



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**"Advancing Métis Post-Secondary Education"**

between

**Métis Nation-Saskatchewan**

and

**University of Saskatchewan**

### **Preamble**

**WHEREAS** the Métis are one of the Indigenous peoples living in the historic Northwest prior to Canada's westward expansion and have distinctive customs, language (Michif), culture, traditions, and self-government structures;

**AND WHEREAS** section 35(2) of the Canadian Constitution, 1982 recognizes and affirms the Aboriginal rights of Métis people and acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples of Canada includes the Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples;

**AND WHEREAS** the citizens of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MN-S) have established the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan as the government mandated to protect and advance Métis rights, self-government, and self-determination as well as to represent its citizens;

**AND WHEREAS** the mission of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) is to advance the aspirations of the people of the province and beyond through interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to discovering, teaching, sharing, integrating, preserving, and applying knowledge, including the creative arts, to build a rich cultural community.

**AND WHEREAS** the University of Saskatchewan's institutional commitment to Indigenize academia has been integrated into the University's Institutional plan as a strategic pillar, a pillar equal to discovery, teaching and learning, and engagement.



**AND WHEREAS** the parties recognize the need to respect and promote the inherent rights of Métis to education;

**AND WHEREAS** both parties have a common goal in supporting and ensuring Métis have opportunities to access and fully participate in post-secondary university education;

**AND WHEREAS** the parties have agreed to engage in activities that support Métis students' success including integration of Métis perspectives, worldviews, and knowledge;

**NOW THEREFORE** Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and University of Saskatchewan enter this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

### **Purpose**

The primary purpose of this Memorandum is to formalize, expand and enhance the relationship between the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan to identify common priorities and maximize mutual beneficial opportunities to work together. It is understood that the foundation of this MOU is to undertake activities that will improve the education status of Métis people through diverse and targeted initiatives. The partners 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 university education achievement gaps between Métis and non-Indigenous populations; therefore, the parties will work to improve upon university academic programs and services currently in place or about to be established.
- Establish and define a collaborative and coordinated partnership with the goal of improving university education access, relevance, and achievement of Métis people and their communities within the University of Saskatchewan.
- Establish and define a collaborative and coordinated partnership with the goal of creating a strong Métis presence at the University of Saskatchewan to ensure Métis are visible and represented at all levels, including but not limited to employment, USask governance, Métis enrolment, Métis completion rates, Métis-specific research, concentration of Métis studies and curriculum, Métis cultural celebrations, Métis-specific symbols, naming, and Métis community engagement.
- Partner, plan and share ethical research initiatives that advances the interests of the Métis Nation and residents of the province.



## 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 constitution of the MN-S, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other post-secondary education related statutes enacted by the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the by-laws of the USask.
2. The parties will respect the organizations that design and deliver post-secondary education as well as the Institutions that support such delivery.
3. Initiatives will be shaped and developed through dialogue and collaboration.
4. The parties will conduct business with openness, transparency, and reciprocal accountability.
5. The parties will work together on University post-secondary related issues taking a collaborative approach that respects Métis traditional education practices, as well as current Western education techniques for improving the education outcomes for the people they serve.
6. The parties will identify joint issues and establish joint priorities for the inclusion of Métis representation and visibility at all levels of the University.
7. The parties agree to report annually on progress. The USask may report to the Provincial Métis Council and the MN-S may report to the Senate, Board of Governors, Deans' Council, or any other mutually agreeable forum.
8. The parties recognize the importance of access to information and research, reporting, evaluation, and accountability.
9. The parties agree to support each others' efforts to secure funding for the delivery of needed programming and services in a cooperative fashion.
10. The parties recognize each others' strengths and intend to build upon those through partnering on projects and by improving the level of integration and adaptation of the university education delivery system.
11. This agreement will be in effect upon execution and in effect for five years unless terminated in writing by any party upon 60 days written notice or extended by the written agreement of the parties.

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 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.

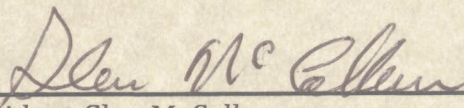
The terms of this Memorandum may be opened for discussion at the request of either party.

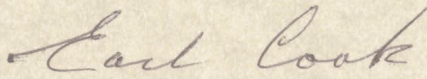


Signed in good faith with a commitment to pursue all aspects of this Memorandum.

SIGNED on behalf of  
MÉTIS NATION-SASKATCHEWAN

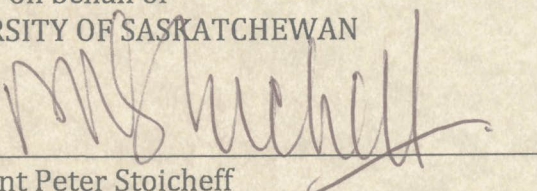
Date: 18 November, 2019

  
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President Glen McCallum

  
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Minister of Education Dr. Earl Cook

SIGNED on behalf of  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Date: 18 November, 2019

  
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President Peter Stoicheff