

# Métis Nation–Saskatchewan

## A Distinct Plan for the Departments of the MN–S

DISTINCTION BASED FOCUS PLAN 2025-2029

# DISTINCTION BASED FOCUS PLAN 2025-29

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MÉTIS NATION–SASKATCHEWAN PRESIDENT

# Glen McCallum

Tansi,

Like so many of our citizens, I grew up distanced from my Métis heritage, shaped by forces that sought to erase our identity. That experience has fueled my unwavering commitment over the past nine years to transform our government into one that reflects and protects who we are as Métis people. We have worked tirelessly to embed distinctions-based programs and services for Métis citizens that honour our identity, culture, values, and languages.

When I took my Oath of Office, following the 2024 election to serve as the President of the Metis Nation Saskatchewan for a third term, I pledged to kanawêyihtaman, the spirit and identity of our people and put the service to our Nation ahead of self-interest, honouring the spirit of Kihci-Manitou and the ancestors who carried us here. That sacred commitment continues to guide every decision we make as a government. I know my colleagues also honour their commitment, and as the Provincial Metis Council, we collectively work in solidarity to advance the priorities of our people that you will see within this document.

This year marked a historic milestone. We took a step further to introduce a Métis Distinction - Identity, Culture, Values, and Language resolution that was embraced and reaffirmed by our Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA). This resolution is foundational to every decision we make. This resolution is more than words; it is our declaration that our future will be built on the strength of our heritage and the wisdom of our ancestors.

This report is the culmination of that work and vision. It outlines a clear and ambitious path to self-determination and self-government, grounded in Métis culture. It reflects all voices who have shared their hopes for a stronger, united Métis Nation.

Together, we are revitalizing a rich Métis culture and identity and creating a future where every Métis citizen can thrive with pride in their identity. This is not just a plan—it is a promise to our people and to generations yet to come.

Ekosi, Tiniki,



Glen McCallum
*President, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan*

## MESSAGE FROM THE MÉTIS NATION–SASKATCHEWAN MINISTER OF SELF-GOVERNMENT, SELF-DETERMINATION & JUSTICE

# Brennan Merasty

Tansi,

To the citizens of the North, Central, and South of our Métis Nation–Saskatchewan, I present this Distinctions-Based Focus Plan with both pride and deep responsibility.

This plan marks a defining moment in our shared history. It reflects our transition from a provincial non-profit structure toward **a distinct Métis government grounded in self-determination**. For generations, Métis people have safeguarded our identity, our rights, and our way of life through resilience, unity, and unwavering commitment to one another. Today, we take a deliberate and historic step forward—one that honours the guidance of our Elders, the leadership of those who came before us, and the voices of citizens across our homeland.

**Métis distinction is not negotiable.** It is foundational. We are not a population within someone else's system. We are not an organization shaped to fit provincial frameworks. We are not an interest group.

We are a **Nation**—a distinct People with our own identity, cultures, languages, laws, kinship systems, and responsibilities. Across the North, Central, and South, our communities reflect diverse histories and ways of life. Whether through Northern Michif, Southern Michif, French Michif, Denesuline, or the rich cultural expressions that define our regions, these distinctions are not divisions. They are our strength. Together, they form the living reality of who we are as Métis people.

This Distinctions-Based Focus Plan is more than a strategic document. It is a **commitment to nationhood**. Developed through community-led engagement, guided by Knowledge Keepers, and shaped by the priorities shared by youth, families, and leaders throughout 2025, this plan sets a clear direction for strengthening Métis jurisdiction, advancing governance systems, and delivering programs and services that reflect our identity, culture, values, and languages.

As Minister of Self-Government, Self-Determination, and Justice, I view this plan as a foundational tool for the years ahead. It provides a clear framework for how we will reclaim and exercise our inherent rights, protect our lands and communities, and build a self-sufficient and accountable Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. It reinforces our responsibility to govern with integrity, respect, and collaboration—both within our Nation and in our relationships with other governments.

Most importantly, this plan belongs to the people. It carries your stories, your expectations, and your hopes for a stronger future. It is a living document—one that will grow and adapt alongside our Nation, guided by the principles of **wahkotowin**, **manacihitowin**, and the love and resilience that have always sustained us.

With confidence and conviction, I proudly endorse this Distinctions-Based Focus Plan. Together, we will continue building a Métis government that is grounded in our identity, accountable to our citizens, and driven by a shared vision of a healthier, stronger, and self-determined Métis Nation–Saskatchewan.

Ekosi, marsi,



Brennan Merasty
*Minister of Self-Government, Self-Determination & Justice, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan*

## THE DISTINCTIONS-BASED FOCUS PLAN:
# An Overview

### What is the Distinctions-Based Focus Plan?

The Distinctions-Based Focus Plan is a pivotal step on our journey to actualizing self-determination as a distinct Indigenous people and asserts our right to self-government on behalf of Metis citizens within Saskatchewan. This journey began generations ago with great leaders like Louis Riel fighting to protect our Nation in 1870 and standing up for our rights again in 1885 alongside Gabriel Dumont. It continued in 1993, when Métis Nation–Saskatchewan wrote our first constitution. Today our Nation continues this journey towards self-determination. In 2019 and 2023, we signed agreements with the Government of Canada committing to working towards the recognition of MN–S self-government. We continue to negotiate a modern Self-Government Agreement with Canada. This is the next step in our Nation's history making. During this period of transition, we have new opportunities to listen to and provide for our citizens. We are seeking to understand what our citizens need from MN–S as a government, so that we can be a strong, united people in the years to come. This time of transition for our Nation requires careful consideration of what we want our government to look like and do, which is the reason for this Distinctions-Based Focus Plan.

This plan is meant to advance our commitment to Métis-distinct governance, community-engaged planning and program delivery, and self-determination. This report is a map to guide MN–S government in our work over the next four years and to show citizens where we are going. This plan has been created by listening to the perspectives and priorities of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, the Provincial Métis Council, citizens, and Elders from across the province. This engagement with our community has allowed us to capture Métis visions for the future of MN–S and define what our government's priorities should be.

The Distinctions-Based Focus Plan is intended to show our dedication to inclusivity, collaboration, and impactful action. We aim to honour the unique needs and perspectives of our diverse community while charting a path that is forward-thinking and responsive to citizen needs.

This plan is a living document. It is intended to adapt to the changing circumstances and priorities of our government, while remaining anchored in our core values and the collective vision of a strong, healthy, and thriving Métis Nation–Saskatchewan.

### What is Métis Nation–Saskatchewan?

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan is the exclusive governing body mandated to represent the Métis collective in Saskatchewan. It is responsible for exercising the Métis right to self-government, delivering programs and services to its citizens, and engaging with Canada on questions that may impact Métis rights in Saskatchewan. Our government is committed to community-based and Métis-distinct governance, recognizing the strengths and value of grassroots leadership across the province.

Locals are the basic unit of government within the MN–S. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) includes 91 Local Presidents, 12 Regional Representatives, a province-wide elected executive, and delegates representing Métis Women and Youth. As the Nation's governing body, the MNLA is responsible for passing legislation that guides MN–S government action.

The PMC is made up of Regional Representatives from all 12 Regions, a provincially elected executive, and representatives for Métis women and youth.

The MN–S Public Service is responsible for the administration of the day-to-day operations of the Government. It is separate from the political arm of the government, focusing on enacting decisions made by PMC and MNLA, and interacting directly with citizens in community. The branches of the MN–S Government work together to serve our Métis citizens every day.

## Provincial Métis Council



**Glen McCallum**
**Economic Development, Tourism and Sports**
MN–S President



**Michelle LeClair**
MN–S Vice-President



**Marlene Hansen**
Secretary



**Jeremy Denomie**
Treasurer



**Loretta King**
**Child and Family Services**
Western Region 1



**Darcy Lepowick**
**Lands and Resources, Agriculture and Environment**
Eastern Region 2A



**Laura Burnouf**
**Early Learning and Child Care, Education, Language and Identity**
Northern Region 1



**Marg Friesen**
**Finance**
Eastern Region 3



**Brennan Merasty**
**Self-Determination and Self-Government, Justice**
Northern Region 3



**Billy Kennedy**
**Housing and Homelessness**
Western Region 1A



**Beverly Fullerton**
**Health and Mental Health, and Addictions**
Western Region 2A



**Ryan Carriere**
**Veterans**
Eastern Region 1



**Leonard Montgrand**
**Northern Affairs and Emergency Management**
Northern Region 2



**Sherry McLennan**
Western Region 2



**Brent Digness**
Eastern Region 2



**Wendy Gervais**
Western Region 3



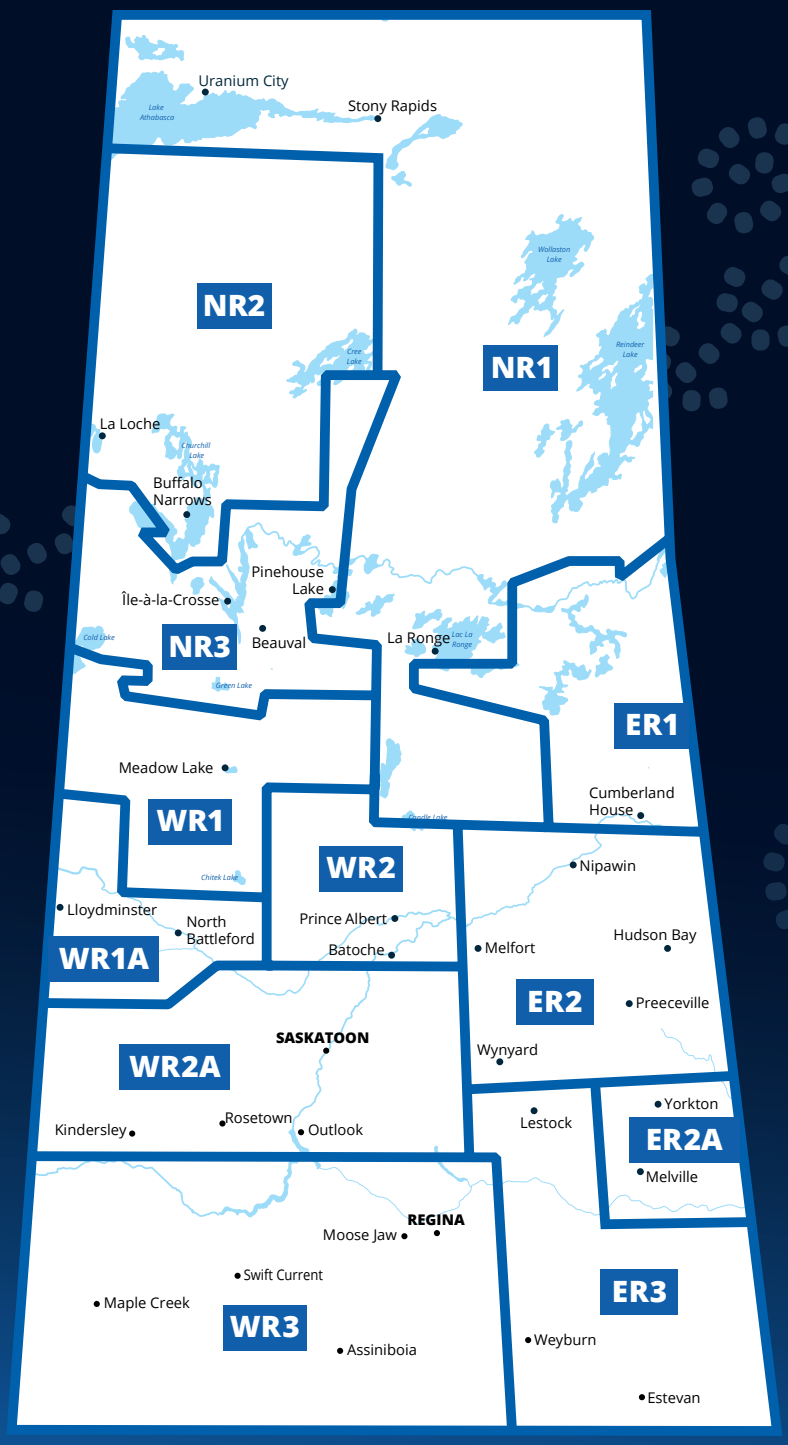
**Rachael Frerichs (Heiser)**
Provincial Métis Youth Council President



**Darlene Langan**
Acting President
Les Fille de Madelaine

Métis Nation Saskatchewan

# Regiona




*Métis Nation–Saskatchewan / Province of Saskatchewan*

## NR1 NORTHERN REGION 1

| | |
|---|---|
| 16 | Weyakwin |
| 19 | La Ronge |
| 20 | Timber Bay |
| 50 | Uranium City |
| 80 | Stony Rapids |

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Laura Burnouf**

## NR2 NORTHERN REGION 2

| | |
|---|---|
| 39 | La Loche |
| 40 | Turnor Lake |
| 62 | Buffalo Narrows |
| 65 | Michel Village |
| 70 | St. Georges Hill |
| 156 | Bear Creek |
| 162 | Black Point |

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Leonard Montgrand**

## NR3 NORTHERN REGION 3

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 | Green Lake |
| 9 | Kineepik |
| 21 | A La Baie |
| 37 | Beauval |
| 38 | Jans Bay |
| 41 | Cole Bay |
| 67 | Dore/Sled Lake |
| 82 | Patuanak |
| 174 | Canoe River |
| 176 | Sapawgamik |

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Brennan Merasty**

**PMYC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**
**Haley Burnouf**

## WR1 WESTERN REGION 1

| | |
|---|---|
| 31 | Meadow Lake |
| 64 | Leoville |
| 71 | Pierceland |
| 72 | Livelong |
| 75 | Glaslyn |
| 91 | Rush Lake |
| 97 | Chitek Lake |
| 118 | Brightsand |
| 136 | Spiritwood |
| 161 | Midnight Lake |

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Loretta King**

# al Map & Locals

## WR1A WESTERN REGION 1A

18 Lloydminster
76 Lloydminster
106 North Battleford
30 Battlefords

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Billy Kennedy**

**PMYC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**
**Leah Boyer**
**Allysa Woodrow**

## WR2 WESTERN REGION 2

7 Prince Albert
10 Duck Lake
28 St. Louis
43 Kinistino
51 Batoche
59 Big River
61 Debden
66 Crutwell
77 Leask
81 Shell Lake
83 MacDowall
109 Nordale
113 Marcelin
269 Sask Rivers

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Sherry McLennan**

## WR2A WESTERN REGION 2A

11 Gabriel Dumont
11a Victoria Racette
53 Biggar
55 Cando-Baljennie
85 West Central Local
126 Saskatoon
165 CUMFI
Allan 1885

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Beverly Fullerton**

## WR3 WESTERN REGION 3

17 Willow Bunch
29 Regina Beach
33 Riel Métis Council
34 Queen's City
35 Lii Bufloo
160 Moose Jaw

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Wendy Gervais**

**PMYC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**
**Jonah Durnin**
**Zypora Petrowsky**

## ER1 EASTERN REGION 1

42 Cumberland House

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Ryan Carriere**

## ER2 EASTERN REGION 2

22 Melfort
58 Archerwill
111 Chelan
Porcupine Plain
114 Hudson Bay
116 Wynyard
134 Nipawin
137 Carrot River
138 Sturgis
222 Tisdale

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Brent Digness**

## ER2A EASTERN REGION 2A

13 Yorkton
15 Melville
45 Langenburg
47 Crescent Lake
84 Esterhazy
139 Springside
163 Togo

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Darcy Lepowick**

## ER3 EASTERN REGION 3

6 Fort Qu'Appelle
8 Lestock
25 Estevan
44 Moosomin
48 Lebret
87 Weyburn
103 Sintaluta
135 Rocanville
182 Moose Mountain

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
**Marg Friesen**

**PMYC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**
**Jack LaCroix**
**Charlie Mondor**

# Guiding Values and Core Principles

These Guiding Principles and Core Values are at the heart of MN–S Government and have shaped this report's Métis-distinct priorities. The principles and values were identified in consultation with Métis Elders and the PMC, through visiting sessions and deep listening. These principles and values highlight distinctly Métis ways of relating and acting, based on insights shared by Knowledge Keepers.

## Core Values

These values represent our core beliefs. They have been shaped by our families, our communities, our culture, and our traditions as Métis people. These values guide how the MN–S government approaches its work in a good way. By identifying these values here, we can ensure these values inform MN–S's delivery of programs and services, grounded in our Métis ways. This is a process of revitalization; together we must recognize the values at the core of our Métis identity and build them into our communities and programs.

**kishkayihtamowin / kiskiyihtamowiwin * (Capacity of Knowledge)** - Knowledge keepers hold the wisdom of our Métis distinction— our identity, culture, language, and values.

**waahkoomiwayhk / wahkotowin / ma paraantii / ëłëlot'ınë (Laws of Kinship)** – Commitment to working together at all levels to ensure work is done in good faith.

**aen manaachihitowin / manacihitowin / rispay / Ełа Bëk'ësorídlı (Treating Others with Respect)** - Listening, being present, and communicating in a good way.

**shakihiwayhk / sahkihitowin / aamoor / bëghąhonëtą hël (Love and Compassion)** - Reciprocity and taking care of one another as a community.

**miyoayaanaaniwun / miyoyawiwihn* (Mental, Spiritual, Physical and Emotional Wellness)** - A focus on healing and holistic wellbeing for groundedness and balance

*Michif French and Dene translations to come.*

# Guiding Principles

**These guiding principles outline how we put our core values into action everyday as a Métis government.**

## Inclusivity & Compassion

Creating programs and services that serve the diverse Métis communities across Saskatchewan.

## Acceptance & Understanding Diversity

Promoting the acknowledgment of diversity in the Métis Nation and responding with respect and empathy.

## Integrity & Transparency

Demonstrating and promoting honesty along with strong moral principles across all levels of government to foster fairness and ensure that actions prioritize the citizens' best interests.

## Resiliency & Perseverance

Ongoing support for Métis values, culture, language, and community, while advocating for citizens' inherent rights despite setbacks or obstacles.

## Strength, Hard Work & Action

Continuous effort to support a functioning and effective Government that serves the citizens of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan.

# What We Did to Create this Report

This plan reflects the interests and priorities of Métis citizens, including Elders, youth, women, and leadership from across the province. We have gathered information from citizens and leaders throughout 2025, culminating in a three-day priority-setting session with members of the PMC in September 2025.

At this PMC session, Elder Don Caisse shared a story that had come to him while praying. Elder Caisse told us about the practice of using moss to mark your way when traveling in the bush. He told us about collecting moss as you go, and putting handfuls of that moss on trees that you passed to guide you on your way back. Elder Caisse explained that this was what attendees at the session were doing: gathering moss. The moss represented the personal connections being made that day—we were acting as moss for one another, and we could rely on each other when needed. This story also reflects the process of gathering the perspectives of attendees to include in this report—the moss we gathered by listening to Elders, citizens, and the PMC will guide our government on our journey, ensuring we stay on track.

Feedback from citizens, Elders, and the PMC were gathered in several sessions leading up to the PMC planning session. Each of these engagement opportunities provided important information to help shape MN-S's key priorities for the next four years:

## 1. In-person citizen surveys at Back to Batoche (over 250 responses received) and an online citizen engagement survey (662 responses received).

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED:

- Increasing support programs for youth and Elders.
- Building a strong, united, and self-sufficient government.
- Expanding opportunities to develop economic self-sufficiency.
- Improving access to health and mental health programs and services.
- Preserving and expanding knowledge of Métis culture and language.

## 2. An Elder's visiting session, held in September 2025.

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED:

- Developing Métis-distinct governance structures.
- Prioritizing teaching and learning Métis languages.
- Fostering pride in Métis identity.
- Engaging meaningfully with Elders and youth.
- Providing services to address addictions.
- Addressing the impacts of climate change.



## 3. One-on-one interviews with PMC members.

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED:

- Creating and expanding Métis-distinct health and mental health programs and services.
- Improving collaboration within the MN–S government, particularly between the PMC, Regions, Locals, and MN–S Government.
- Increasing the availability of housing programs and funding.
- Promoting economic empowerment for Regions.
- Engaging youth and Elders.
- Supporting the revitalization of Métis culture and language.

## 4. PMC Distinctions-Based Planning Session, held in September 2025.

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED:

- Increasing government capacity and reclaiming jurisdiction.
- Strengthening knowledge of and engagement with Métis identity.
- Prioritizing land rights and land protection.
- Creating Métis-distinct health and wellness programs and services.
- Building opportunities for Métis-distinct education and research.
- Forming strong partnerships with government and industry to support economic growth.

We thank everyone who shared their stories, opinions, and perspectives on the future of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. We also thank Elder Don Caisse for letting us share his traditional knowledge and story.

# VISION

The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan is a self-governing nation, grounded in our distinct identity, culture, values, and languages, committed to our community and to the exercise of our inherent rights for the benefit of our community.

# MISSION

Our government will act in unity to protect and advance our traditional homeland, pride in Métis identity, and the inherent rights of our citizens while engaging and connecting with those we serve.

PRIORITY:

# Governance & Self-Determination

**What is Métis Nation–Saskatchewan?**

As we continue our path to self-government, protecting and advancing Métis rights has become more important than ever before. Advancing Métis jurisdiction and authority requires having Métis-distinct governance systems in place to meet these new opportunities. Metis-distinct governance systems must be based on our history, languages, traditions, and values. They must reflect the resilience and perseverance that have allowed the Métis Nation to thrive for hundreds of years. They must be centred on community-minded action, accountability, and building trust amongst our citizens. This is an exciting time of change for our Nation, and we have the opportunity to expand our governance capacity, assert our inherent rights, and demonstrate what Métis-distinct governance looks like.

**Our Governance & Self-Determination priorities include:**

- Advancing Self-Government Agreement negotiations (treaty) and jurisdictional authority, including Child and Family Services.
- Protecting and affirming Métis section 35 rights.
- Developing capacity for application and enforcement of MN–S laws.
- Enhancing MN–S Local and Regional capacity.
- Clarifying governance relationships and strengthening collaboration across all levels of MN–S government.
- Embedding Elders' roles and perspectives in governance structures.
- Developing Métis-distinct legislation and policy.
- Promoting community engagement and intergovernmental relationships.

**Métis distinction is the compass that guides our Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. It is deeply rooted in identity, culture, values, and languages, and this Distinctions-Based Focus Plan marks a historic commitment to reclaiming our inherent rights, strengthening our governance, and advancing self-determined, healthy, and thriving Métis communities across the Métis Heartland.**

*Minister of Self-Government and Self-Determination, and Justice,*
***Brennan Merasty***

**PRIORITY:**

# Health, Wellness & Safety

Healthy citizens and communities are the foundation of a strong and thriving Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. Health is understood holistically, including mental, physical, social, environmental, and spiritual wellness. This means undertaking ambitious projects to build health and wellness supports that respond to Métis community needs and doing so through a trauma-informed lens. More than just providing health services to Métis citizens, we must also invest in Métis-led research to better understand Métis citizens' health needs and plan for a healthy future for our citizens. Building holistic, community-oriented programs and services supports the long-term wellbeing of our people.

**Our health, wellness, and safety priorities include:**

- Improving health and safety of Métis communities.
- Increasing availability of mental health and addictions supports.
- Supporting the development and implementation of Métis-distinct health programs and services.
- Increasing access to housing and shelters, especially for youth and Elders.
- Developing indicators of health and well-being among Métis in Saskatchewan.
- Securing long-term funding for research and data collection.
- Developing emergency response plans.
- Building capacity to deliver health programs through intergovernmental service agreements.

**The health and wellness of Métis citizens must remain at the heart of our government's work. Through a distinctions-based approach, we are advancing Métis-led and culturally grounded health, mental health, and addictions supports that reflect the realities of our Nation, promote healing, and strengthen the wellbeing of Métis families, communities, and future generations.**

*Minister of Health & Mental Health & Addictions,*
***Beverly Fullerton***

PRIORITY:

# Education & Knowledge Sharing

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan has a proud and storied history that deserves to be shared widely, in our own communities and beyond. Our history, culture, and values are held by our Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and we must protect and preserve this knowledge for future generations. Intergenerational education allows youth to inherent knowledge from Elders, keeping our culture and languages alive.

Education and knowledge sharing include learning in institutional settings as well as in community. These diverse educational opportunities provide pathways for all learners to develop pride in their Métis heritage as well as the skills and knowledge to become leaders in all sectors of society. Investing in Métis-led research and storytelling also allows us to share our important history and culture with the wider Saskatchewan community. This work helps build relationships and set the stage for reconciliation efforts.

**Our Education & Knowledge Sharing priorities include:**

- Respecting and strengthening relationships with Knowledge Keepers and Elders.
- Developing mentorship opportunities for youth.
- Expanding language and cultural education.
- Integrating Métis culture and history into education systems.
- Expanding initiatives to promote public understanding of Métis identity, history, and culture.
- Protecting data and intellectual property, including Métis stories and traditional knowledge.
- Supporting Métis-led research and data collection to identify gaps and needs in relation to shared indicators and determinants.
- Developing Métis-distinct legislation and policy.
- Promoting community engagement and intergovernmental relationships.

**Language is the foundation of lifelong learning and must be rooted in our culture. Forming a distinct based focus approach ensures that we maintain, protect and preserve our Michif way of knowing. Our communities and schools will be guided by these principles that will result in intergenerational connection which in turn keeps our people resilient and flourishing.**

*Minister of Early Learning and Child Care, Education, Language and Identity,*
***Laura Burnouf***

**PRIORITY:**

# Economic Self-Sufficiency & Sovereignty

Economic self-sufficiency goes hand in hand with Métis self-governance. As we continue on the path of self-government, economic development supports the Nation's independence and continued growth. Entrepreneurship is strong among Métis citizens, and we must nurture that spirit to reward our communities. The growth of industry should always be led by our own citizens and communities, allowing us to benefit from development and ensure it is done in line with Métis values and traditions. Supporting economic opportunities for citizens and communities strengthens Métis Nation's capacity for self-sufficiency and supports community wellbeing across the province.

**Our Economic Self-Sufficiency & Sovereignty priorities include:**

- Promoting economic sovereignty through Métis-led projects to serve Métis citizens.
- Strengthening business and entrepreneurial development.
- Building partnerships and collaborative relationships.
- Supporting mentorship and succession planning for youth.
- Investing in community infrastructure projects.
- Facilitating financial transfer and resource revenue sharing agreements.
- Protecting livelihoods built on land-based economies and practices.
- Encouraging economic sustainability.

**Economic development is a pillar of self-government, providing the financial means to be self-reliant. As the government representing Métis citizens in Saskatchewan, it is our responsibility to create partnerships and opportunities that bring Métis-distinct considerations and funding sources to our regions and locals. These must also that align with our core cultural priorities. When we succeed as Métis entrepreneurs, we all win as Canadians.**

*Economic Development, Tourism and Sports,*
***President Glen McCallum***

PRIORITY:

# Land, Environment & Sustainability

Land is at the centre of Métis identity and community. Métis have distinct rights and relationships to the land, which extend back many generations. It is our obligation as stewards of this land to advocate for Métis land rights and protect our environment for future generations.

Land also connects to many other areas of Métis governance. It underpins the economic and educational capacity of our communities. It supports food sovereignty and physical and mental wellbeing for healthy communities. Our history on the land, our obligations to protect all of creation, and our spiritual connection to land and the Creator is integral to who we are as a people.

**Our Land, Environment & Sustainability priorities include:**

- Asserting and protecting our inherent rights over harvesting, land, and environment.
- Centering stewardship in our relationship to the land.
- Recognizing and supporting traditional knowledge and our connection to traditional lands.
- Advancing research, mapping, and stewardship of Métis land and resources.
- Promoting food security and sustainability, including through supporting fisheries and wildlife management.
- Affirming Métis sovereignty, jurisdiction, and land rights, including negotiating the Northwest Land Claim.
- Advocating for Métis involvement in matters related to federal lands, including national parks, fisheries, environmental assessments, and potential disposal of federal Crown lands in Saskatchewan.

**Our people have always depended on the land for our way of life. By protecting and managing our resources responsibly, we ensure that Métis citizens can continue harvesting, working, and living from the land, while passing the knowledge of our Elders on to the next generation so our distinct Métis culture and traditions are never lost.**

*Minister of Land & Resources, Agriculture & Environment,*
***Darcy Lepowick***

# How We Will Monitor Progress

To ensure this plan can effectively guide the MN–S government forward, we are creating a process for two-way communication between MN-S leadership, Regions, Locals, MN–S governments and citizens. We must create tools to help monitor progress and incorporate changing priorities. This plan is a living document, and we will continually share it, receive feedback, and readjust our priorities over the next four years. Communication on progress and opportunities for feedback will come via:

## 1. MONTHLY MINISTERIAL REPORTS

Since 2022, monthly reporting has been a core part of how MN-S monitors progress, strengthens accountability, and supports informed decision-making across all ministers. Building on this established foundation, Monthly Ministerial Briefings will continue to serve as the primary mechanism for communicating progress on priority objectives across all ministries. Each department prepares a concise monthly report that outlines key achievements, emerging challenges, and ongoing community engagement. These departmental updates feed directly into the Ministerial Briefing system, ensuring that Ministers receive consistent, timely, and actionable information.

To honour the ongoing work of the dedicated teams who have upheld this reporting system since it's inception, MN-S will continue refining standardized tools and templates that promote clear, coherent, and effective reporting. This aligned structure enables departments to track their activities alongside progress on priorities, reinforcing transparency, and supporting strong, collaborative governance across the MN-S government.

## 2. ANNUAL "MN–S STATE OF THE NATION" REPORT

The State of the Nation Report will serve as MN-S's comprehensive public report, bringing together financial reporting, operational performance, and progress on the Distinctions-Based Focus Plan. Presented by the President at the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly and published on the MN-S website, this report will provide citizens with a clear, transparent, and accessible overview of the work undertaken across the MN-S government. It will highlight achievements, identify challenges, and outline progress across all ministries and focus areas.

Grounded in Metis identity, culture, language, and values, the report will incorporate insights from Elders; use Southern (Heritage) Michif, French Michif, Cree, and Dënesųłinë languages; and share regional and community stories to honour the voices and experiences of citizens. By weaving together financial results, operational updates, and distinctions-based priority outcomes, the State of the Nation Report will offer a holistic view of our Nation's growth, governance, and collective progress.

## 3. PMC REVIEW AND REALIGNMENT SESSIONS

The PMC will receive updates on progress toward the distinctions-based goals twice a year, as part of the ministerial reporting currently aligned with the MNLA. Ministries will report on their activities that contribute to the five Focus Areas. This information will be compiled for presentation at a PMC meeting, allowing the PMC to check in on progress and assess changing needs every six months.

## 4. CITIZEN-FOCUSED COMMUNICATIONS

The MN–S will provide opportunities for citizens to follow along with progress on the Distinctions-Based Focus Plan priorities. Updates will be available on the MN–S webpage, including through our Frequently Asked Questions forum, as well as through our social media channels and the monthly Our Nation newsletter.

# Looking Ahead

This report offers an ambitious plan to move the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan forward but will also require the nation to adapt its operations to new goals and circumstances. As part of the commitment to these distinctions-based priorities, we are invested in expanding the operational capacity of MN–S. Over the next four years, to increase transparency and effectiveness, we will:

- Expand governance training for Locals and Regions.
- Build stronger communications pathways between different levels of our government.
- Develop a systematic ministerial briefing process.
- Foster citizen engagement and processes for incorporating feedback into our distinctions-based planning.
- Build a communal problem-solving process, based in Métis-distinct community processes.
- Review and expand feedback and communication systems to ensure the plan is responsive to changing priorities.

# Conclusion

This report is the result of the dedicated work of many people, including the Provincial Métis Council, MN–S Staff, Elders, and citizens. Their collaborative efforts have resulted in a Distinctions-Based Focus Plan that centres Métis culture, knowledge, and priorities. We thank everyone who helped shape the future of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan.

As we move forward, this plan will continue to evolve in response to the needs and priorities of Métis citizens. We remain committed to transparency, collaboration, and adaptability as we work together to achieve the vision outlined in this document.





**The Métis are recognized in the 1982 Canadian Constitution "Section 35 (1) the existing Treaty and aboriginal rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed;" (2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples.**



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