



Resolution Duly Approved by the
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan
Provincial Métis Council on October 15, 2024
#241015-08

Amendments to the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* to Add Language to the Preamble to Support Self-Government and an Affirmation of Métis Rights

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) recognizes the distinctiveness of Métis identity, culture, values and language - inclusive of knowledge keepers, Lii Vyeu Moond (“the old ones” or Elders), Youth, Women and distinctive resources – which is incorporated into proposals and decisions of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC);

WHEREAS the PMC (PMC Resolution #240417-02) supported proceeding with constitutional amendments related to the following areas in time for consideration at the Fall 2024 session of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA):

- Addition of language to support self-government and an affirmation of Métis rights to the Preamble of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan*;
- Election of provincial representatives for women and youth to be included in the provincial MN-S general election every four years;
- Provisions allowing for the creation of a Métis Judiciary;
- Changes to General Assembly provisions so eligibility for voting will be open to all MN-S citizens of voting age; and
- General clean-up (including but not limited to minor changes to grammar, consistency, and removal of 2007 election details);

WHEREAS the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* has been amended for the addition of language to support self-government and an affirmation of Métis rights to the Preamble of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan*; and

WHEREAS the *Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Act, 1999* requires constitutional amendments be supported by resolution of the PMC or by the signatures of five members of the MNLA, ensuring that the amendments are filed 30 days prior to the MNLA, or 14 days prior to the MNLA if the minimum 30 days’ notice of the MNLA is provided;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC supports the resolution and amendments to the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* for the addition of language to support self-government and an affirmation of Métis rights to the Preamble of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* set out in Annex A attached to this resolution.

Dated this 15th day of October, 2024

Moved by: Lisa McCallum, Secretary

Seconded by: Michelle LeClair, Vice President

ANNEX A to Resolution #241015-08

DATE:	November 2-3, 2024	Resolution #MNLA2411XX-XX
SUBJECT:	Constitutional Reform, Legislation	
MOVED BY:	Michelle LeClair	Vice President
SECONDED BY:	Lisa McCallum	Secretary
TITLE:	Adopt amendments to the <i>Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan</i> to add language to the Preamble to support self-government and an affirmation of Métis rights	

WHEREAS the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) established a committee to review the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* (the *Constitution*) and related legislation and directed that the committee would consult across the province of Saskatchewan on changes to the *Constitution* and related legislation (MNLA Resolution #190302-06);

WHEREAS after initial consultation it was determined that constitutional reform was needed and the MNLA supported continued consultation that would result in proposed amendments to the *Constitution* and legislation to be considered at a future date by the MNLA (MNLA Resolution #190414-11);

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) undertook community consultations with citizens throughout the province in 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 and in 2024 to solicit their views on constitutional reform and has incorporated this information into a substantial package of proposed constitutional amendments and legislation;

WHEREAS the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approved of a phased approach to constitutional reform to ensure thoughtful consideration by Métis citizens and by the officials elected to represent them (PMC Resolution #240417-01);

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the *Constitution* in order to strengthen the preamble by adding language to support self-government and affirm Métis rights; and

WHEREAS amending the *Constitution* in order to strengthen the preamble by adding language to support self-government and affirm Métis rights is supported by resolution of the PMC in alignment with the requirements for constitutional amendments in the *Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act, 1999*, Section 12, subsection 1;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *Constitution* be amended to add language to the Preamble to support self-government and an affirmation of Métis rights as set out in Annex A attached to this resolution.

(Annex A is attached to this resolution)

ANNEX A

The preamble to the Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan is deleted and replaced with the following:

“The Métis Nation is a distinct Indigenous people. The Métis are distinct from the Indians and Inuit and are the descendants of the historic Métis who evolved in what is now Western Canada and part of the northern United States as a people with a common political will and consciousness, history, culture, language and values.

We the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan:

- Affirm that the values of waahkoomiwayhk / wâhkôhtowin / ëlëlot'inë (“kinship and connectedness to each other”), shakihiwayhk / sâkihitowin / bëghahonëta hël (love) and aen manaachihitowin / manâcihitowin / Êla Bëk'ësorídlí - (“mutual respect”) are central values of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;
- Recognize Kaa tipaymishooyaahk (“we who own ourselves”) / Otipemisiwak (“our own boss”) / Dënë bëdagharí (“The people own themselves”) - that the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan is its own boss. This is a fundamental principle of Métis identity with deep historical roots. The Métis Nation within Saskatchewan has the existing inherent right to self-determination and has been governing itself for generations through the laws of the Prairie including the laws of St. Laurent, the laws of the Buffalo Hunt, the *Manitoba Act* proposed by the Riel Provisional Government and Louis Riel, the first premier of the province of Manitoba, and bylaws and constitutions for Métis representative organizations in Saskatchewan;
- Affirm that the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan’s self-determination, including its authority to govern itself is recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*; the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, dated February 23, 2023 and the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Canada dated June 27, 2019;
- Affirm the *Daniels* decision in which Métis fall within subsection 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867, and the bilateral government to government relationship between the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan and the federal government of Canada; and
- Affirm that Lii Vyeu Moond (“Elders”) are our knowledge keepers and serve as the voice to carry our history, and Lii Zaanfaan (“Children”) are our future. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan will hold children at the centre.

Having experienced physical and political conflict and dispossession in the late 1800's we are still engaged in a continuing struggle to rebuild our social cause and revive our cultural heritage and pride.

As such, we are striving for the political, legal and constitutional recognition and guarantees of the rights of our People, including the right to a land and resource base, self-government and self-government institutions through Treaty, land claims and all other measures necessary.

In order to achieve these objectives we are hereby re-establishing a strong and revitalized government within the province of Saskatchewan which must involve all sectors within our Society.

While pursuing these objectives within Saskatchewan, we are also committed to cooperating with the members of the Métis Nation in the rest of the Métis Homeland in order to develop a National Forum to represent our collective interests at the national and international levels.

Whereas section 35 of the *Constitution Act 1982* recognizes and affirms Métis as one of the three Aboriginal peoples of Canada and whereas the Métis Nation — Saskatchewan has adopted the national definition of Métis, we are further committed to promote National Registration of Métis Citizens.

We the citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan recognize:

- The inherent dignity and equality and rights that can never be taken away from Métis people is the foundation of Freedom, Justice and Peace in the Métis Nation;
- The ideal of all Métis enjoying civil and political freedom can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby every Métis may enjoy their civil, political rights, economic, social and cultural rights;
- The promotion of universal respect for and observance of all the collective and individual rights and freedoms of all Métis; and
- The Métis individual, having duties to other Métis individuals and to the Métis community to which they are a part has the responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of all Métis rights.

Therefore, we the citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan agree to the following articles:

- 1) All Métis have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right we the citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan will freely determine our political status and freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development;
- 2) The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan undertakes to respect and ensure the rights of all individuals within the nation and subject to its jurisdiction without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions;
- 3) To ensure that any Métis person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized is entitled to be heard by a competent authority of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan as provided for by law;
- 4) To ensure competent authorities as authorized pursuant to laws enacted by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall enforce such remedies when granted;
- 5) The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan undertakes to ensure the equal right of persons to enjoy all civil and political rights set forth in these articles;
- 6) Every Métis citizen shall have the right to liberty of movement to choose their residence;
- 7) No Métis citizen shall be deprived of the right to join a local in the community where they reside;
- 8) All Métis persons shall be equal before the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in Saskatchewan;
- 9) No Métis Person shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on their honour or reputation;
- 10) Every Métis Person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;
- 11) No Métis Person shall be subject to coercion that would impair their freedom to have or adopt a belief of their choice;
- 12) The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan shall have respect for the liberty of parents or guardians to ensure moral education of their children is in conformity with their own convictions;
- 13) Every Métis Person has the right to hold opinions without interference;
- 14) Every Métis Person shall have the right to expression including the freedom to seek, receive and import information and ideas of all kinds either in writing or print, in the form of art, or through any media of their choice;
- 15) The right of Métis People to assemble and organize at the community level is recognized;

- 16) Every Métis Person has the right of association subject only to a restriction that is prescribed by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and is necessary to protect the interests of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;
- 17) The family is the natural and fundamental group of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan and is entitled to protection by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan;
- 18) Every Métis child born of a Métis person is entitled to be registered as a citizen of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan;
- 19) Every Métis Person has the right to:
 - (a) Take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly, or through freely chosen representatives;
 - (b) To vote and to be elected to a Local or Regional Council, the Executive, the Provincial Métis or the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, subject only to appropriate restrictions on age or residence;
 - (c) All votes shall be of equal and universal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot which guarantees the free expression of the will of the electors; and
 - (d) All Métis shall have the right to access all public services offered through the Métis Nation affiliates.
- 20) All Métis persons are equal and entitled to protection by the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.”