

Real CHANGE

ADVANCING AND ACHIEVING, RECONCILIATION FOR THE MÉTIS NATION

The Métis are one of this country's three constitutionally-recognized Indigenous Peoples. Over the last several years, courts have repeatedly recognized that Métis communities possess Aboriginal rights protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and that certain Métis communities have outstanding claims with the Crown.

The unique rights and claims of the Métis Nation require the federal government – in collaboration with Métis people, the provinces, and territories – to meaningfully engage, negotiate, and reach just and lasting settlements with Métis communities. This is essential to how reconciliation will be meaningfully advanced and achieved with the Métis Nation.

A Liberal government will:

- Immediately establish a negotiations process between Canada and the Manitoba Métis Federation in order to settle the outstanding land claim of the Manitoba Métis community, as recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada (AG)*.

- Work with Métis people, as well as the provinces and territories, to establish a federal claims process that sets out a framework to address Métis rights

protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognize Métis self-government, and resolve outstanding Métis claims against the Crown.

- Convert current year-to-year funding – made available to provincial Métis communities for Métis identification and registration – into a permanent initiative. This will provide an ongoing and reliable base of funding for these groups to undertake this important work of identifying Métis rights-holders.

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Strengthening economic outcomes and opportunities

Métis individuals and communities face unique socio-economic issues and challenges based on their



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distinct histories, geographies, and on-the-ground realities. Improving Métis quality of life requires distinct and innovative approaches, and real partnership with Métis people, as well as the provinces and territories. A Liberal government is committed to working with these partners to achieve results for Métis children, youth, families, and communities.

A Liberal government will:

- Undertake a collaborative review, in partnership with Métis communities, of existing federal programs and services available to the Métis Nation, to identify gaps and areas where strategic investments are needed in order to improve Métis quality of life.
- Renew the Aboriginal Strategic Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS), including the continuation of nation-to-nation and distinctions-based approaches. These respect the unique realities of First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation, in the delivery of these programs and services to their communities. We will also expand ASETS funding by \$50 million per year.
- Work with Métis communities and existing Métis financial institutions to develop a Métis Economic Development Strategy that identifies strategic federal investments that can be made to enhance Métis entrepreneurship, as well as Métis participation in business development and economic growth. We will also provide \$25 million over five years to implement this new strategy.
- 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.

