



## Office of the Provincial President

November 15, 2021

Dear Minister LaRose-Smith;

Maarsii. Thank you for continuing to serve the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) as Minister of Youth.

This mandate letter describes the progress made to date in this portfolio and your responsibilities and priorities moving forward for as long as you hold this position. 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

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Our Métis youth are the future of our Nation, and we are immeasurably proud of them. They have unique perspectives and needs and bring valuable insight to decision-making. As a government, we have a responsibility to ensure that their perspectives are reflected in what we do. I am very proud to have an elected Métis youth who serves as the Minister of Youth and raises the needs and perspectives of youth at the PMC table.

I would like to personally thank you, Minister Bell, for your leadership on this file and incorporating the unique voices and needs of our youth into our government's decisions, policies and programs.

### MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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As Minister, you are responsible for the following areas:

- Work with all Ministers, members of the PMC and Regional Youth Representatives to ensure the unique perspectives and needs of Métis youth are reflected in government decisions, policy and programming.
- Relationships with Métis youth, organizations, and advocates across the



province.

## PRIORITIES

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

- Work to strengthen the Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC) Executive. This will include:
  - investing in leadership training and professional development opportunities in youth leadership for growth development. This investment is for their direct benefit but also for our Métis Nation as, over a lifetime, we expect they will move into other levels of leadership;
  - Investing in travel and networking opportunities so PMYC members increase their understanding and comfort with different places and experiences, further increasing their potential as future leaders for our Nation. This should include a trip to Ottawa to meet with elected federal and Métis leaders and better understand the role and depth of Métis issues on the national stage; and
  - Work towards options for part-time employment of Regional Youth Representatives so they have the time and resources to achieve regional growth of youth-related membership and activities;
- We want to create a strong network of Métis youth across the province who are engaged in our government. To achieve this objective, over the next year:
  - Develop a youth engagement tool kit for Locals and Regions to get youth more involved;
  - Work with Regional Representatives so that Youth Representatives are included and mentored in regional councils. Develop guidelines to support regional councils so they can train and engage their youth representatives in a meaningful way;



- Design a youth MN-S mentorship program so youth can gain experience and knowledge in how government and relevant procedures and processes work. This will include opportunities for leadership training;
- Assist each Region to develop a Youth Group and meet with each Youth Group to encourage their involvement in MN-S and to seek citizenship in MN-S; and
- Create province-wide events so regional youth will have the opportunity to meet, share and work together on initiatives.
- We want to improve the mental health and well-being of Métis youth. To accomplish this objective, over the next year:
  - With support from the Minister of Health and other Ministries, hold a gathering with Métis youth and advocates to discuss mental health and suicide prevention, and what supports and opportunities need to be put in place to better support our young people. From the discussions, create a report with recommendations to be presented to the PMC and Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.
  - Support the Minister of Health in establishing an MOU between MN-S and the provincial Children and Youth Advocate in Saskatchewan to promote youth mental health in Métis communities.
- Support the Minister of Justice in the Constitutional Reform process to update and modernize our *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* specifically leading the reform of Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC) elections. This will include changes to the constitution and any legislation required to codify rules for regional youth representative elections and province-wide elections for PMYC executive members.
- Working with the Minister of Justice, develop creative and expansive ways to implement the UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People) legislation for youth. This could involve developing projects for international exchanges and gatherings with other world Indigenous youth, targeted policy training events such as “policy hackathons”, or other events which will both advance



UNDRIP goals and create leadership and experience opportunities for youth;

- Support the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism in designing and implementing a mentorship program to provide Métis youth with the necessary experience, skills and knowledge in entrepreneurship and business.
- Support the Minister of Heritage and Culture to develop and implement Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples programs that empower Métis youth.
- Support the Minister of Heritage and Culture to ensure youth input is included in the creation of a Métis Cultural Strategy.
- Support the Minister of Language to ensure youth perspectives are included in the creation of a Michif and Dene Language Strategy.
- Continue to contribute to the MN-S COVID-19 response and recovery to help ensure the health and safety of all Métis citizens. Work closely with the Minister of Health and other relevant Ministers.
- 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.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL CONDUCT**

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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 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.

Much respect,



Glen McCallum  
*President*

