationship between MN-S and SHA to identify common priorities and maximize mutually beneficial opportunities to work together. It is understood that the foundation of this MOU is to undertake activities that will improve the health status of Métis people through diverse but targeted initiatives. The Parties acknowledge and respect established and evolving jurisdictional and fiduciary relationships and responsibilities, and will seek to remove impediments to progress by establishing effective respectful working relationships. The Parties interests include but are not limited to the following:

- Acknowledge that maintaining the status quo will not close the health gaps between Métis and other health populations; therefore, the Parties will improve upon health programs and services currently in place or about to be established.
- Establish and define a collaborative and coordinated partnership for improving the health of Métis people and their communities within Saskatchewan Health Authority.

## Principles

1. The parties will respect the jurisdiction and rights of the other as set out and defined in the Constitution Act, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other health related statutes enacted by the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan, the By-Laws of SHA the By-Laws of the MN-S.
2. The parties will respect the organizations that design and deliver health services as well as the institutions and organizations that support such delivery.
3. The parties will operate in a collaborative and cooperative fashion in areas of mutual concern.
4. The parties will conduct business with openness, transparency and reciprocal accountability.
5. The parties will work together on health-related issues, taking a collaborative approach that respects traditional medicine and spiritual healing practices, as well as current Western medicine treatment techniques for improving the health of the people they serve.
6. The parties recognize the importance of tracking the broad determinants of health and support efforts to impact on them.
7. The parties acknowledge the interests of both parties in the area of access to information and research, reporting, evaluation and accountability.
8. The parties agree to support each other's efforts to secure funding for the delivery of needed services and programs in a cooperative and non-competitive fashion.
9. The parties recognize each other's strengths and intend to build upon those through partnering on projects and by improving the level of integration and adaptation of the health delivery systems.

THE PARTIES agree to establish a mechanism to monitor and act upon the terms of this Memorandum.

NOTWITHSTANDING the terms of this agreement, it's not the intention of the parties to this Memorandum to conflict with or detract from existing agreements between the parties nor to abrogate or derogate from any existing agreement between the parties, their funders or various orders of government.

This Memorandum is not intended to create binding legal obligations nor will it be utilized in the interpretation of any other agreement.

The terms of this Memorandum may be opened for discussion at the request of either party.

Signed in good faith with a commitment to pursue all aspects of this Memorandum.

Date: July 12, 2018

For SHA:



CEO - Scott Livingstone



VP Integrated Northern Health - Andrew Mcletchie

For MN-S:



President - Glen McCallum



Health Minister - MN-S - Marg Friesen

