



**Métis Nation of Ontario**  
Office of the President

December 16, 2015

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

**Re: Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada – Final Report**

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, I would like to congratulate you again for leading the Liberal Party to a convincing election victory on October 19, 2015.

Canadians have spoken loudly and decisively in support of the agenda set out in the Liberal Party’s platform, and your first weeks in office have already signalled a very positive time of change for Canada.

Yesterday, the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) issued their Final Report. The Report is the culmination of six years of extraordinary work. The Métis Nation of Ontario commends Justice Murray Sinclair, IPC, the Chair of the TRC, and his fellow Commissioners Chief Wilton Littlechild, IPC and Dr. Maria Wilson for their great service on behalf of all Canadians in leading the TRC process.

We also commend you and your government for the strong commitment you have made to fully implement the 94 Calls to Action set out in the TRC’s Report, including the announcement to launch a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

While it will take some time to consider the entire Final Report, we note that an entire volume of the six volume report has been dedicated to the Métis Experience in Canada’s Residential Schools (Volume 3). This volume speaks to the limits of the mandate provided to the TRC derived from the 2006 Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Settlement Agreement, and notes that the Métis experience of residential schooling has been overlooked for too long, describing this is an

‘ongoing shame’ that needs to be addressed and rectified. To that end, the Commission provided two specific Calls to Action:

- Calls to Action 29 calls on the federal government and all parties to work collaboratively with Métis plaintiffs and others who were not included in the IRS Settlement Agreement to have disputed legal issues determined expeditiously on an agreed upon set of facts.
- Call to Action 46 calls on the federal government and all parties to the IRS Settlement Agreement to develop and sign a Covenant of Reconciliation that would identify principles for working collaboratively to advance reconciliation in Canadian Society, and to ensure that the Métis and others excluded from the Settlement Agreement are able to sign on to that Covenant.

While some of the TRC’s 94 Calls to Action are specific to First Nations peoples, the majority are inclusive of all Aboriginal Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis).

The Métis Nation of Ontario supports the 94 Calls to Action set out by the TRC and is committed to working with your government as you move forward.

The Commissioners have also provided Canadians with a set of *Principles of Reconciliation* to guide reconciliation efforts, the first of which identifies the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

The second Principle of Reconciliation acknowledges First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples as the original peoples of this country and as self-determining peoples with Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized and respected.

The third Principle of Reconciliation provided by the TRC is that reconciliation is a process of healing of relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms. Until the story of Métis within the residential and day school systems are told, we will not be able to comprehensively address this next and more challenging step of Reconciliation.

While the TRC mandate did not include Métis-specific residential schools or day schools, the TRC process, in particular its statement-gathering process, saw many Métis from across Canada sharing their stories of experiences within residential and day schools. Their stories are compelling and speak to the importance of ensuring that the outstanding claims for Métis who suffered within these institutions are swiftly resolved.

Finally, the tenth Principle of Reconciliation speaks to the need for sustained public education and dialogue, and the importance of youth engagement in that process. The Métis Nation of Ontario fully concurs, and in fact a Métis Youth resolution put forward at our 2015 Annual General Assembly passed by consensus directed our provincial leadership to work with government to ensure that Métis are included in reconciliation efforts, and that our youth are engaged in those efforts.

These ten Principles of Reconciliation will be instrumental in guiding the work to advance reconciliation, as will the National Council for Reconciliation (Call to Action 53). Further to these principles, the Métis must be meaningfully included in the National Council established and the truth and reconciliation processes undertaken in Canada, and the Métis Nation of Ontario is committed to working with your government and the Government of Ontario as we move forward on this path of reconciliation.

In closing, I appreciate that you took the time to speak with me during the election and was very pleased that you addressed important Métis issues during the campaign. We are encouraged to see that the commitments made to Métis during the election have informed the mandate letters of your Cabinet Ministers. Working to advance reconciliation through a nation-to-nation relationship with Canada, we will build strong and prosperous Métis citizens, families and communities in Ontario. This will contribute to a stronger Ontario and Canada.

Once again, congratulations on your election success. I look forward to meeting with you and members of your Cabinet to discuss our shared goal of advancing

truth and reconciliation, and in particular, reconciliation between the Government of Canada and Ontario Métis.

Sincerely,

**Métis Nation of Ontario**



Gary Lipinski  
President

- c. Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario  
Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister, Indigenous and Northern Affairs  
Hon. David Zimmer, Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs  
Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada Commissioners  
Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario  
Métis Nation of Ontario Community Councils