



Office of the Provincial President

July 17, 2021

Dear Minister Friesen,

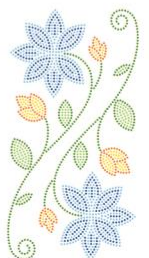
Maarsii. Thank you for agreeing to continue to serve the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) as Minister of Health. This is an interim appointment. This will allow you to maintain the high standards of work from last term as well as ensuring a smooth transition in leadership to the next holder during a critical period.

This mandate letter describes the progress you have made to date 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

In the last four years, the Ministry of Health made important advances including:

- Building strong partnerships with health and wellbeing stakeholders including:
 - Saskatchewan Health Authority
 - Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
 - University of Saskatchewan
 - Saskatchewan Prevention Institute
 - Canadian Mental Health Association - Saskatchewan Branch
 - Saskatchewan Voice of People with Disabilities
 - STOPS: Saskatchewan Towards Offering Solutions to Violence
- Participating in research, health and wellbeing advisory teams, committees and working groups including:
 - Pan-Canadian Cancer Control Strategy Development Committee
 - Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research Oversight Committee
 - Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth and Community Wellbeing
 - Network Environment of Indigenous Health Research Team
 - Indigenous Organ Donation Working Group
 - Indigenous Health Advisory Committee
 - FNIHB COVID-19 Immunization Planning Working Group
 - Urban Indigenous Vaccination Advisory Committee



- SK COVID-19 Immunization Advisory Committee
- SK Northern Immunization Working Group
- University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine, Admissions Renewal Committee.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

As Minister, you are responsible for the following areas:

- Leading the MN-S response to COVID-19.
- Health programs and services for Métis citizens and communities.
- Chair of the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc.
- Relationships with First Nations, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Health Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Health, the U of S, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the Canadian Mental Health Association-Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

PRIORITIES

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

- Develop a data sovereignty strategy and implementation plan;
- Enter into data sharing agreements with the Ministry of Health and eHealth Saskatchewan;
- Partner with Whitecap First Nation and the University of Saskatchewan to develop the International Indigenous Health Research and Training Centre;
- Provide prevention programs in Métis Communities;
- Actively participate in distinction-based Indigenous health legislation development with Canada;
- Develop a land based healing program for mental health and addiction;
- Engage Métis Elders, youth and women in community-based health and wellbeing initiatives;
- Partner with stakeholders to address the HIV/AIDs issues in Métis communities;
- Actively engage youth to develop mental health and suicide prevention strategies and programs;
- Develop a Métis Nation Cultural Responsiveness Framework;



- Develop Métis community health hubs in the region;
- Work toward securing Non-Insured Health Benefit For Métis citizens;
- Support the Minister of Justice in the Constitutional Reform process to update and modernize our *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* and related legislation to ensure they are grounded on our Métis laws and that we create legislative frameworks that will continue to serve our citizens and Métis Nation as we move towards self-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 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons in Saskatchewan.
- Support programs to respond and change impacts of residential school and 60 scoop survivors.

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, 2SLGBTQQIA+ 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 2SLGBTQQIA+ 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 continue serving 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.

Much respect,



Glen McCallum
President

