



Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Resolution

DATE: May 28, 2023

Resolution MNLA230528-01

SUBJECT: Position Paper on the *UNDRIP Act*

MOVED BY: Michelle LeClair

Vice President

SECONDED BY: Laura Burnouf

Northern Region 1

DECISION: **CARRIED** (83 voted in favour, 7 voted in opposition, 2 abstained)

WHEREAS on June 21, 2021, the Government of Canada (Canada) enacted the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDRIP Act)*, which codifies Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP);

WHEREAS "Kwayskahstahsoowin" is the Cree word for "Setting Things Right" ("Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk" in Michif and "Ēla nideł Ēla Ēghēdēleda há" in Dēnē) which the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) believes is the overarching approach that Canada must adopt in the implementation of the *UNDRIP Act*;

WHEREAS the UNDRIP is an international human rights document that reflects the "minimum standards" of Indigenous rights around the world;

WHEREAS in carrying out the *UNDRIP Act* and its commitments set out therein, Canada must consider the diversity of Indigenous peoples and, in particular, the diversity of the identities, cultures, languages, customs, practices, rights and legal traditions of the Métis and of their institutions and governance structures, their relationships to the land, and Indigenous knowledge;

WHEREAS the MN-S has made it clear that the Métis expect a relationship with Canada which reflects the exercise of inherent Métis rights and jurisdiction of the Métis as a self-governing people;

WHEREAS the MN-S has set out its position and expectations in the position paper titled "Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ēla nideł Ēla Ēghēdēleda há", as it relates to self-government and the affirmation of jurisdictional areas;

WHEREAS the MN-S requires financial and technical capacity in order to further build and operate a Métis government that is able to deliver services, programs, and other supports to its Citizens such that its Citizens are able to enjoy the rights contained in UNDRIP and supported by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

WHEREAS the MN-S is best placed to determine its capacity needs given its proximity to, and its relationship with, its Citizens; and Canada's provision of funding must reflect the MN-S' input to ensure that current challenges around the chronic lack of capacity are eliminated; and

WHEREAS in the words of Louis Riel, the Métis "will not allow even the Dominion of Canada to trample on our rights";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) calls on Canada to meaningfully implement the UNDRIP and the *UNDRIP Act* in a manner that is grounded in the rights of self-determination and the right to self-government of the MN-S; and that particular attention be paid to the rights and special needs of Métis women, 2SLGBTWQQIA+ people, Elders, youth, and persons with disabilities, in the implementation of this *Act*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNLA support the MN-S' Position Paper titled as "Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ĕła nıdeł Ĕła Ĕghëdëleda há" (attached as "Appendix C") to be submitted to Canada for inclusion in the National Action Plan on the UNDRIP, as a reflection of what UNDRIP means to the Métis of Saskatchewan on May 28, 2023.

This is a certified copy of this resolution adopted on May 28, 2023, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



Richard Quintal
Clerk of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
