WHEREAS: On November 17th, 2008, the MNO and Ontario executed the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement (Framework Agreement) to build upon their existing bilateral process, strengthen the relationship between Ontario and MNO citizens, enhance the capacity of the MNO, recognize the distinct identity and culture of the Métis people, and improve the quality of life of Métis children, families and communities in Ontario,

AND WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement encourages willing Ontario Ministries to engage in bilateral processes and discussions with the MNO as a means to achieve the overall objectives of the Framework Agreement as well as the specific mandates of each respective Ontario Ministry;

AND WHEREAS, MNOET has the constitutional authority and responsibility to administer the elementary and secondary school education system in Ontario, and seeks to promote a strong, vibrant, publicly funded education system focused on the three goals of high levels of student achievement, reduced gaps in student achievement and high levels of public confidence in public education;

AND WHEREAS, MEDU and MNOET have, over the past few years, engaged in an ongoing bilateral process with a view to improving Métis educational outcomes and addressing the gaps in Métis student achievement in Ontario, consistent with the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework;

AND WHEREAS, based on the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework, MNOET utilizing its regional infrastructure, is involved in educational outreach as well as policy and strategic approaches with MEDU, Ontario School Boards and schools throughout the province for the benefit of Métis students and their parents.

AND WHEREAS, MEDU and MNOET wish to formalize their existing bilateral relationship with a view to developing an ongoing and results oriented sectoral process.

NOW THEREFORE the parties agree as follows:

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this MOU is to:

1.1.1 Formalize the working relationship between MEDU and MNOET to improve the education outcomes of the Métis people in Ontario;

1.1.2 Develop a mutually agreeable sectoral work plan to support the implementation of this MOU;

1.1.3 Identify and implement mutually agreed upon opportunities and partnerships to: (1) address the unique education needs of the Métis people in Ontario, (2) reduce the gaps in Métis student achievement and student success, and, (3) increase the confidence of Métis parents in the education system.

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND SUBJECT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 In order to achieve this MOU’s purpose, MNOET and MEDU agree to:

2.1.1 Establish a Working Group consisting of officials from MNOET and MEDU that will meet as required to make progress on the purpose of this MOU;

2.1.2 Bi-annual meetings between MEDU’s Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Aboriginal Education and the MNO’s Education Portfolio Holder to discuss issues of mutual interest, progress being made on the implementation of this MOU and to prepare for the annual meeting between the MEDU Minister and the MNO President;

2.1.3 Annual meetings between the MEDU Minister and the MNO President to discuss issues of mutual interest and to assess the progress being made on the implementation of this MOU.

2.1.4 Work together to achieve the stated purpose of this MOU and the specific commitments set out in Section 2.

2.2 The initial focus for the Working Group created pursuant to section 2.1.1 will be to:

2.2.1 Identify and explore project and program funding opportunities for Métis;

2.1.2 Identify potential partnership opportunities between MNOET and MEDU in the delivery of existing and future MEDU programs focused on student success, gap reduction and parent engagement;

2.2.3 Identify mutually agreeable opportunities for partnership between MNOET and MEDU based on the MNO’s Métis Education Action Plan.

2.2.4 Develop a mutually agreeable sectoral work plan to achieve the purpose of this MOU.

3.0 NOTICE

3.1 Any notices or communications required pursuant to this MOU will be in writing and delivered to, or sent by prepaid courier or confirmed facsimile, addressed as follows:

In the case of the MNO: Attention: Doug Wilson
MNO Chief Operating Officer
500 Old St. Patrick Road, Unit D
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9A
Phone: 613-798-1488
Fax: 613-722-4225

In the case of MEDU: Attention: Raymond Therberge
Assistant Deputy Minister
900 Bay Street, Monet Block
Toronto, ON, M7A 1L2
Phone: 416-325-2600
Fax: 416-325-2608

4.0 GENERAL

4.1 Nothing in this MOU creates any legal obligations or additional financial commitments on the part of the parties.

4.2 This MOU shall be in effect upon signing for a five year period or until it is superseded by a subsequent agreement between the parties.

4.3 Either party may terminate this MOU by providing 90 day written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have agreed to this MOU on the date first noted above.

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO
Per:

Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
Per:

Gary Lipinski
President of the Métis Nation of Ontario

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
Per:

France Picotte
MNO Portfolio Holder for Education