



Dear Minister King,

Maarsii. Thank you for serving the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) as Minister of Inter-Nation Relations.

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

Working Partnership with Canada

The progress our government has made over the past three years is a testament to the strong working partnership we have developed with the Government of Canada. With the signing of the Canada-Métis Nation Accord in 2017 by all Governing Members of the Métis National Council (MNC), we have seen a shift in how the Métis are treated in this country and acknowledged as Indigenous peoples with inherent rights.

Our progress on education, early learning and child care (ELCC) and housing are examples of this strengthened relationship. These areas are identified in the Accord as priorities for our governments to collaboratively work on together to close the gap between Métis citizens and non-Indigenous Canadians. Through our conversations and negotiations, MN-S stressed the need for any new programming and services to be designed, developed, and administered by our government. This was Louis Riel's vision, and one I constantly promote. This is what self-government and self-determination mean.

Our tireless advocacy and close working partnerships with federal Ministers, the Prime Minister and public servants paid off as we have been able to secure agreements and substantial multi-year funding on each priority. Our ten-year agreements on post-secondary education, housing and ELCC provide stable funding for our government to design, develop and administer programming and services to meet the needs of our citizens.



Working Partnerships with the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Métis Nation of Alberta

Since signing the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSAs) in June 2019, our government has worked closely with the Métis Nation of Ontario and Métis Nation of Alberta as we work to implement our respective MGRSAs. Collaboration and unity benefits all three governments. By sharing best practices and allowing for information sharing where appropriate, we have increased efficiency and effectiveness in moving to self-government. These joint efforts have included sending a letter in December 2019 to the Prime Minister, outlining priorities including developing mutually agreeable Federal Recognition legislation, co-developing a Federal Métis Claims policy, and negotiating stable, long-term fiscal financing agreements. In January 2020 in Edmonton, we held a historic tri-council meeting. We issued a joint declaration to continue to work together, and a resolution to call for transparency from the MNC.

Working Partnerships in Saskatchewan

Our government's response to COVID-19 has proven that collaboration works in order to deliver for Métis citizens. To best utilize resources and expertise and ensure we were meeting the unique needs of each Region, we built and strengthened valuable partnerships with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC), the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the cities of Saskatoon and Regina, municipalities, provincial officials and the Government of Canada. By working together, we were able to ensure our response was aggressive and proactive and that no community was left behind.

Improving Relationships with the RCMP

Historically, the RCMP and Indigenous peoples have had a poor and untrustworthy relationship marked by colonial policies and attitudes. Such policies have impacted Métis communities in Saskatchewan in particular through systematic discrimination.

The MN-S is committed to improving our relationship with the RCMP so that we can work effectively together for the health and safety of our citizens. On August 1, 2019, the MN-S signed a protocol agreement with the RCMP "F" Division to establish a trusting and reciprocal relationship. This agreement recognizes the MN-S as the government for Métis citizens in Saskatchewan and affirms the need for the parties to work together to build stronger and safer communities. The agreement outlines how the parties will work together to deliver culturally appropriate training to RCMP members and avert or resolve conflict.



MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

As Minister, you are responsible for the following areas:

- Working with myself and other Ministers to maintain and further enhance working partnerships with First Nations Governments, Tribal Councils, other MNC Governing Members, the Government of Canada, the RCMP, the Government of Saskatchewan, and municipalities.

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 renew the strong alliances we had with First Nations Governments prior to colonialism so we can work together on shared priorities and capitalize on lessons learned. To accomplish this objective, over the next year:
 - Foster diplomatic relations with First Nations government across Saskatchewan and Canada. This must include developing and respecting proper protocols.
 - Maintain significant ties with First Nations government that have been developed in our COVID-19 response in order to continue to respond to the pandemic and work towards other priority areas for our government.
- 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