

AGREEMENT FOR RECOGNIZING MÉTIS NATION CITIZENSHIP

THIS AGREEMENT is effective from the 27th day of November 2021

BETWEEN: **Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**
as represented by its President
("MN–S")

- and -

University of Saskatchewan
as represented by its President and Vice-Chancellor
("USask")

(hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party")

WHEREAS the Métis are one of the Indigenous peoples who lived in the historic Northwest prior to Canada's westward expansion, and who have developed shared customs, traditions, and collective identities rooted in kinship, their unique relationship to the land, and a distinct culture and way of life;

AND WHEREAS section 35, Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the "Aboriginal peoples of Canada," including Métis peoples;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan have established the MN–S as the government to represent them through democratically elected governance structures;

AND WHEREAS the MN–S, as the government of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan, is mandated to advance Métis rights, including those to self-determination and self-government, in Saskatchewan;

AND WHEREAS that the MN–S is mandated to represent the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan in respect of Métis rights, including those to self-determination and self-government, and that the MN–S's mandate flows from its recognition as the government of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan, its established Citizenship Registry, its democratic self-government institutions at the provincial, regional, and local levels, and the express authorizations set out in the MN–S Constitution and other MN–S legislative documents;

AND WHEREAS the USask recognizes and respects the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan's unique history, culture, traditions, and rights as Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan, as well as their important role in the history and development of Saskatchewan specifically and western Canada generally;

AND WHEREAS the USask has made an institutional commitment to Indigenize academia and has integrated this commitment into its University Plan 2025, a forward-thinking, strategic document that guides the USask's aspirations leading up to 2025;

AND WHEREAS the Parties have a common goal to ensure that Métis peoples are able to access, and to fully participate in, professional opportunities;

AND WHEREAS the Parties have agreed to engage in activities that support Métis peoples' access to, and full participation in, all of USask's offerings of professional opportunities;

AND WHEREAS the MN–S legislative assembly adopted a Resolution, dated November 24, 2019, mandating the MN–S to call on academic institutions, industry, and governments to recognize and respect the MN–S's citizenship process and requirements;



AND WHEREAS the MN-S has established a Citizenship Registry to verify the Métis Citizenship of individuals in the Métis Nation in accordance with the MN-S Constitution and the MN-S Citizenship Act, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions”;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has enacted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, S.C. 2021, c. 14, which requires the Government of Canada to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

AND WHEREAS the Parties are committed to achieving reconciliation, which requires, among other things, a recognition of Indigenous self-government, laws, perspectives, and rights as critical components of their relationship.

NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree as follows:

1. **DEFINITIONS**

1.1. In this Agreement:

“Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland;

“Historic Métis Nation Homeland” means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-breeds as they were then known;

“Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation;

“Métis Citizenship” means the citizenship of an individual:

- (a) Who is a registered citizen of the MN-S pursuant to its Constitution; or
- (b) Who is a registered citizen of an MN-S recognized Métis Nation government, with a recognized Métis citizenship registry;

“Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation which is now comprised of Métis citizens and is one of the “Aboriginal peoples of Canada” within the meaning of section 35, Constitution Act, 1982;

“Agreement” means this Agreement;

“Students” means students including, but not limited to, certificate students, graduate students, professional students, and undergraduate students; and

“Workers” means professionals including, but not limited to, adjunct professors, consultants, employees, independent contractors, staff members, teaching assistants, and tenured professors.

1.2. In this Agreement, words and phrases with specific meanings have been identified in the text by capitalization of the word or phrase.

1.3. In this Agreement, a citation of, or a reference to, any legislation is deemed to be a citation of, or a reference to, the legislation as amended from time to time.



2. PURPOSE

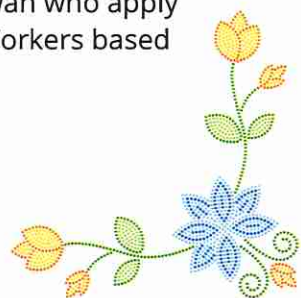
- 2.1. This Agreement is intended to formalize the Parties' shared commitment to establishing:
- (a) a process for ensuring that Students who are enrolled at, or who are offered awards, financial assistance, positions, or other opportunities by, the USask based on Métis identity meet the Métis Citizenship criteria;
 - (b) a process for ensuring that Workers who are professionally engaged by the USask based on Métis identity meet the Métis Citizenship criteria;
 - (c) a process for ensuring that any research funding designated for Métis is provided solely to individuals who meet the Métis Citizenship criteria; and
 - (d) a process for ensuring that any Procurement opportunities designated for Métis are provided solely to individuals who meet the Métis Citizenship criteria.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The Parties agree that it is in their common interest to establish a formal, objective, and secure process for verifying the Métis Citizenship of individuals who apply for the USask's equity-based opportunities or positions for Students or Workers based on Métis identity, which process will:
- (a) protect the USask's integrity and reputation by ensuring that Students who are enrolled at, or who are offered awards, financial assistance, positions, or other opportunities by, the USask based on Métis identity meet the Métis Citizenship criteria;
 - (b) protect the USask's integrity and reputation by ensuring that Workers who are professionally engaged by the USask based on Métis identity meet the Métis Citizenship criteria;
 - (c) protect the Métis Nation's identity as an "Aboriginal people of Canada";
 - (d) prevent the harmful appropriation of Métis Citizenship by individuals who neither have Métis Citizenship nor qualify for Métis Citizenship;
 - (e) respect the Métis Nation's right to self-determination and self-government, including to establish its own administrative procedures, laws, and practices for the purpose of determining its own citizenship; and
 - (f) support and advance the Parties' commitment to reconciliation.
- 3.2. The Parties agree that the objectives set out in Section 3.1 will be advanced through their respective commitments contained herein.

4. MN-S's COMMITMENTS

- 4.1. The MN-S and its Citizenship Registry will assist individuals who apply for Métis citizenship with the MN-S through its existing formal, objective, and secure citizenship application review process.
- 4.2. The MN-S will collaborate with the USask to establish a formal, objective, and secure process for verifying the Métis Citizenship of individuals from Saskatchewan who apply for the USask's equity-based opportunities or positions for Students or Workers based on Métis identity.



- 4.3. The MN-S will work with other Métis Nation governments, and their respective Citizenship Registries, to establish a formal, objective, and secure process for verifying the Métis Citizenship of individuals outside of Saskatchewan who apply for the USask's equity-based opportunities or positions for Students or Workers based on Métis identity.

5. **USASK'S COMMITMENTS**

- 5.1. The USask will require individuals who apply for the USask's equity-based opportunities or positions for Students or Workers based on Métis identity to meet the Métis Citizenship criteria.
- 5.2. The USask acknowledges and recognizes that only the Citizenship Registries of each of the MN-S and Métis Nation government's recognized by the MN-S are authorized to verify the Métis Citizenship of individuals.
- 5.3. The USask will collaborate with the MN-S to establish a formal, objective, and secure process for verifying the Métis Citizenship of individuals from Saskatchewan who apply for the USask's equity-based opportunities or positions for Students or Workers based on Métis identity.

6. **GENERAL**

- 6.1. This Agreement comes into force upon execution as of the date first written above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

the Parties have duly executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

MÉTIS NATION-SASKATCHEWAN



Glen McCallum
President



Michelle LeClair
Vice President

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



Peter Stoicheff
President and Vice-Chancellor



Dr. Airini
Provost and Vice-President Academic

