



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

### **Working Toward a Métis-Specific Cancer Strategy**

Between

**Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. (MN-S) Ministry of Health**

And

**Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA)**

**(collectively known as “the Parties”)**

**November 2020**



## **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; and

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** MN-S is the responsible for advancing the rights and interests of Métis people in Saskatchewan; and

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 5 of the Métis Act, the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. was established as a corporation and the administrative body through the policies and programs of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan would be carried out and administered;

**WHEREAS** the SCA recognizes and respects that the Métis Nation and Canada have committed to reconciliation and to 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; and

**WHEREAS** the SCA recognizes and respects that Canada and the Métis Nation are further committed to reconciliation and to a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship



through establishing a permanent bilateral mechanism between Canada and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan; and

**WHEREAS** the mission of the SCA is to improve cancer control through excellence and innovation in service, education and research, building on the strengths of their people through partnerships; and, through their commitment to Better Health, Better Care, Better Teams and Better Value; and

**WHEREAS** the 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 cancer related services to and for Métis people; and

**WHEREAS** the Parties have a common goal in supporting and ensuring Métis have access to adequate and quality cancer control services in Saskatchewan.

**NOW THEREFORE** Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) and Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA), enter the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

#### **PURPOSE**

The primary purpose of this MOU is to formalize the relationship between MN-S and SCA 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 cancer experience of Métis people in Saskatchewan through diverse and 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 to advance health equity. The Parties' interests include but are not limited to the following:

- Acknowledge that maintaining the status quo will not close the cancer control gaps between Métis and other health populations; therefore, the Parties will improve upon cancer control programs and services currently in place or about to be established.
- Define and Establish a collaborative and coordinated partnership for improving the health of Métis people and their communities within SCA.
- Work collaboratively together on other projects related to the improvement of cancer experiences and outcomes for Métis patients and families, MN-S will move beyond the scope of cancer surveillance and will support the Agency in the development of a culturally responsive Saskatchewan Cancer Strategy for use by the Agency.



- Acknowledge Métis desire to maintain the Saskatchewan Métis research and data governance principles that includes any research outputs and publications.
- Acknowledge that implementing a data sharing agreement between MN-S and SCA can contribute towards a better understanding of Cancer among Métis citizens in Saskatchewan.

## Principles

1. The Parties will each 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), the Constitution of MN-S, and other health related statutes enacted by the Government of Saskatchewan, the By-Laws of SCA, and other laws of MN-S as are relevant to the subject matter of this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. The Parties will respect the organizations that design and deliver cancer control 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 methods for improving the health of the people they serve.
6. The Parties recognize the importance of tracking the broad social determinants of health (SDoH) and support efforts to improve the SDoH.
7. The Parties each acknowledge the interests of the other party in the area of access to information and research, reporting, evaluation, and accountability.
8. The Parties agree to provide reasonable support for each other's efforts to secure funding for the delivery of needed services and programs in a collaborative fashion.
9. The Parties recognize each other's strengths and intend to build upon those through partnering on initiatives and by improving the level of integration and adaptation of the health delivery systems.

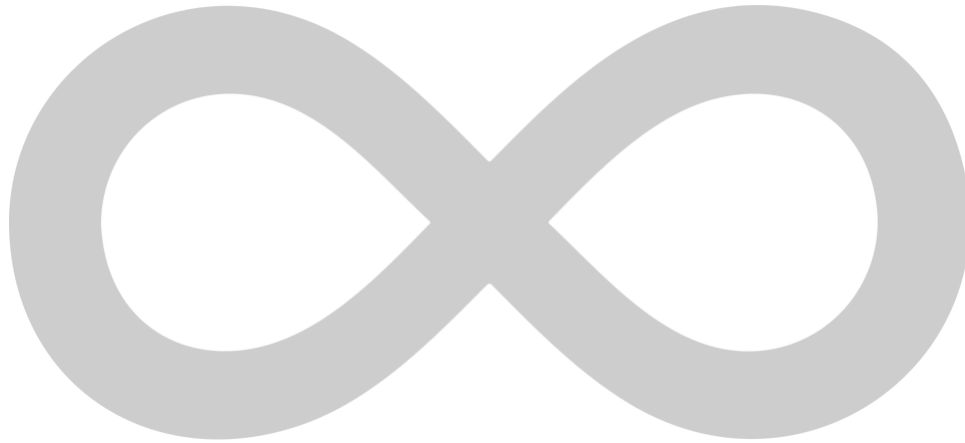


**THE PARTIES** agree to establish a mechanism to monitor and act upon the terms of this MOU.

**NOTWITHSTANDING** the terms of this MOU, it is 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 MOU is not intended to and does not create binding legal obligations between the Parties, nor will it be utilized in the interpretation of any other agreement.

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



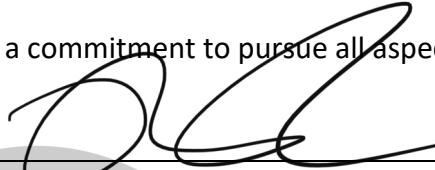


**Effective Date and Signature**

This MOU becomes effective on January 21, 2021

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

January 21, 2021  
Date

  
Richard Quintal  
Chief Executive Officer  
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan  
Secretariat Inc.

M. Adel Panahi  
Witness

January 21, 2021  
Date

  
Marg Friesen  
Minister of Health  
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

M. Adel Panahi  
Witness

January 21, 2021  
Date

  
Dr. Jon Tonita  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer  
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency

Stacy Martin SM  
Witness