



Proposed Phase 1 Amendments to the Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

DRAFT

tabled to the MNLA on May 25, 2024 for consideration

Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
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NOTE: Throughout this document, only the paragraphs where changes are proposed are shown in the middle column. Where there is nothing in the middle column the proposal is to keep the paragraph as it is in the existing Constitution, as shown in the left-hand column.

<p>PREAMBLE: The Métis Nation and People are a distinct SOCIETY within the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada.</p> <p>The Métis are distinct from the Indians and Inuit and are the descendants of the historic Métis who evolved in what is now Western Canada and part of the northern United States as a people with a common political will and consciousness.</p> <p>Having experienced physical and political conflict and dispossession in the late 1800's we are still engaged in a continuing struggle to rebuild our social cause and revive our cultural heritage and pride.</p> <p>As such, we are striving for the political, legal and constitutional recognition and guarantees of the rights of our People, including the right to a land and resource</p>	<p align="center">Preamble</p> <p>The Métis Nation is a distinct Indigenous people. The Métis are distinct from the Indians and Inuit and are the descendants of the historic Métis who evolved in what is now Western Canada and part of the northern United States as a people with a common political will and consciousness, history, culture, language and values.</p> <p>We the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan: Affirm that the values of waahkoomiwayhk / wâhkôhtowin / ëlëlot'inë ("kinship and connectedness to each other"), shakihwayhk / sâkhitowin / bëghañonëta hët (love) and aen manaachihitowin / manâcihitowin / Ęta Bëk'ësorídlı - ("mutual respect") are central values of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;</p>	<p>The changes to the Preamble have been developed in consultation with the Elders.</p>
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<p>base, self-government and self-government institutions.</p> <p>In order to achieve these objectives we are hereby re-establishing a strong and revitalized organization within the province of Saskatchewan which must involve all sectors within our Society.</p> <p>While pursuing these objectives within Saskatchewan, we are also committed to cooperating with the members of the Métis Nation in the rest of the Métis Homeland in order to develop a National Forum to represent our collective interests at the national and international levels.</p> <p>Whereas, section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 recognizes and affirms Métis as one of the three Aboriginal peoples of Canada and whereas the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan has adopted the national definition of Métis, we are further committed to promote National Registration of Métis Citizens of Canada.</p> <p>We the citizens of the Métis Nation recognize:</p>	<p>Recognize Kaa tipaymishooyaahk (“we who own ourselves”) / Otipemisiwak (“our own boss”) / Dënë bédagharı (“The people own themselves”) - that the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan is its own boss. This is a fundamental principle of Métis identity with deep historical roots. The Métis Nation within Saskatchewan has the existing inherent right to self-determination and has been governing itself for generations through the laws of the Prairie including the laws of the St. Laurent, the laws of the Buffalo Hunt, the <i>Manitoba Act</i> proposed by the Riel Provisional Government and Louis Riel, the first premier of the province of Manitoba, and bylaws and constitutions for Métis representative organizations in Saskatchewan;</p>	



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<p>The inherent dignity to equality and rights which can never be taken away from Métis people is the foundation of Freedom, Justice and Peace in the Métis Nation.</p> <p>The ideal of all Métis enjoying civil and political freedom can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby every Métis may enjoy their civil, political rights, economic, social and cultural rights.</p> <p>The promotion of Universal respect for and observance of all the collective and individual rights and freedoms of all Métis.</p> <p>Realize that the Métis individual, having duties to other Métis individuals and to the Métis community to which they are a part of, is under the responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of all Métis rights.</p> <p>Therefore we the citizens of the Métis Nation agree to the following articles:</p>	<p>Affirm that the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan’s self-determination, including its authority to govern itself is recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i>; the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, dated February 23, 2023 and the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Canada dated June 27, 2019;</p> <p>Affirm the Daniels decision in which Métis fall within subsection 91(24) of the <i>Constitution Act, 1867</i>, and the bilateral government to government relationship between the Métis</p>	



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<p>1. All Métis have the rights to self-determination. By virtue of that right we the citizens of the Métis Nation will freely determine our political status and freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development;</p> <p>2. The Métis Nation undertakes to respect and ensure to all individuals within the nation and subject to its jurisdiction the rights without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions;</p> <p>3. To ensure that any Métis person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized are violated shall have an effective remedy;</p> <p>4. To ensure that any person claiming such a remedy shall have their right thereto determined by a competent Judicial administrative or legislative authorities of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan;</p> <p>5. To ensure competent authorities as enacted by the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan shall enforce such remedies when granted;</p> <p>6. The Métis Nation undertakes to ensure the equal right of men and women to enjoy all</p>	<p>Nation within Saskatchewan and the federal government of Canada;</p> <p>Affirm that Lii Vyeu Moond (“Elders”) are our knowledge keepers and serve as the voice to carry our history, and Lii Zaanfaan (“Children”) are our future. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan will hold children at the centre.</p> <p>Having experienced physical and political conflict and dispossession in the late 1800's we are still engaged in a continuing struggle to rebuild our social cause and revive our cultural heritage and pride.</p> <p>As such, we are striving for the political, legal and constitutional recognition and guarantees of the rights of our People, including the right to a land and resource base, self-government and self-government institutions through Treaty, land claims and all other measures necessary.</p>	



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<p>civil and political rights set forth in these articles;</p> <p>7. Every Métis citizen shall have the right to liberty of movement to choose their residence;</p> <p>8. No Métis citizen in the Métis Nation shall be deprived of the right to join a local in the community they reside;</p> <p>9. All persons shall be equal before the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in the determination of any issue which they are charged with. Every Métis Person shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by the Métis Legislative Assembly;</p> <p>10. No Métis Person shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on their honour or reputation;</p> <p>11. Every Métis person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;</p>	<p>In order to achieve these objectives we are hereby re-establishing a strong and revitalized government within the province of Saskatchewan which must involve all sectors within our Society.</p> <p>While pursuing these objectives within Saskatchewan, we are also committed to cooperating with the members of the Métis Nation in the rest of the Métis Homeland in order to develop a National Forum to represent our collective interests at the national and international levels.</p> <p>Whereas section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act 1982</i> recognizes and affirms Métis as one of the three Aboriginal peoples of Canada and whereas the Métis Nation — Saskatchewan has adopted the national definition of Métis, we are further committed to promote National Registration of Métis Citizens.</p> <p>We the citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan recognize:</p>	



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<p>12. No Métis Person shall be subject to coercion that would impair their freedom to have or adopt a belief of their choice;</p> <p>13. The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan shall have respect for the liberty of parents or guardians to ensure moral education of their children is in conformity with their own convictions;</p> <p>14. Every Métis Person has the right to hold opinions without interference;</p> <p>15. Every Métis Person shall have the right to expression. This right shall include the freedom to seek, receive and import information and ideas of all kinds either in writing or print, in the form of art, or through any media of their choice;</p> <p>16. The right of Métis People to assemble and organize at the community level shall be recognized;</p> <p>17. Every Métis Person shall have the right of association.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by the Métis Legislative Assembly which are</p>	<p>The inherent dignity and equality and rights that can never be taken away from Métis people is the foundation of Freedom, Justice and Peace in the Métis Nation.</p> <p>The ideal of all Métis enjoying civil and political freedom can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby every Métis may enjoy their civil, political rights, economic, social and cultural rights.</p> <p>The promotion of universal respect for and observance of all the collective and individual rights and freedoms of all Métis.</p> <p>The Métis individual, having duties to other Métis individuals and to the Métis community to which they are a part has the responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of all Métis rights.</p>	



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<p>necessary to protect the interests of the Métis Nation.</p> <p>18. The family is the natural and fundamental group of the Métis Nation and is entitled to protection by the Métis Nation;</p> <p>19. Every Métis child born of a Métis man or woman is a citizen and shall be registered immediately;</p> <p>20. Every Métis Person has the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly through freely chosen representatives. b) To vote and to be elected to the Local, Assembly of Representatives or the Métis Legislative Assembly. c) All votes shall be of equal and universal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot which guarantees the free expression of the will of the electors. d) All Métis shall have the right to access all public services offered through the Métis Nation affiliates 	<p>Therefore, we the citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan agree to the following articles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Métis have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right we the citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan will freely determine our political status and freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development; 2. The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan undertakes to respect and ensure the rights of all individuals within the nation and subject to its jurisdiction without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions; 3. To ensure that any Métis person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized is entitled to be heard by a competent authority of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan as provided for by law; 4. To ensure competent authorities as authorized pursuant to laws enacted by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall enforce such remedies when granted; 	



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<p>2 I. All Métis persons are equal and entitled to protection by the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>5. The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan undertakes to ensure the equal right of persons to enjoy all civil and political rights set forth in these articles;</p> <p>6. Every Métis citizen shall have the right to liberty of movement to choose their residence;</p> <p>7. No Métis citizen shall be deprived of the right to join a local in the community where they reside;</p> <p>8. All Métis persons shall be equal before the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in Saskatchewan;</p> <p>9. No Métis Person shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on their honour or reputation;</p> <p>10. Every Métis Person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;</p> <p>11. No Métis Person shall be subject to coercion that would impair their freedom to have or adopt a belief of their choice;</p> <p>12. The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan shall have respect for the liberty of parents or</p>	



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	<p>guardians to ensure moral education of their children is in conformity with their own convictions;</p> <p>13. Every Métis Person has the right to hold opinions without interference;</p> <p>14. Every Métis Person shall have the right to expression including the freedom to seek, receive and import information and ideas of all kinds either in writing or print, in the form of art, or through any media of their choice;</p> <p>15. The right of Métis People to assemble and organize at the community level is recognized;</p> <p>16. Every Métis Person has the right of association subject only to a restriction that is prescribed by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and is necessary to protect the interests of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;</p> <p>17. The family is the natural and fundamental group of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan and is entitled to protection by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan;</p>	



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	<p>18. Every Métis child born of a Métis person is entitled to be registered as a citizen of the Metis Nation – Saskatchewan;</p> <p>19. Every Métis Person has the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly, or through freely chosen representatives; b) To vote and to be elected to a Local or Regional Council, the Executive, the Provincial Métis or the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, subject only to appropriate restrictions on age or residence; c) All votes shall be of equal and universal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot which guarantees the free expression of the will of the electors; d) All Métis shall have the right to access all public services offered through the Métis Nation affiliates. <p>20. All Métis persons are equal and entitled to protection by the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.</p>	
	<p><i>Delete Article 1 and substitute the following:</i></p>	



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<p>Article 1: Name of Organization 1. The organization shall be known as the “Métis Nation-Saskatchewan”.</p>	<p>Article 1: Title 1. This Constitution may be referred to as the <i>Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Constitution</i>.</p>	<p>The Constitution is the constitution for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and not for the non-profit organization that had been established for practical purposes under provincial legislation prior to the signing of the MN-S Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement 2.0. All references to “organization” in the Constitution are removed by these proposed amendments.</p>
<p>Article 2: Métis Nation Legislative Assembly 1. There shall be a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly which shall be the governing authority of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>MNLA Article 2 is amended as follows:</p>	
<p>2. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall be comprised of the Local Presidents, The Provincial Métis Council, four representatives of the Métis Women of Saskatchewan and</p>		



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<p>four representatives from the Provincial Métis Youth Council.</p> <p>a) Notwithstanding section 2, the Vice President of a local shall serve as an alternate member of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in the event that a President is not able to attend.</p>		
<p>13-2. The loyalty of the members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly must be to the Métis People and Nation, and shall swear an Oath of Allegiance prior to taking office.</p>	<p>2.1 The loyalty of the members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly must be to the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, and each member shall swear an Oath of Allegiance prior to taking their seat in the Assembly.</p>	<p>This provision is currently located in Article 13-2, but it applies to the members of the MNLA and, given its importance, should be placed here so that it is more prominent. This fits in the “housekeeping” category.</p>
<p>3. The Métis Nation Legislative [<i>sic</i>] shall have the authority to enact legislation, regulations, rules and resolutions governing the affairs and conduct of the Métis in Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>3. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly has the jurisdiction and authority:</p> <p>(a) to govern the affairs and conduct of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan by adopting resolutions, rules and directives, making proclamations, and enacting legislation in relation to any matter; and</p>	<p>The MNLA will have the authority to enact laws of all kinds and provide for their publication. In particular, the MNLA will be able to establish courts, tribunals or other entities, mechanisms or processes to make decisions about disputes involving Métis laws, MN-S policies or Métis citizens that are independent and impartial and result in fair decisions.</p>



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	<p>(b) to establish courts, tribunals or other entities, mechanisms or processes to resolve disputes relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) compliance with this Constitution; (ii) the validity, interpretation, application or alleged violation of legislation enacted by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly or policies adopted by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan; or (iii) disputes between or involving Métis individuals. <p>3.1 Any Métis entities, processes or mechanisms established pursuant to Article 2-3(b) must be independent and impartial and must result in competent and fair decisions.</p>	



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<p>4. The President shall assign and recommend portfolios, subject to the approval of the Provincial Métis Council and ratification by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly. The assignment of portfolios shall be restricted to members of the Métis Legislative Assembly.</p>		
<p>5. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, based upon the recommendation of the Provincial Métis Council shall have the authority to appoint Commissions, Committees or other subsidiary bodies, where these are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out the activities and functions of the organization. In doing so, the Assembly shall ensure equity of representation from the Youth, Women and Elders.</p>		
<p>6. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall meet at least twice a year.</p>		
<p>7. Seventy-five members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall constitute a quorum.</p>		



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8. Notice of any session of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall require 30 days' notice to the Local President and Provincial Métis Council.		
9. A person is disqualified from being a member of the Métis Nations Legislative Assembly when: a) He/she dies or resigns b) He/she is under 16 years of age.		
10. All budgets shall be determined by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, based upon the recommendation of the Provincial Métis Council.		
11. The delegates to the Métis Nation Assembly of the Métis National Council shall be the Provincial Métis Council and the remainder shall be chosen from amongst the members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, while the President shall form part of the Executive Council of the Métis National Council. This Constitution may be amended to take into account and reflect changes		



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which may take place within the Métis National Council.		
<p>Article 3: Provincial Métis Council</p> <p>1. The Provincial Métis Council shall be composed of the elected Regional Representatives, the Executive, one representative from the Métis Women of Saskatchewan and one representative from the Provincial Métis Youth Council for a total of 18 Provincial Métis Council members.</p>	<p><i>The Provincial Métis Council</i> <i>Article 3 is amended as follows:</i></p> <p>1. The Provincial Métis Council is composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Regional Representatives; (b) the members of the Executive; (c) a Métis woman to represent Métis women who is elected in a province-wide election held every four years; and (d) a Métis youth to represent Métis youth between the ages of 16 and 29 in a province-wide election held every four years. 	<p>This proposal would provide for the women and youth reps to PMC to be elected by women and youth in a province-wide vote at each Métis general election. The <i>Election Act</i> would be amended to provide for these elections.</p> <p>Article 12-2 is also amended to reflect the fact that the women and youth reps to PMC will be elected in this manner.</p>
<p>2. The Provincial Métis Council shall form the cabinet and be responsible for the portfolios to be assigned and recommended by the President.</p>		



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<p>3. The Provincial Métis Council shall be responsible for ensuring that the affiliates, departments, programs and services covered by their portfolios are running smoothly and have the necessary resources to enable them to operate effectively. In addition, they shall provide a report to each meeting of the Provincial Métis Council and each session of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly or as requested by the President.</p>		
<p>4(a) The Provincial Métis Council shall have the authority to appoint Commission, Committees or other subsidiary bodies where these are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out the activities and functions of the Organization and Métis Legislative Assembly directives.</p> <p>(b) The Provincial Métis Council shall designate persons who may have signing authority for the purpose of conducting the</p>	<p>4. The Provincial Métis Council shall have the authority to appoint commissions, committees or other subsidiary bodies where these are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out the activities and functions of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Métis Nation Legislative Assembly directives.</p> <p>4.1 The Provincial Métis Council shall designate persons who may have signing authority for the purpose of conducting the</p>	<p>Reference to the “Organization” is removed.</p>



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<p>affairs of the Organization, which shall include the Treasurer.</p>	<p>affairs of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, which shall include the Treasurer.</p>	
<p>5. The Provincial Métis Council shall meet at least once every two months.</p> <p>6. Eleven members of the Provincial Métis Council shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>7. Notice of any meeting of the Provincial Métis Council shall be given at least seven days prior to such meeting.</p>		
<p>8. The Provincial Métis Council shall provide written reports to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p>		
<p>9. Elected Provincial Métis Council members and Presidents should not hold paid positions with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan or any of the Affiliate Board.</p>		



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<p>10. The Provincial Métis Council shall set the date and place for each Métis Nation Legislative Assembly sitting, provided no less than 30 days’ written notice is given to the President of each Local.</p>		
<p>Article 4: Executive</p> <p>1. There shall be 4 Executive members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly who are elected province-wide.</p> <p>2. The Executive shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.</p> <p>3. The term of office for the Executive shall be four years.</p>	<p><i>The Executive</i> <i>Article 4 is amended as follows:</i></p>	
<p>4. a) The President of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall be the head of the</p>	<p>4.</p>	<p>Reworded to remove reference to “Organization”.</p>



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<p>Executive, and Chief political spokesperson for the Organization.</p> <p>b) The President shall assign and recommend portfolios, subject to the approval of the Provincial Métis Council and ratification of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p>	<p>a) The President shall be the head of the Executive, and chief political spokesperson for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.</p>	
<p>7. Where a vacancy is created for any reason, including death or resignation, the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall elect from the Provincial Métis Council members an interim Executive member who shall serve until a by-election has been held and the vacancy filled.</p>		
<p>5. The Executive of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall meet at least once per month and three members shall constitute a quorum.</p>		
<p>6. The Executive shall provide written reports to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p>		
<p>Article 5: Regions</p>	<p>Regions Article 5 is amended as follows:</p>	



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1. There shall be 12 Regions as set out in Schedule A of this Constitution.		
2. The Regions shall be governed by a Regional Council composed of the Presidents of the Locals within the respective Regions along with a regionally elected representative who shall be the Chairperson of the Regional Council, as well as the Region’s representative on the Provincial Métis Council of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.		
3. The Regional Council shall have the responsibility of making all appointments to the Institutions and Affiliates at the Regional and Provincial levels. In the event that the Regional Representative is not so appointed, he/she shall be an ex-officio member of all Regional Institutions and Affiliates.		
4. The Regional Council shall establish regional administrative offices. Article 9-2:	4. The Regional Councils shall establish regional administrative offices that are accessible to the people and leadership.	Article 9-2 is combined with this provision to have all Region provisions in the same article.



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2. The 12 Regional offices of the Organization shall be accessible to our people and Leadership.		
5. The Regional Council shall be responsible for programs and services decentralized to that level.		
6. The Regional Council shall enact a Constitution which is not inconsistent with this constitution and such Regional Constitutions shall be registered with the Head Office.	6. The Regional Council shall enact a constitution that is not inconsistent with this constitution and shall file a copy of it, and any amendments to it, with the Clerk of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.	Reference to “Head Office” is changed to Clerk of the MNLA and a time within which documents must be filed is added.
7. The Regional Council may incorporate with the appropriate government department.		
8. The Regional Council may seek the necessary finances and resources to carry out their programs, services, objectives and duties, and where so requested the Provincial Métis Council shall assist in securing these necessary finances and resources.		



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9. The Regional Council shall assist their Local Communities in preparing to assume Métis self-government, which includes land, where this is an objective.		
10. The Regional Council shall provide direction to their representatives on the Provincial Métis Council with respect to all matters, including the aims, objectives and aspirations of the Organization, and for their respective Regions.	10. The Regional Council shall provide direction to their representatives on the Provincial Métis Council with respect to all matters, including the aims, objectives and aspirations of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, and for their respective Regions.	Reference to “Organization” is removed.
11. Where a vacancy is created for any reason, including death or resignation, the Regional Council shall elect from the members of the Council an interim Regional representative who shall serve until a by-election has been held and the vacancy filled.		
Article 6: Urban Councils	<i>Urban Councils Article 6 and 6.1</i>	



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<p>1. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan shall initiate, assist, support, assign, recommend and facilitate the development, implementation and establishment of Métis Urban Self-Government Councils in Saskatchewan.</p>		
<p>Article 6.1: Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Council 1. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan shall assist, support, recommend and facilitate the Regions forming the North West Saskatchewan Métis Council to develop, establish and implement Métis governance for their Métis communities.</p>	<p>Article 6.1: Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Council</p>	
<p>Article 7: Locals 1. The Locals shall be the basic unit of the Organization in each community.</p>	<p>Locals Article 7 is amended as follows: 1. The Locals are the basic unit of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>Reference to the “Organization” is deleted.</p>



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
2. The Locals shall be made up of at least nine members.		
<p>Article 10-3 of the existing Constitution</p> <p>a) A member shall only belong to 1 Local.</p> <p>a) [<i>sic</i>] A person shall reside in the Local area for at least 6 months before he/she is eligible for membership in the Local. The Locals may make exceptions for educational and medicinal purposes.</p> <p>b) A member of a Local must be ordinarily resident in the community where the Local is situated in order to retain membership in the Local, otherwise, the member must transfer his/her membership within 6 months to the Local in the community to which he/she has relocated.</p> <p>c) In communities where no Locals exist, Métis persons shall apply to the Local nearest their residence.</p>	<p>2.1 An individual shall only belong to one Local.</p> <p>2.2 An individual must have resided in the community where the Local is situated for at least 6 months to be eligible for membership in the Local, although a Local may make exceptions for educational and medical purposes.</p> <p>2.3 A member of a Local must be ordinarily resident in the community where the Local is situated in order to retain membership in the Local, otherwise, the member must transfer their membership to the Local in the community to which they have relocated.</p> <p>2.4 In communities where no Locals exist, Métis persons shall apply to the Local nearest their residence.</p>	<p>These provisions are currently contained in Article 10, which relates to citizenship, but they are really provisions about Locals, so have been moved here.</p>
<p>Article 10-4 of the existing Constitution:</p> <p>4. Members shall be issued a membership card.</p>	deleted	<p>If membership cards are issued, they would be related to membership in the Local only.</p>



Proposed Phase 1 Amendments to the Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

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tabled to the MNLA on May 25, 2024 for consideration

Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
a) This card shall provide a life-time membership in the Organization b) There shall be no fee for membership cards c) repealed d) Membership cards shall be issued by the President of Secretary of a duly registered Local upon completion of the designated form.		The issuance of citizenship cards is dealt with under the <i>Citizenship Act</i> .
3. New Locals can be admitted by the Regional Councils provided this decision is ratified by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and the requirements herein are met.		
4. Locals can be dissolved by the Regional Councils provided this decision is ratified by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and the requirements herein are no longer met.		
5. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall adopt rules pertaining to the admission and dissolution of locals.		



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
<p>6. Each Local shall be governed by an elected leadership as determined through the Constitution of the Local, which may include terms of one to three years and elections may be by ballot box or conducted at a General Assembly of the Local membership.</p> <p>a) Each Local shall submit the names of their elected leadership to the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Head Office within 30 days of their election.</p>	<p>6. Each Local shall be governed by a council, consisting of a president, a vice-president and the number of other members determined in accordance with the constitution of the Local, which may include terms of one to three years and elections may be by ballot box or conducted at a general meeting of the members of the Local.</p> <p>6.1 Each Local shall submit the names of their elected leadership to the Regional Council and the Clerk of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly within 30 days of their election.</p>	<p>Reference to the Head Office is replaced by reference to the Clerk of the MNLA.</p>
<p>7. Any Métis who is 16 years of age or over and is a member of the Local shall be entitled to vote or seek office.</p>		<p>Note that Article 10 defines who is “Métis” in accordance with the national definition. A person who is not Métis as defined cannot be a member of a Local or vote or seek office. Registration is proof that a person is Métis.</p>
<p>8. Each Local shall be [sic] enact a Constitution which is not inconsistent with this Constitution, including the establishment of portfolios, committees or other bodies required to address community and other issues, and such Local Constitution shall be</p>	<p>8. Each Local shall enact a constitution that is not inconsistent with this Constitution, including the establishment of portfolios, committees or other bodies required to address community and other issues, and shall file a copy of it, and any amendments to</p>	<p>Reference to the Head Office of the Organization is replaced by reference to the Clerk of the MNLA and a time for filing documents is added.</p>



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
registered with the Regional and Head Office of the Organization.	it, with the Regional Council and the Clerk of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.	
9. The Locals shall provide yearly updates of their membership to the Regional and Head Office, separating those members who are under 16 years of age from those 16 and over.	9. The Locals shall provide yearly updates of their membership to the Regional Council and the Clerk of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, separating those members who are under 16 years of age from those 16 and over.	Reference to the Head Office is replaced by reference to the Clerk of the MNLA.
10. The Locals shall be responsible to prepare the Communities for the assumption of Métis self-government, which includes land, where this is an objective.		
11. The Locals may incorporate with the appropriate government department.		
12. The Locals may seek necessary finances and resources to carry out their programs, services and objectives and where so requested the Provincial Métis Council of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall assist		



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
in securing these necessary finances and resources.		
ARTICLE 8: ELECTIONS		
1. Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall enact electoral legislation.	deleted	An <i>Election Act</i> has been enacted.
2. Election for the Executive and Regional Representatives of the Provincial Métis Council of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall be held within four years of the previous Provincial Métis Council election.	2. Election for the Executive, Regional Representatives and the Women and Youth Representatives to the Provincial Métis Council shall be held within four years of the previous election.	Reference to the Women and Youth representatives to the PMC is added.
3. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Executive shall be elected by the total membership.	deleted	Deleted to allow for voter eligibility to be contained in the <i>Election Act</i> .
4. Provincial Métis Council Regional Representatives shall be elected within their respective Regions.		



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
<p>ARTICLE 9: METIS NATION -SASKATCHEWAN 1. Head office shall be in Saskatoon</p>	<p>1. The seat of government of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan is in Saskatoon.</p>	<p>The MN-S as a government does not have a “head office”.</p>
<p>2. The 12 Regional offices of the Organization shall be accessible to our people and Leadership.</p>	<p>moved</p>	<p>Moved to Article 5 re Regions</p>
<p>Article 10: Citizenship 1. DEFINITION a) Métis means a person, who self identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry and is accepted by the Métis Nation. b) “Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal peoples then known as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland. c) “Historic Métis Nation Homeland” means the area of west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-breeds as they were known.</p>	<p>CITIZENSHIP Article 10 is amended as follows:</p>	



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
<p>d) Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and is one of the “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within the meaning of s 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.</p> <p>e) “Distinct from other Aboriginal peoples” means distinct for culture and nationhood purposes.</p>		
<p>2. Any Métis who is a member of a duly registered Local is a member of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>deleted</p>	<p>Registration as a MN-S citizen is not tied to membership in a Local. This provision is deleted to ensure that only persons who are Métis as defined above can be registered as citizens of the MN-S.</p>
<p>3. a) A member shall only belong to 1 Local. a) [<i>sic</i>] A person shall reside in the Local area for at least 6 months before he/she is eligible for membership in the Local. The Locals may make exceptions for educational and medicinal purposes.</p>	<p>moved to Article 7 re Locals</p>	<p>These provisions do not relate to citizenship but rather to attachment to a Local and the ability to vote. They are moved to Article 7 which deals with Locals.</p>



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
<p>b) A member of a Local must be ordinarily resident in the community where the Local is situated in order to retain membership in the Local, otherwise, the member must transfer his/her membership within 6 months to the Local in the community to which he/she has relocated.</p> <p>c) In communities where no Locals exist, Métis persons shall apply to the Local nearest their residence.</p>		
<p>4. Members shall be issued a membership card.</p> <p>a) This card shall provide a life-time membership in the Organization</p> <p>b) There shall be no fee for membership cards</p> <p>c) repealed</p> <p>d) Membership cards shall be issued by the President or Secretary of a duly registered Local upon completion of the designated form.</p>	deleted	<p>If membership cards are issued, they would be related to membership in the Local only and do not provide lifetime membership in the “Organization”.</p> <p>The issuance of citizenship cards is dealt with under the <i>Citizenship Act</i>.</p>
5. Repealed 2008		Previously repealed



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
6. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall enact, on a priority basis, a Métis Citizenship Act.	deleted	This provision is no longer required, as a <i>Citizenship Act</i> is in place.
<p>Article 11: General Assembly</p> <p>1. A General Assembly, composed of members from the Locals shall be convened by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly every year.</p> <p>2. The General Assembly shall provide a forum whereby the members of the Organization will receive information, review documents and provide guidance to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and discuss, clarify, amend, vote on and ratify amendments to the Constitution.</p>	<p>Article 11: General Assembly</p> <p>1. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall convene a General Assembly annually and when necessary to ratify amendments to this Constitution.</p> <p>2. The members of the General Assembly are those persons who are Métis citizens registered with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>The General Assembly would continue to meet annually.</p> <p>Three-quarters of the members of the General Assembly must ratify any constitutional amendment</p>
<p>Article 12: Senate, Women and Youth</p> <p>1. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall make these items a priority, and shall</p>	<p>Article 12: Women and Youth</p> <p>1. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall</p>	<p>Deleting the Seante</p>



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
involve Women and Youth in the determination of their role and responsibilities within the Organization.	involve Women and Youth in the determination of their role and responsibilities within the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.	
2. The Métis Women of Saskatchewan shall be designated 1 seat in the Provincial Métis Council and 4 seats in the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly. This provision shall cease to apply when women have achieved equitable representation in the Provincial Métis Council and Métis Legislative Assembly.	2. The Métis Women of Saskatchewan shall be designated 4 seats in the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly. This provision shall cease to apply when women have achieved equitable representation in the Provincial Métis Council and Métis Legislative Assembly.	A women’s representative will be elected to the PMC as set out in proposed Article 3-1 above.
2.1 That the Provincial Métis Youth Council shall be designated 1 seat on the Provincial Métis Council and 4 seats at the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly	2.1 The Provincial Métis Youth Council shall be designated 4 seats at the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.	A youth representative will be elected to the PMC as set out in proposed Article 3-1 above.
3. That appointments to vacancies in the Métis Senate be made at area meetings; Further, than Senate appointments be for lifetime or until such time as the Senator is unable to fulfil his/her duties. 4. Repealed 2008.	delete	The Senate Act will be repealed.



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
5. That the Senate be equally represented by male and female.		
<p>Article 13: Métis Independence</p> <p>1. Whereas the Métis are seeking self-government as a third order of government within Canada, the Organization shall be non-secretariat and non-partisan.</p>	<p>Article 13 is amended as follows:</p> <p>1. Whereas the Métis are in the process of implementing self-government as one of three orders of government within Canada, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan shall be non-sectarian and non-partisan.</p>	<p>The reference to “non-secretariat” is probably meant to be “non-sectarian”; reference to the Organization is deleted.</p>
2. The loyalty of the members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly must be to the Métis People and Nation, and shall swear an Oath of Allegiance prior to taking office.	Moved to Article 2	The oath requirement is moved into the Article dealing with the MNLA.
3. The leadership shall be responsible and accountable to the Communities, as reflected by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, which is the Supreme Body for the Métis within Saskatchewan.		



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
4. Members of the Organization are not precluded from joining political parties of the two other orders of government, being the federal and provincial levels of government.	4. Members of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan are not precluded from joining political parties of the two other orders of government, being the federal and provincial levels of government.	Removes reference to “Organization”
5. Any Provincial Métis Council member of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly who chooses to seek the nomination of any provincial or federal political party in any provincial or federal election shall take a leave of absence from his/her position.		
<p>ARTICLE 14 AFFILIATES</p> <p>1 . a) The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, shall exercise all voting rights, powers and duties of ownership in relation to the affiliates, based upon the recommendations of the Provincial Métis Council.</p> <p>a) Where not currently provided all affiliate Articles and By-laws shall be amended at the first reasonable opportunity to conform to this section.</p>	<p><i>Affiliates</i> <i>Article 14 is amended as follows:</i></p>	



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
<p>2. The Provincial Métis Council members who are assigned a portfolio shall automatically sit as Chairperson of the Affiliate(s) which falls under his/her portfolio.</p> <p>3. A member who is an employee/staff person/management of an Affiliate shall not be permitted to sit on any Affiliate Board.</p>		
<p>4. All Affiliates shall representation from the 12 Regions of the Organization, unless otherwise decided by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly based upon the recommendations of the Provincial Métis Council</p>	<p>4. All Affiliates shall have representation from the 12 Regions of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, unless otherwise decided by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly based upon the recommendations of the Provincial Métis Council</p>	<p>Deletes reference to “Organization”.</p>
<p>ARTICLE 14 (A) SECRETARIAT 1 . A Secretariat shall be retained under the "Métis Act" for the sole purpose of carrying out the administrative duties of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.</p>		



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
<p>2. The Secretariat shall be known as the Métis Nations – Saskatchewan Secretariat Incorporated.</p> <p>3. The Board of Directors of the Secretariat shall be the same members who are elected to the Provincial Métis Council.</p>		
<p>Article 15: Amending Formula</p> <p>1. The Constitution shall only be amended by the majority of three quarters of the members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and ratified by three quarters of the members of the General Assembly.</p> <p>2. All proposed amendments to the Constitution must be registered with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Head Office thirty days prior to the sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly where reasonable advance notice of the Legislative Assembly is provided. Where the minimum 30 days notice is provided under Article 2.</p>	<p><i>Amending Formula</i> <i>Article 15</i></p> <p>2. All proposed amendments to the Constitution must be registered with the Clerk of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly thirty days prior to the sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly where reasonable advance notice of the Legislative Assembly is provided. Where the minimum 30 days’ notice is provided under Article 2-8,</p>	<p>Reference to Head Office is replaced with reference to the Clerk of the MNLA.</p>



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation and Comments
Section 8. all proposed amendments must be registered 14 days prior to the sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.	all proposed amendments must be registered 14 days prior to the sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.	
<p>Article 16: Implementation</p> <p>1. The Constitution shall take effect upon its adoption by the General Legislative Assembly subject to amendments validly passed by three quarters of the Assembly present, and the conclusion of General Assembly. Upon the happening of these two conditions all previous By-laws of the Organization are repealed and this Constitution shall constitute the sole Constitution of the Organization, until otherwise determined by the Organization.</p>	<p>Article 16: Implementation</p> <p>1. This Constitution is effective when it is approved by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and ratified by the General Assembly.</p>	<p>The changes to the Constitution will become effective when the amendments are approved by the MNLA and ratified by the General Assembly.</p>
Article 17: Special Election for 2007	deleted	No longer applicable.