

Dear Minister Carriere,

Maarsii. Thank you for serving the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) as Minister of Housing and Infrastructure.

This mandate letter describes the progress made to date under your portfolio and your responsibilities and priorities moving forward. It also outlines how I expect you to conduct yourself as a Minister and work with other Ministers, members of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC), and fellow citizens. As accountability and transparency are the cornerstones of good government, I am making these letters public, so all citizens are informed of how their government is working for them.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Closing the Housing Gap

Our government is committed to closing the housing gap that exists between Métis citizens and non-Indigenous Canadians in Saskatchewan. We are focused on improving housing outcomes and addressing needs across the housing continuum to ensure there is adequate, affordable, and sustainable housing for Métis citizens. This work includes providing support for the most vulnerable.

Through our strengthened working partnership with Canada, the Governing Members of the Métis National Council signed an agreement with Minister Carolyn Bennett in July 2018 for \$500 M over ten years. The agreement recognizes that Governing Members will design, deliver and administer housing services for their own citizens. MN-S' allocation from 2018-2021 is \$36.8 M, after which a new funding agreement will be negotiated.

To close the gap, our government acted immediately by designing and implementing:

1. MN-S First Time Home Buyers Program

First-time home buyers are often challenged with saving sufficient funds that financial institutions require for a down payment. Recognizing this impediment to homeownership, in July 2019 our government announced the First Time Home Buyers Program to provide eligible Métis citizens with up to \$15,000 towards a down payment and up to \$2,500 on closing costs. Administered through the SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO), this program also includes access to professional advice from realtors, lawyers and mortgage brokers throughout the home buying process. By August 31, 2020 there were 155 applications, 94 approvals, and \$1,410,000 in down payment grants and \$235,000 in closing costs provided to new Métis homeowners.



2. Emergency Home Repairs and Renovation Program

Necessary home repairs and renovations can be costly for homeowners. To respond to this need, in 2019 our government created the Emergency Home Repairs and Renovation Program to ensure Métis homeowners can address emergency home repairs. By March 31, 2020, 167 emergency repair applications were received.

3. Regional Housing Strategy

Our government is working closely with all 12 Regions to assess housing needs and create a housing strategy. A provincial housing needs assessment has been completed, and we are currently consulting with Métis housing experts and funding agencies to create an accountable, non-political and sustainable system that will allocate funding for capital project planning and capital projects to each Region. Each of the Regional Directors will be consulted over the next couple of months to assess and address their capacity needs to plan and deliver new housing projects. As we build up our processes over the next few months, including reporting and monitoring, evaluation and how proposals will be assessed, our aim is to have funding flow later this year.

Tackling Homelessness

Tackling homelessness is an essential component of closing the housing gap. Our government is working on entering into a four-year \$4.5 M agreement with the Government of Canada to fund homelessness projects and reduce and mitigate the impacts of those experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. This funding is part of the Government of Canada's Reaching Home Plan through the Distinction Based funding stream.

In Year One of funding (2020-2021), our government will create a Framework with all 12 Regions to inform homelessness and housing solutions, focusing on multi-layer programs and services solutions tailored to the unique needs of each Region. Through the development of the Regional Housing Strategy stated above, we are consulting with citizens, partners, and existing Métis Housing Experts in each Region to inform this Framework, looking at all sections of the housing continuum. Implementation of the Framework will begin in Year One and continue into Years Two to Four (2021-2024). The Framework will support individuals to stabilize their housing situation while offering wrap-around case management and housing support in terms of training, emergency housing, rent and utility arrears and housing start-up costs. It will address crisis intervention, eviction prevention, landlord and tenant mediation, and institutional transitioning and housing stabilization.



Supporting Citizens Through COVID-19

As part of our government's aggressive and proactive response to COVID-19, we provided emergency home support to assist with housing needs, including mortgage payments and rental costs. Self-identifying Métis households who are accepted by the Métis community were eligible for up to \$500 in support. Overall, over \$950,000 was distributed to 3449 households.

We are also helping Métis homeowners address health concerns and improve sanitation by investing in water and sewer systems. Funding allocations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Once program funding is exhausted, our government will continue with monitoring water accessibility and quality as part of the Housing Strategy.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES



As Minister, you are responsible for the following areas:

- All aspects of the housing continuum, including homelessness.
- Work with the Minister of Economic Development to roll out the First Time Home Buyers Program.
- Serve as Chair of the Provincial Métis Housing Corporation.
- Relationships with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Canada Mortgaging Housing Corporation, Employment and Social Development Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Social Services, housing organizations and institutes in Saskatchewan, homeless organizations in Saskatchewan.

PRIORITIES

I expect you to work constructively with your colleagues, members of the PMC, and citizens to deliver on the following priorities:

- We want to close the housing gap between non-Indigenous Canadians and Métis citizens in Saskatchewan and ensure that all Métis citizens have access to safe living conditions. To accomplish this objective, over the next year:
 - Continue roll-out of the Regional Housing Strategy, ensuring that it is responding to the unique situations of each Region. Decisions must prioritize the highest needs and all Métis citizens and Elders must have access to safe living conditions. This must include short- and long-term sustainable housing options for Métis women and female Elders facing domestic abuse.
 - Design and implement a comprehensive framework for addressing homelessness. This should include working with partners, Regions, other agencies and service providers in urban centres.
- Continue to contribute to the MN-S COVID-19 response to help ensure the health and safety of all Métis citizens. Work closely with the Minister of Health and other relevant Ministers.
- We want citizens to be able to access services and programs in their Regions. A decentralized, Métis-focused service delivery model will best support our citizens. To work towards this objective, over the next year:
 - Work with the Ministers mentioned and the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure to design a pilot for the future construction and administration of a Métis Community Resource Centre for citizens to access services and support in an effective and efficient manner.
- Support the Ministers of Women and Gender Equality and Justice in the development of a plan to address the situation of violence against Métis women, female Elders, girls, and LGBTQIP2SAA persons in Saskatchewan.



EXPECTATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

All Members of the Executive must act with honesty and uphold the highest ethical standards in their personal and professional lives. Métis citizens' confidence and trust in the integrity of government is essential. Our Executive Handbook was updated in November 2019 by the PMC. It affirms that all Ministers must adhere to strict standards of conduct guided by the principles of integrity, accountability, responsibility, leadership, respect and openness. I encourage you to routinely consult the Executive Handbook and use it as a guiding resource in your work.

In addition to the roles and responsibilities listed above, there is also an obligation to support and advance the overall priorities of this government. Confidentiality, solidarity and collective responsibility are critical to good governance and must be the foundation of how we work together. Our Executive Handbook outlines the meaning of solidarity. Ministers may disagree and state their personal opinions during private meetings. At the same time, to the public, they must present a unified front on all decisions and support all decisions made by their fellow Ministers. Collectively, Ministers are accountable for these decisions, even if they do not personally agree with them.

All Ministers must work collaboratively with each other and all members of the PMC to establish good communication. We will ensure policies and programs reflect the needs and aspirations of Métis citizens. The unique challenges that rural and urban citizens face are considerations in decision-making. Every attempt should be made to consult with and obtain the views of Members of the PMC, local Presidents, community members, Métis women, youth, LGBTQIP2SAA persons, Elders, and other experts.

As we strengthen our working partnerships with First Nations, the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan, you are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and cooperative manner. Delivering success for our citizens requires good working partnerships with external partners and being solutions-oriented.

Our government has zero-tolerance for unethical behaviour. All Ministers are obligated to question any request or decision that they think may be unethical or unlawful. Rules and the proper protocol for addressing alleged breaches can be found in section 7.0 of the Executive Handbook.



As we rebuild our Nation, we know we have a lot of work to do. Part of this journey must include recognizing the devastating impact colonialism and land dispossession have had on our communities, kinship, and governance. Lateral violence is endemic across the Métis Nation. We need to understand how we are going to discard colonial attitudes and re-invigorate Métis laws and ways of living together. In particular, we need to critically examine how we will reinstate the vital role Métis women, girls and two-spirit persons traditionally played in our societies. This work must include addressing and ending systemic violence against Métis women, girls and LGBTQIP2SAA persons. We must also continue to ensure equal representation of women in all levels of our government, and that these perspectives and needs be reflected in decision-making.

Our people have fought for over a century for recognition, respect, and our rightful place as a self-determining people. Over the past three years, we have made substantial progress towards realizing the visions of Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont. From signing the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement with Canada, investing in housing, education and economic development, making real progress on the negotiation of the North-West land claim, and strengthening our internal governance, we have made momentous strides in a relatively short time. This year, our communities have faced a significant challenge to our health and safety: COVID-19. We came together to support citizens, deliver PPE and provide critical support for housing, childcare, and Métis businesses. While we must remain vigilant to ensure everyone's safety, we should all be proud of how we have supported each other during such unprecedented times.

Thank you again for agreeing to serve the MN-S and its citizens. I am here to support you in your role as Minister. Together, we will continue to carry the torch of those great leaders who came before us. We can, and we will, succeed in fully realizing the vision of a strong, self-determining, accountable government for all of us as Métis people in this province.

Sincerely,



President Glen McCallum