



## Liberal Party of Canada

350 Albert, Suite 920  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

## Parti Libéral du Canada

350 rue Albert, Suite 920  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

October 2, 2015

Gary Lipinski  
President, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)  
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 9G4

VIA E-MAIL

President Lipinski,

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude to you for taking the time to discuss the priorities of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

The Liberal Party of Canada is firmly committed to working on a Nation-to-Nation basis with the Métis Nation – including the Métis Nation of Ontario – in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to meaningfully engage, negotiate and reach just and lasting settlements with Métis communities. We believe this is essential to how reconciliation with the Métis Nation will be advanced and achieved.

In keeping with this, a Liberal government would work with the Métis Nation to establish a new federal claims process that sets out a framework to address Métis rights protected by the Constitution, recognize Métis self-government, and resolve outstanding claims against the Crown. We will also convert current year-to-year funding that is made available to provincial Métis organizations for Métis identification and registration, into a permanent initiative. This will provide an ongoing and reliable base of funding to undertake this important work of identifying Métis rights-holders

Further, as we know, Métis communities face unique socio-economic issues and challenges based on their distinct histories, geographies and on-the-ground realities. Improving Métis quality of life requires distinct and innovative approaches, and real partnership with the Métis Nation, as well as the provinces and territories. A Liberal government will work with these partners collaboratively to achieve real and positive results for Métis communities. As a part of this commitment, we will review, in partnership with the Métis Nation, existing federal programs and services available to the Métis, to identify gaps and areas where strategic investments are needed in order to improve Métis quality of life.

We will also renew the Aboriginal Strategic Employment and Training Strategy, and expand funding by \$50 million per year. We'll work with the Métis Nation to develop a real economic development strategy, and provide \$25 million over five years to fund its implementation. We will also fulfill the commitment in the Kelowna Accord to enhance existing scholarships and bursaries available to Métis students, at various colleges and universities across Canada, in partnership with the Métis Nation.

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The MNO can count on the Liberal Party of Canada to be a full, respectful partner in advancing meaningful reconciliation, and achieving positive outcomes for its citizens and the Métis Nation across Canada.

Thank you again for a great discussion. I look forward to working in close cooperation over the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

Justin P.J. Trudeau  
Chef du Parti libéral du Canada

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