



Office of the Provincial President

TO: Laura Burnouf, Representative, Northern Region 1

FROM: Glen McCallum, President

SUBJECT: MANDATE as Minister of Early Learning Child Care, Education, Language, and Identity

DATE: April 9, 2026

Dear Minister Burnouf,

Maarsii, thank you for agreeing to serve the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) as Minister of Early Learning Child Care, Education, Language and Identity, which includes the departments of Early Learning and Child Care, Post-Secondary/K–12 Education, and Language and Identity. In 2025, our citizens elected a new Government to stand up for our Métis citizens and to build a strong government that works for everyone. As members of this Provincial Métis Council, we must fulfill this mandate with purpose and force. We must meet a series of unprecedented challenges with a disciplined focus on core priorities.

This mandate letter describes your responsibilities and priorities moving forward. As accountability and transparency are the cornerstones of good government, I am making these letters public, so all citizens are informed of how their government is working for them.

Ministerial Responsibilities

As Minister, you are responsible for the following areas:

- Early Learning and Child Care, Post-Secondary and K–12 Education, Language and Identity;
- Relations with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada, Heritage Canada, the Office of the Commissioner for Indigenous Languages, Saskatchewan Ministries of Education and Advanced Education,



Indigenous Services Canada, Parks Canada Agency, the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, First Nations, and all learning institutes and organizations in Saskatchewan;

- All matters relating to the language and identity of the citizens of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan;
- All matters relating to early learning and the well-being of Métis children and families of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan;
- All matters relating to the support of Métis citizens in the pursuit of post-secondary education;
- Regular reporting to myself as the President, MN–S, on the status of your ministerial responsibilities.

Priorities

I expect you to work constructively with your colleagues, members of the PMC, the CEO, MN–S staff, and citizens to deliver on the MN–S priorities. This includes advancing the collective priorities set out in the Distinctions-Based Focus Plan, which charts a Métis-distinct path forward for the MN–S government based on the priorities of Elders, citizens, and the PMC. In addition to these collective priorities in the Distinctions-Based Focus Plan, you will have specific ministerial priorities, which are outlined below:

- Support negotiations for renewal of key funding agreements in Early Learning and Child Care, Post-Secondary Education and Language and Identity;
- Support the procurement of funding for K–12 education programming, supports, and infrastructure;
- Aim to increase the number of Heritage Michif, Northern Michif, Michif French, nēhiyawēwin (Cree), and Dēnesųtīné language speakers across the province through curriculum development, the creation of language-specific resources, and language revitalization programs;



- Lead the creation of a Métis-specific province-wide childcare program through the creation of childcare spaces, early learning and childcare resources, and the development of Early Childhood Educator support programs;
- Support the development of Métis families through the continuation of direct childcare support programs;
- Ensure that programming for Métis citizens affirms Métis distinction: identity, culture, values and language;
- Work towards reducing barriers by providing direct support to Métis post-secondary students, which will promote successful completion leading to equitable opportunities and stronger Métis communities;
- Work towards the creation of a way to collect and house oral history and knowledge, as well as artifacts. Develop a strategy for protection of artifacts and for working with museums, governments, and institutions to repatriate Métis artifacts and knowledge;
- Support research and development in collaboration with the Minister of Self-Government and Self-Determination of Métis language legislation that acknowledges the rich linguistic heritage of the MN–S Government and safeguards the vitality of these languages for future generations;
- Prepare your portfolio for MN–S Self-Government Agreement (treaty) implementation.

Working Together

We must deliver for our citizens as we exercise our inherent right to self-determination, including our right of self-government. Achieving these objectives will require collaboration and coordination with other ministers, as well as working closely with the Regions, Locals, and MN–S staff.

In addressing the tasks before us, we must remain true to what makes us distinct as Métis people. Our identity, our culture, our values and our language: these things we must keep



in mind as they direct our work. MN–S is a dynamic government that celebrates our Elders and our youth, cares for the most vulnerable among us, and strives for a better future for all citizens. If we work together, we can ensure a strong, healthy, vibrant future for all Métis in Saskatchewan.

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Glen McCallum
President, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan

Cc: Richard Quintal, CEO
Matthew Vermette, COO

