



May 26, 2022

Ms. Jennifer St. Germain
Chief Strategy Officer, Métis Nation of Ontario
Suite 1100, 66 Slater St.
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H1

Sent by Email: matthewr@metisnation.com

Re: Ontario Progressive Conservative's 2022 Political Election Priorities – Métis Nation of Ontario

Dear Ms. Jennifer St. Germain,

Thank you for taking the time to write to Doug Ford and the Ontario Progressive Conservative campaign on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario about the interests of Métis family and communities across the province.

Our government, under the leadership of Doug Ford, is proud to have built strong relationships with Indigenous leaders. We are also proud to have partnered and worked collaboratively with Indigenous leaders and communities across the province on environmental, infrastructure, education, mental health, and northern development projects.

For the first time since 2000, our government updated the Indigenous Studies curriculum with the release of the new *First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies, Grades 9 - 12, curriculum* on the Ministry of Education's website for school boards, educators, parents, and Indigenous communities and partners. To implement the revised First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies curriculum, we committed \$3.25 million to support school boards. The curriculum, comprising ten secondary courses, provides students with up-to-date learning about First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, cultures, contributions, and contemporary realities in areas such as art, literature, law, humanities, politics, and history - to ensure that Indigenous perspectives are present in Ontario's curriculum.

As a step to address long-standing issues Indigenous students face, our government invested \$17 million dollars over three years to support First Nation, Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous education partners. Providing certainty for school boards while ensuring safe learning environments for Indigenous students, either in person, or through remote and alternative learning options.

In response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, our government created *Pathways to Safety: Ontario's Strategy in Response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* in close partnership with a cross-section of members from Indigenous communities and Indigenous partners. Pathways to Safety includes 118 initiatives organized under six pathways that will help create the changes required to eliminate the root causes of violence, advance meaningful reconciliation, and address gaps in Ontario's current system of support for Indigenous women.



As part of our government's strategy, we extended the mandate of the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council beyond March 2022 so that Indigenous voices continue to drive the strategy's priorities and help build on the province's progress to date.

Our government also worked with Indigenous partners to explore opportunities to deepen Ontarian's collective awareness and understanding of the terrible legacy of the Residential School System. In October of 2021, we announced an investment of more than \$36 million in community-led mental health and addictions support for Indigenous communities across the province, including support for Residential School Survivors and their families. One month later, we announced our commitment to an additional \$10 million in funding, beyond the original \$10 million announcement in June 2021, to support the identification, investigation, protection, and commemoration of Residential School burials across the province.

The Ontario Progressive Conservatives understand that the important work we have accomplished in collaboration with Indigenous partners is just the beginning and we are committed to ensuring every First Nation, Métis, Inuit and Indigenous individual across Ontario is supported. If re-elected, we look forward to continuing strong partnerships with Indigenous leaders and the communities across the province and welcome the opportunity to continue to work closely with the Métis Nation of Ontario as we advance meaningful reconciliation.

Sincerely,

Ontario PC Campaign