



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) IS EXECUTED THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2015.

BETWEEN

Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario,
as represented by the Minister of Education
(hereinafter referred to as “MEDU”)

AND

The Métis Nation of Ontario, as represented by
its Education and Training Branch, which is a regional institutional infrastructure
(hereinafter referred to as “MNO-ETB”)

A. WHEREAS on April 17, 2014 the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) and the Government of Ontario (“Ontario”) executed a renewed Framework Agreement as a means to strengthen the relationship between Ontario and the MNO; recognize and support the MNO’s unique governance structure, institutions and administration; improve the well-being of Métis children, families and communities; and jointly protect and promote the distinct culture, identity and heritage of the Métis people in Ontario;

B. AND WHEREAS, the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement (“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;

C. AND WHEREAS, MEDU seeks to promote a strong, vibrant, publicly-funded education system focused on four goals which are achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence;

D. AND WHEREAS, over the last few years, MEDU and MNO-ETB have been engaged in an ongoing bilateral process with a view to improving Métis educational outcomes and promoting equity in Métis student achievement in Ontario, consistent with the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework;

E. AND WHEREAS, based on the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework, MNO-ETB 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;

F. AND WHEREAS, MEDU and MNO-ETB want to formalize their existing bilateral relationship with a view to maintaining an ongoing, results-oriented sectoral process.

NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree as follows:

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purposes of this MOU are to:

1.1.1 Formalize the working relationship between MEDU and MNO-ETB with a view to improving the educational outcomes of the Métis people in Ontario;

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

1.1.3 Identify and implement mutually agreed upon opportunities and partnerships to: (1) address the unique education needs of Métis students and families in Ontario, (2) reduce the gaps in Métis student achievement and retention with a view to improve student success and graduation rates, and, (3) increase the confidence of Métis parents in the education system.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The Parties agree to work on the following objectives:

2.1.1 Recognize and preserve the distinct history, identity and culture of the Métis people and their contributions to Ontario. In support of this goal, the Parties agree to:

(a) Identify activities which promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding among the Métis and other Ontarians, including enhancements to the Ontario curriculum and cultivating Ontario Public Service awareness of Métis history, culture and rights, and

(b) Explore initiatives to protect and preserve the Michif language in Ontario, and

(c) Promote Métis student self-identification;

2.1.2 Enhance the individual and community well-being of Métis with a view to closing the socio-economic gap that exists between Aboriginal peoples and other Ontarians. In support of this goal, the Parties recognize the need to:

(a) Improve academic achievement levels, student well-being and learning outcomes including graduation rates,

(b) Improve access that Métis people have to provincial services, including education supports,

(c) Advance initiatives that support Métis children and youth to reach their full potential,

(d) Improve effective participation in the design, development and delivery of Ontario policies and programs which significantly affect Métis people, and

(e) Other initiatives mutually agreed to by the Parties.

3.0 STRATEGIES, ACTIONS AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

3.1 In order to achieve this MOU’s purpose, MNO-ETB and MEDU agree to:

3.1.1 Establish a Working Group consisting of officials from MNO-ETB and MEDU that will meet as required in order to make progress on the purpose and objectives of this MOU;

3.1.2 Hold annual meetings between MEDU’s Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Aboriginal Education and the MNO’s Provincial Secretary in order to discuss issues of mutual interest and the progress being made on the implementation of this MOU;

3.1.3 Hold annual meetings between the Minister of Education and the MNO President in order to discuss issues of mutual interest and to assess the progress being made on the implementation of this MOU; and

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

3.2 The focus for the Working Group created pursuant to section 3.1.1 will be to:

3.2.1 Identify and explore project and program opportunities for Métis;

3.2.2 Identify potential partnership opportunities between MNO-ETB and MEDU in relation to the delivery of existing and future MEDU programs focused on student success, gap reduction and parent engagement;

3.2.3 Identify mutually agreeable opportunities for partnership between MNO-ETB and MEDU based on the MNO’s Métis Education Action Plan; and

3.2.4 Develop a mutually agreeable sectoral work plan in order to achieve the purpose of this MOU.

4.0 NOTICE

4.1 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-ETB:

Attention: MNO Chief Operating Officer
500 Old St. Patrick Road, Unit D
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9G4
Phone: 613-798-1488
Fax: 613-722-4225

In the case of MEDU:

Attention: Assistant Deputy Minister
French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division
900 Bay Street, Mowat Block
Toronto, ON, M7A 1L2
Phone: 416-325-2132
Fax: 416-327-1182

5.0 GENERAL

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

5.2 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 or terminated.

5.3 Either party may terminate this MOU by providing 90 days written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOU on the date first noted above.

Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario
Per:

Honourable Liz Sandals
Minister of Education

Métis Nation of Ontario
Per:

Gary Lipinski
President of the Métis Nation of Ontario

France Picotte
Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario