

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

RESPECTING

The Transfer of Plains Bison from Grasslands National Park to the Métis of Saskatchewan

Between

Parks Canada (Grasslands National Park)

(hereinafter referred to as “Parks Canada”)

a body corporate established under section 3 of the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, S.C. 1998 c. 31

AND

Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

other (Government)

(hereinafter referred to as “**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan**”)

AND

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Eastern Region III

an established legal organization

(hereinafter referred to as “**Eastern Region III**”)

AND

The Lebret Farm Land Foundation Inc.

an established legal organization

(hereinafter referred to as “**The Lebret Farm**”)

hereinafter collectively referred to as the “**Participants**” or individually as a “**Participant**”

WHEREAS Parks Canada wishes to transfer surplus plains bison from Grasslands National Park to conservation projects and Indigenous groups whose project goals align with Park’s Canada’s mandate and priorities;

WHEREAS Métis Nation – Saskatchewan wishes to further recover plains bison as part of their goals and objectives;

WHEREAS Eastern Region III shares these goals and objectives, and views the plains bison as holding a central role in the culture of Métis;

WHEREAS The Lebret Farm is an important place of Métis culture and history in south-east Saskatchewan with a large land base;

WHEREAS this project is consistent with the goals and objectives of Parks Canada Agency, Grasslands National Park’s Management Plan, and international plains bison conservation initiatives;

WHEREAS Métis Nation – Saskatchewan has a suitable holding facility, and pastures to condition and monitor the plains bison for the duration of the herd’s life span.

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THEREFORE ESTABLISHES that the Participants express their intentions as follows:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to identify areas where the Participants can advance common objectives, achieve common goals, and recognize their cooperation publicly.
- 1.2 The intent of this MOU is to develop and strengthen the Participants’ relationship over time and to work together in an open and transparent manner.

2. Areas of Mutual Interest for Cooperation

- 2.1 The Participants express a desire to cooperate in the following areas of mutual interest that are within and consistent with their respective mandates:
 - 2.1.1 Returning bison to Batoche in 2025.
 - 2.1.2 Returning additional bison (specific number to be determined) to other lands important to the Métis of Saskatchewan, such as The Lebret Farm, at a future date.

3. Activities Associated with Areas of Mutual Interest

- 3.1 For the transfer of bison to Batoche in Fall 2025:
- 3.1.1 Parks Canada shall capture, assist and permit the movement of up to 50 plains bison to Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.
 - 3.1.2 All disease testing and tag identification within the Canadian Food Inspection Agency guidelines will be the responsibility of Parks Canada and will be completed prior to the bison leaving the park.
 - 3.1.3 Métis Nation - Saskatchewan is responsible for arranging for, and payment of, transportation of the bison from the West Block holding area.
 - 3.1.4 Bison will be available for transportation between approximately December 1, 2025 and December 15, 2025. Parks Canada will confirm these dates with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan no later than November 1, 2025.
- 3.2 For future transfers of bison, such as to The Lebret Farm, starting as early as 2027:
- 3.2.1 At the request of Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Parks Canada shall capture, assist and permit the movement of up to 50 plains bison to Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, subject to review of the population structure of the Grasslands National Park herd to determine the optimal number to be removed.
 - 3.2.2 The next date that bison will be available for transfer will be determined in the future, anticipating a timeline in November-December 2027.
 - 3.2.3 Should Grasslands National Park not be in a position to fulfil the request for bison, the request may be forwarded to another Parks Canada’s site that has a surplus of bison or be given full consideration for the next bison surplus at Grasslands National Park.
 - 3.2.4 An updated MOU will be prepared in Summer 2027 with the specific details of the bison transfer.

4. Acknowledgement of Cooperation

- 4.1 Parks Canada shall have the right to publish results related to research and management associated with the bison originating from Grasslands National Park and will not unreasonably withhold information from Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.
- 4.2 The Resource Conservation Manager, Grasslands National Park, Parks Canada, Saskatchewan South Field Unit, and Brent Laroque, Director of Lands and Environment, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, will be the main points of contact for this project.
- 4.3 Each Participant understands and concurs that any recognition in respect of cooperation or activities under this MOU will not constitute or imply endorsement of each others’ products or services.
- 4.4 Any communications, products or marketing material developed, referencing the cooperation under this MOU, must comply with each Participant’s policies and guidelines on the use of their official trademarks and symbols, and will be mutually agreed upon by the Participants.
- 4.5 The Participants agree to work co-operatively to develop a media protocol.
- 4.6 No Participant shall issue any press release, publication or written advertisement relating to this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party.
- 4.7 Notwithstanding the preceding provision, each Participant will acknowledge the participation of the other Participant in promotional material as a partner, for inclusion in press releases, media and events associated with the activities described in this MOU.

5. Independent Activities

This MOU does not limit the Participants’ autonomy within their respective operations, including the liberty of entering into other cooperative arrangements with other participants.

6. Financial Considerations

- 6.1 Métis Nation - Saskatchewan shall be responsible for the costs and logistics related to transportation of the bison from the Parks Canada holding area at Grasslands National Park to Métis Nation - Saskatchewan handling facility. Parks Canada shall aid with the loading of the bison at the Grasslands National Park holding area.
- 6.2 Should something happen that no bison can be transferred, any transport costs pre-paid by Métis Nation – Saskatchewan that cannot be refunded will be re-imbursed by Grasslands National Park.

7. Terms

- 7.1 Either Participant may withdraw from the MOU at any time prior to November 1, 2025.

8. Resolution of Disagreements

Any disagreement regarding the application or interpretation of this MOU will be resolved by consultation between the Participants and will not be referred to a third party for settlement.

9. Legal Disclaimer

- 9.1 This MOU is not a contract and does not create any legally binding obligations between the Participants, but represents their desire to cooperate, collaborate and to exchange information and knowledge for the common good.
- 9.2 The Participants acknowledge that this MOU does not constitute an association for the purpose of establishing a legal

partnership or joint venture and does not create an agency relationship between Parks Canada and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan and that it in no way implies any agreement or undertaking to conclude any subsequent agreement.

10. Notice/Contact Information


Parks Canada

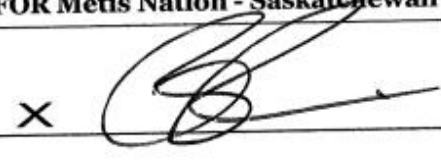
Name: Nathan Young
Title: Resource Conservation Manager
Directorate: Saskatchewan South Field Unit
Address: PO Box 150, Val Marie, SK, SoN 2To
Tel.: 306-750-0462 *E-mail:* nathan.young@pc.gc.ca

Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

Name: Brent Laroque
Title: Director of Lands and Environment
Address: 310-20 Street East, Saskatoon, SK, S7K0A7
Tel.: 306-361-3189 *E-mail:* blaroque@mns.ca

The Participants have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as attested by the signatures of their duly authorized representatives for such purposes.
This MOU may be signed in any number of original or counterparts and each of such counterparts shall for all purposes be deemed to be an original, and all such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument. A signature to this MOU transmitted electronically shall have the same authority, effect and enforceability as an original signature.

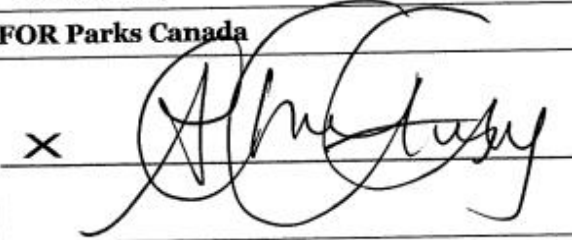
FOR Parks Canada	
	
Name:	Daniel Fehr
Title:	A/Field Unit Superintendent, Saskatchewan South Field Unit
Date:	7/18/2025
Location:	Batoche, SK

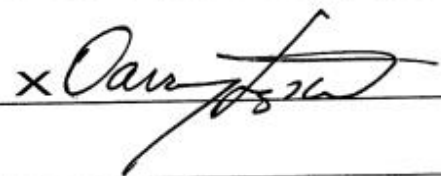
FOR Métis Nation - Saskatchewan	
	
Name:	Richard Quintal
Title:	Chief Executive Officer, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
Date:	7/18/2025
Location:	Batoche, SK

FOR Métis Nation – Saskatchewan – Eastern Region III & The Lebreton Farmland Foundation Inc.	
Name:	Marg Friesen
Title:	Regional Representative, Eastern Region III
Date:	7/18/2025
Location	Batoche, SK



WITNESSES

FOR Parks Canada	
	
Name:	Adriana Bacheschi
Title:	Director, National Parks Establishment, Protected Areas Establishment Branch
Date:	7/18/2025
Location:	Batoche, SK

FOR Métis Nation - Saskatchewan	
	
Name:	Darcy Lepowick
Title:	Minister of Lands and Resources, Agriculture, and Environment
Date:	7/18/2025
Location:	Batoche, SK