

Protocol Agreement

The Metis Settlements General Council; and His Majesty in Right of Alberta, as represented by the Premier of Alberta

March 29, 2023

Purpose

- The *Metis Settlements Act* was enacted recognizing the desire expressed in the *Constitution of Alberta Amendment Act, 1990*, that the Métis should continue to have a land base to provide for the preservation and enhancement of Métis culture and identity and to enable the Métis to attain self-governance.
- The Government of Alberta (GoA), the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) and the Metis Settlements have a shared interest in continuing to build relationships to enhance and preserve Métis culture and identity and promote self-governance.
- The GoA, MSGC and the Metis Settlements seek to work together to advance the long-term financial sustainability of the Settlements and the social, economic, and cultural objectives which contributes to building safe, healthy, and viable Metis Settlements.
- Nothing in this Protocol Agreement is to be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from any existing Aboriginal rights that are recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Context

- The Metis Settlements and the GoA have had a relationship dating back to the *Métis Population Betterment Act, 1938*, and is reflected in the 1989 *Alberta-Metis Settlements Accord*.
- The 1989 *Alberta-Metis Settlements Accord* and subsequent legislation established the foundation for Settlement members to secure their own land base, preserve and enhance Métis culture and identity, gain local autonomy, and achieve economic self-sufficiency.
- The eight Metis Settlements are unique to Alberta and are recognized as Métis governments through the 1990 *Metis Settlements Act*.
- The GoA works with the MSGC and the Metis Settlements to support self-sufficiency, effective governance, and administration, and values the contributions and unique cultural heritage of the Métis people.

Goals

- The GoA, MSGC and the Metis Settlements will work together to advance the long-term sustainability of the Settlements and to achieve their social, economic, and cultural objectives.

Meetings

- The Premier, along with lead Cabinet Ministers, will meet with the two Executive Officers of the MSGC and one elected representative from each of the eight Metis Settlements once per year to address matters of mutual interest – date and location to be mutually determined.
- The Minister of Indigenous Relations will meet with the two Executive Officers of the MSGC and one elected representative from each of the eight Metis Settlements twice per year, with the first meeting to be held within 120 days of this agreement being signed – date and location to be mutually determined. The Minister of Indigenous Relations will also convene meetings with other relevant Ministers as needed.
- Meetings between MSGC officials and Indigenous Relations staff will occur periodically to improve understanding and communication.

- The signatories will work towards the shared vision/objectives outlined in this Protocol Agreement, including development and review of an implementation plan to guide and measure progress. The MSGC President and the Minister of Indigenous Relations will review the plan annually.

Shared vision/objectives

Preface: This section reflects the shared vision of this Protocol Agreement including, but not limited to, advancing Metis Settlements' financial sustainability, effective governance, accountability, program and service delivery, member opportunities and regional participation and partnerships. The goal of the signatories is to develop working arrangements, which will contribute to building healthy and viable Métis communities.

- Community Development
 - Indigenous Relations and MSGC to identify strategies to enhance community development outcomes in areas such as, but not limited to, housing and infrastructure.
- Economic Development
 - Indigenous Relations and MSGC to identify strategies to enhance Metis Settlement self-sufficiency including, but not limited to, pathfinding government programs and services.
- Social Development
 - Indigenous Relations and MSGC to identify strategies to enhance social development in areas such as, but not limited to, health and wellness, safety, and community protection.
- Sustainable Organization and Settlements
 - Indigenous Relations and MSGC to identify strategies to improve governance, administration and financial sustainability of the Settlements including, but not limited to, discussions regarding the *Metis Settlements Act*, the Co-Management Agreement, the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal and the Metis Settlements Land Registry.
- Relationship Building
 - Indigenous Relations and MSGC will commit to identify key areas to develop relationship promotion and advancement with other GoA Ministries.
 - Indigenous Relations and MSGC will commit to identify key strategies to advance MSGC's relationship with the federal government including, but not limited to, protecting the Metis Settlements' land in the Canadian Constitution, and discussing the financial viability of the Settlements with the federal government.
- Access to GoA Programs

Although there is no specific funding committed to this Protocol Agreement, Indigenous Relations will commit, in cooperation with the MSGC, to facilitate access to available GoA funding programs for MSGC and Settlement priorities.

General

- This document is not intended to create any legal rights or responsibilities, or binding legal obligations, such as contractual obligations, on the signatories.
- This document ceases to be in effect when one of the signatories gives written notice to the other that it is at an end.

Signed on March 29, 2023

Honourable Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta

Signed on March 29, 2023

Dave Lamouche
President of Metis Settlements General Council

Signed on March 29, 2023

Honourable Rick Wilson
Minister of Indigenous Relations

Signed on March 29, 2023

Brenda Blyan
Vice-President of Metis Settlements General Council



Metis Settlements of Alberta
LEADING TOGETHER