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**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan  
An Act respecting the Interpretation of Legislation enacted by the Métis  
Nation Legislative Assembly**

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**The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the authority granted to it by the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan through its Constitution, enacts as follows:**

PART I  
GENERAL

**Short title**

**1** This Act may be cited as the *Interpretation Act, 2024*.

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## **Definitions**

**2** In this Act:

“enactment” means an Act or a regulation;

“regulation” means a rule, regulation or other document or instrument enacted pursuant to the authority provided by an Act.

## **Consistent with Constitution**

**3** All enactments must be consistent with the *Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Constitution*.

## PART II ACTS

### **Enacting clause**

**4** The enacting clause of an Act is stated as follows to indicate the authority by virtue of which the Act is passed:

”The Metis Nation Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the authority granted to it by the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan through its Constitution, enacts as follows:”.

### **Power to repeal or amend preserved**

**5** Every Act is to be interpreted as reserving to the MNLA the power to repeal or amend it, and to revoke, restrict or modify a power, privilege or advantage that it vests in or grants to any person.

### **Certification of date of enactment**

**6** The Clerk of the MNLA shall cause each Act to be certified with the date of its enactment.

### **References to Acts**

**7** An Act may be referred to:

(a) by its short title; or

(b) by using the expression “Statutes of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly . . .” (adding the month and year in which the sitting during which the Act was passed was held) and any chapter or other identifying number assigned to it by the Clerk of the MNLA.

### **Implied regulation making powers in Acts**

**8** Any person or body authorized by an Act to make regulations may make regulations for the purpose of carrying out the Act according to its intent:

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- (a) prescribing any matter or thing that the person considers necessary and advisable in the public interest and not inconsistent with the Act;
- (b) defining, enlarging or restricting the meaning of any word or expression used in the Act but not defined in the Act;
- (c) prescribing a fee authorized by the Act;
- (d) authorizing or requiring the use of forms and changing or repealing and substituting new forms.

### **Custody of Acts**

**9** The Clerk of the MNLA shall have and maintain custody of the original copies of all Acts.

### **Certified copies of Acts**

**10** The Clerk of the MNLA shall insert at the foot of each copy of an Act required to be certified a written certificate signed and authenticated by the Clerk that the copy is a true copy.

## PART III COMING INTO FORCE AND REPEAL OF ENACTMENTS

### **Date of coming into force of enactments**

**11(1)** An enactment or portion of an enactment comes into force on the date or in the manner specified in it.

(2) If no date or manner of coming into force is specified, an enactment or portion of an enactment comes into force on the date on which it is enacted.

(3) If a provision of an enactment states that the enactment or a portion of the enactment is to come into force or be repealed on a specified date or in a specified manner, that provision comes into force on the date on which the enactment is enacted.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a regulation has no effect unless a true copy of it, certified to be a true copy by the authority responsible for its enactment, is filed with the Clerk of the MNLA who shall ensure that it is published on the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan website.

### **Effective time of coming into force**

**12** Unless otherwise provided, an enactment comes into force at the beginning of the day on which it comes into force.

### **Exercise of delegated power before coming into force**

**13** A power provided in an enactment may be exercised before the enactment comes into force

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but, except as is necessary to make the enactment effective when it comes into force, the power exercised has no effect until the enactment comes into force.

## **Effect of repeal of enactment**

**14** The repeal of an enactment does not:

- (a) revive an enactment that is no longer in force, or a law that no longer exists, immediately before the time the repeal takes effect;
- (b) affect the previous operation of the repealed enactment;
- (c) affect a right, privilege, obligation or liability that came into existence pursuant to the repealed enactment and that exists immediately before the time the repeal takes effect;
- (d) affect a contravention of the repealed enactment or any consequence incurred in connection with the contravention; or
- (e) affect an investigation, proceeding or remedy respecting:
  - (i) a right, privilege, obligation or liability mentioned in clause (c); or
  - (ii) a consequence mentioned in clause (d).

## **Effect of repeal and substitution**

**15(1)** In this section:

“former enactment” means an enactment that has been repealed and replaced with a new enactment or has been substantially amended;

“new enactment” means an enactment that replaces a former enactment and includes a substantial amendment to a former enactment.

- (2) A person authorized to act pursuant to a former enactment may continue to act pursuant to the new enactment until another person is authorized to do so.
- (3) A proceeding commenced pursuant to a former enactment must be continued pursuant to the new enactment in conformity with the procedures established by the new enactment, insofar as is practicable.
- (4) Procedures established by a new enactment must be followed, with any necessary modification, in relation to a matter that arose pursuant to the former enactment, including:
  - (a) procedures for the recovery or enforcement of penalties and forfeitures or other

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consequences incurred under the former enactment;

(b) procedures for the enforcement of a right or privilege that exists when the new enactment comes into force; or

(c) proceedings relating to matters that arose pursuant to the former enactment that are commenced after the repeal of the former enactment.

(5) If a consequence authorized pursuant to a former enactment is reduced or mitigated by the new enactment, the new enactment applies to any sanction imposed after the new enactment comes into force with respect to a matter that occurred pursuant to the former enactment.

(6) A bond or security given by a person acting pursuant to the former enactment remains in force.

(7) All offices, books, papers and things made or used pursuant to the former enactment may continue to be used as before the repeal as far as is consistent with the new enactment.

(8) A regulation enacted pursuant to a former enactment remains in force and is deemed to have been enacted pursuant to the new enactment insofar as it is authorized by and not inconsistent with the new enactment.

(9) If a power to enact a regulation was conferred on a person or body pursuant to a former enactment and the power, or substantially the same power, is conferred on another person or body by the new enactment, the other person or body may repeal, amend or replace the regulation enacted pursuant to the former enactment.

### **Included powers to repeal and amend**

**16** A power to enact a regulation includes the power, exercisable in the same manner and subject to the same conditions, if any, to repeal or amend it.

## PART IV INTERPRETATION OF ENACTMENTS

### **Acts and regulations remedial**

**17(1)** The words of an Act and regulations authorized pursuant to an Act are to be read in their entire context, and in their grammatical and ordinary sense, harmoniously with the scheme of the Act, the object of the Act and the intention of the MNLA.

(2) Every Act and regulation is to be interpreted as being remedial and is to be given the fair, large and liberal interpretation that best ensures the attainment of its objects.

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## **Enactments apply in the present**

**18** An enactment is to be interpreted as applying to circumstances as they arise.

## **References to domestic enactments**

**19(1)** In this section, “domestic enactment” means an enactment of Canada or a province or territory of Canada or of an Indigenous government in Canada.

(2) A reference in an enactment to a domestic enactment is a reference to the domestic enactment as amended from time to time or to the domestic enactment that replaced it.

(3) Subsection (2) applies whether the domestic enactment is amended or replaced before or after the coming into force of the enactment in which the reference to the domestic enactment appears.

(4) A reference in an enactment to a domestic enactment that has been repealed and not replaced is a reference to the domestic enactment as it read immediately before its repeal.

## **References to foreign enactments**

**20(1)** In this section, “foreign enactment” means an enactment of a jurisdiction outside Canada.

(2) A reference in an enactment to a foreign enactment is a reference to the foreign enactment as it read on the date on which the enactment containing the reference was enacted.

## **Amending enactments**

**21** An amending enactment is to be interpreted as part of the enactment that it amends.

## **No implication from repeal, amendment, etc.**

**22(1)** The repeal of an enactment, the repeal and replacement of an enactment or the amendment of an enactment is not to be interpreted to be or to involve:

(a) a declaration that the enactment was, or was considered by the MNLA or other body or person by whom it was enacted, to have been previously in force; or

(b) a declaration as to the previous state of the law.

(2) The amendment of an enactment is not to be interpreted to be or to involve a declaration that the law pursuant to the enactment before the amendment was or was considered by the MNLA or other body or person who enacted it to be different from the law under the enactment as amended.

(3) A re-enactment in the same words, a revision, a consolidation or an amendment of an enactment is not to be interpreted to be or to involve an adoption of the construction that has by judicial decision or otherwise been placed on the language used in the enactment or on similar language.

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## **Common names**

**23** If the name commonly applied to a country, place, body, corporation, society, officer, functionary, person, party or thing is used in an enactment, that name means the country, place, body, corporation, society, officer, functionary, person, party or thing to which the name is commonly applied, even though that name is not the formal or extended designation of it.

## **Preambles and reference aids**

**24(1)** In this section, “section heading” means a heading that appears in an enactment immediately above a section or a provision of a section.

(2) Preambles and headings other than section headings are part of an enactment.

(3) Section headings, tables of contents, and information notes are not part of an enactment and are to be considered to have been included editorially and for convenience of reference only.

## **Included powers**

**25(1)** If an enactment confers a power, all the powers that are necessary to exercise the power are also conferred.

(2) If in an enactment the performance of an authorized action is dependent on an official or a person performing another action, the official or person has the power to perform that other action.

## **Gender specific references**

**26** In an enactment, gender-specific words refer to any gender identity and include corporations.

## **Singular and plural**

**27** In an enactment, words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular.

## **Power to differentiate**

**28** A power to make a regulation includes the power to make regulations that:

- (a) are general or particular in application;
- (b) establish classes of persons, matters or things; and
- (c) are different for different classes of persons, matters or things.

## **Deviations from required form**

**29** If an enactment requires the use of a specified form, deviations from the form do not invalidate a form used if:

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- (a) the deviations do not affect the substance;
- (b) the deviations are not likely to mislead; and
- (c) the form used is organized in the same way or substantially the same way as the form whose use is required.

### **Defined terms**

**30** If a word or expression is defined in an enactment, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of the same word or expression have corresponding meanings.

### **Computation of time**

**31(1)** A period expressed in days and described as beginning or ending on, at or with a specified day, or continuing to or until a specified day, includes the specified day.

(2) A period expressed in days and described as occurring before, after or from a specified day excludes the specified day.

(3) A period described by reference to a number of days between two events excludes the day on which the first event happens and includes the day on which the second event happens.

(4) In the calculation of time expressed as a number of clear days, weeks, months or years or as “at least” or “not less than” a number of days, weeks, months or years, the first and last days, weeks, months or years are excluded.

(5) A time limit for the doing of anything that falls or expires on a holiday is extended to include the next day that is not a holiday.

(6) A time limit for registering or filing documents or for doing anything else that falls or expires on a day on which the place for doing so is not open during its regular hours of business is extended to include the next day the place is open during its regular hours of business.

(7) A period expressed as one or more consecutive months beginning or ending on, at, with, before, after or from a specified day is counted to the date numerically corresponding to the date of the specified day in the last or first month of the period, as the case requires.

(8) A period expressed as one or more consecutive years beginning or ending on, at, with, before, after or from a specified day is counted to the same date as the specified day in the last or first year of the period, as the case requires.

(9) If a period would end on a date in a month that has no date numerically corresponding to the first date in the period, the period ends on the first day of the next month.



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(10) A person reaches a particular age expressed in years at the beginning of the relevant anniversary of the person's birth date.

(11) A reference to time is a reference to the time observed in that area pursuant to *The Time Act* (Saskatchewan).

## General definitions

**32** In an enactment, including this Act:

“Act” or “statute” means an Act enacted by the MNLA;

“adult” means a person 18 years of age or more;

“affiliates” means those organizations, structures and institutions established by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan to provide programs and services to and on behalf of its citizens;

"Clerk" means the Clerk of the MNLA appointed in accordance with the Constitution;

“commencement”, when used with reference to an enactment, means the time at which the enactment comes into force;

"Constitution" means the *Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Constitution*;

“enactment” means an Act or a regulation or a portion of an Act or a regulation;

“Executive” means the Executive described in the Constitution;

“General Assembly” means the General Assembly of MN-S citizens described in the Constitution:

“Government of Saskatchewan” means the Crown in right of Saskatchewan;

“Government of Canada” means the Crown in right of Canada;

“holiday” means:

(a) Sunday;

(b) New Year's Day, Family Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Saskatchewan Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and when one of those dates, other than Remembrance Day or Boxing Day, falls on a Sunday, it includes the following

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day;<sup>1</sup> and

(c) any day appointed by an Act or proclaimed by the MNLA as a public holiday;

“infant” or “minor” means a person under 18 years of age;

“Local” means a Local continued by the Constitution or established pursuant to the *Locals Act*;

“Local Council” means the council of a Local;

“majority” or “age of majority” means 18 years of age;

"MN-S citizen" means a person who is registered as a Métis citizen in accordance with the *Citizenship Act*;

“Métis Judicial Body” means the Métis Judicial Body established pursuant to the *Métis Judiciary Act*;

“MNLA” means the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly;

“MN-S” means the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, being the government of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;

“month” means calendar month;

“person” includes a corporation and the heirs, executors, administrators or other legal representatives of a person;

“prescribed” means prescribed in the regulations made pursuant to an Act;

"Provincial Métis Council" or “PMC” means the Provincial Métis Council as described in the Constitution;

"Region" means a Region as described in the Constitution;

“Regional Council” means the council of a Region;

"Regional Representative" means one of the elected regional representatives who sits as a member of the Provincial Métis Council, as described in the Constitution;

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<sup>1</sup> Are there any specific dates that should be added as Métis specific holidays?

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“regulation” means any regulation, bylaw, rule or other order, by whatever name, that is authorized to be made pursuant to an Act;

“Saskatchewan” means the Province of Saskatchewan;

“writing” or a similar term includes words represented or reproduced by any mode of representing or reproducing words in visible form;

“year” means calendar year.

### **Shall, Must and May**

**33(1)** In an enactment:

- (a) “shall” is interpreted as imperative;
- (b) “must” is interpreted as imperative; and
- (c) “may” is interpreted as permissive and empowering.

### **Power to act from time to time**

**34** A power conferred by an enactment may be exercised, or a duty imposed by an enactment may be performed, from time to time and as the occasion requires.

### **References in enactments**

**35(1)** A reference in an enactment by number or letter to two or more parts, divisions, subdivisions, sections, subsections, clauses, subclauses, paragraphs, subparagraphs, schedules, appendices or forms includes the number or letter first mentioned and the number or letter last mentioned.

(2) A reference in an enactment to a part, division, subdivision, section, schedule, appendix or form is a reference to a part, division, section, schedule, appendix or form of the enactment in which the reference occurs.

(3) A reference in an enactment to a subsection, clause, subclause, paragraph or subparagraph is a reference to a subsection, clause, subclause, paragraph or subparagraph of the section, subsection, clause, subclause or paragraph, as the case may be, in which the reference occurs.

### **Majority and quorum**

**36(1)** If an enactment requires or authorizes an act or thing to be done by more than two persons, a majority of them may do it.

(2) If a board is established by or pursuant to an enactment:

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- (a) if the number of members of the board is a fixed number, at least one-half of the number of members is a quorum at a meeting of the board;
  - (b) if the number of members of the board is not a fixed number, at least one-half of the number of members in office is a quorum at a meeting of the board;
  - (c) if the number of members of the board is expressed as a range between a minimum and a maximum, at least one-half of the number of members in office is a quorum, but only if at least the minimum number of members is in office;
  - (d) an act or thing done by a majority of members of the board present at a meeting of the board, if the members present are a quorum, is deemed to have been done by the board;
  - (e) a vacancy in the membership of the board does not invalidate the constitution of the board or impair the right of the members to act, if the number of members in office is not less than a quorum.
- (3) In subsection (2), “board” means a board, commission or other body, whether incorporated or not, consisting of three or more members.

### **Implied powers re public officers**

**37** The power in an enactment to appoint a public officer includes the power to:

- (a) fix the term of office of the public officer;
- (b) terminate the appointment of or remove or suspend the public officer;
- (c) reappoint or reinstate the public officer;
- (d) fix, vary or terminate the public officer’s remuneration and expenses; and
- (e) appoint, either before the appointment of the public officer or while there is a vacancy in the office, another person in the place or to act in the place of the public officer:
  - (i) before the appointment, after the appointment or both; or
  - (ii) during the vacancy, after the vacancy is filled or both

## PART V COMING INTO FORCE

### **Coming into force**

**38** This Act comes into force when it is enacted by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.

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