

## Terms of Reference

### **Project Advisory Group: Creating an Ideal Child, Youth and Family Services System for Métis in Ontario**

The government of Ontario and the government of Canada are both in the process of changing their approach to child welfare, particularly how child protection and Children’s Aid Society services are being delivered to indigenous communities. These shifts in government policy and legislation provide great opportunity for Métis communities to have significantly more control over the care and protection of their children and to ensure they maintain their culture and identity.

MNO has launched a project to improve the Child, Youth and Family Services system for Métis in Ontario. This project’s focus is:

- To create greater clarity about the role of MNO in current child welfare cases and more formalized relationships with local Children’s Aid Societies and Indigenous Well-being Agencies to address issues that continue to be problematic in the current system
- To develop a longer-term plan for how the Métis Nation will go forward with child, youth and family services in the future. This planning will be informed by conversations in Métis communities throughout Ontario.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Project Advisory Group is to provide advice to the project team so that project reports are comprehensive, and any options and recommendations are well thought through. As a sounding board for the project team at key milestones in the project, the Project Advisory Group is not a decision-making body.

Day-to-day approval of project deliverables rests with the CYFS Project Manager. Decisions related to acceptance of project recommendations will depend upon the nature of the recommendations; operational recommendations will be approved by the appropriate staff lead and those with significant impact will be taken to the PCMNO, and to Councils where appropriate, to allow for the applicable level of engagement.

#### **Membership**

Membership on the Committee should ensure broad representation from across the MNO, with members collectively exhibiting the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated interest in this area of work
- Possess a broad “systems knowledge” and perspective
- Understand the diversity of Ontario
- Recognize that their role on this Advisory Group involves providing their best advice for creating the ideal CFS system for the Métis Nation of Ontario

The Committee will be comprised of:

- Senior Staff (2)
- PCMNO (2)
- Youth Council (1)
- Senator (1)
- Citizen representatives (3-4)

PCMNO will have final approval of membership and the Chair.

### **Frequency and Duration**

The project's workplan and milestones will determine the timing of meetings of the Project Advisory Group; generally, about every six weeks is anticipated over the course of the project. Meetings may be by zoom/teleconference or in person. The Project Advisory Group will remain in place until project completion.