



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**(MOU)**

**BETWEEN:**

**Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs  
as represented by its Grand Chief  
("AMC")**

**-and-**

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA  
as represented by the Ministers of Indigenous Services Canada and  
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs  
("Canada")**

**WHEREAS** the AMC asserts that the Anishinaabeg, Anishininwak, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline, Nehethwuk / Inninwak and other First Nation peoples in Manitoba possess inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights including the inherent jurisdiction over the well-being of their families and children. The Dakota Oyate people have a special relationship with Canada which is grounded in the unique history of their people and the Crown.

**WHEREAS** the Treaty and Aboriginal Rights of the Aboriginal peoples are recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982, and the Treaties are a fundamental part of the relationship between the First Nations and Canada.

**WHEREAS** the AMC and Canada recognize the autonomy of individual First Nations in Manitoba to work with Canada outside of this MOU.

**WHEREAS** Canada commits to work with First Nations governments to renew a Nation-to-Nation relationship based on recognition, respect, cooperation, and partnerships.

**WHEREAS** Canada and the AMC seek to establish a formal relationship to engage in dialogue on a range of issues related to First Nation child and family welfare services in Manitoba including recognizing and respecting First Nations' inherent jurisdiction over the well-being of their families and children, and reform of the federal First Nations Child and Family Services Program accordingly.

**WHEREAS** Canada and the AMC seek to work together to achieve concrete outcomes that are mutually beneficial, and that support the aspirations of First Nations in Manitoba in the area of families and children.

The Parties agree to the following:


1. The Parties will establish and participate in discussions to improve the wellbeing of First Nations children, youth and families within the context of child and family services.
2. The objectives of the discussions include to define a collaborative and constructive relationship to address priority areas as identified by First Nations in Manitoba to improve First Nation family and child welfare services reform outcomes, that may be informed by First Nations priorities and key documents such as *Bringing Our Children Home*, *Keewaywin Engagement Manitoba First Nations Child and Family Services Reform*, the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child*.
3. The establishment of joint discussions will include general and specific issues relating to recognizing and respecting First Nations' inherent jurisdiction over the well-being of their families and children and reform of the federal First Nations Child and Family Services Program accordingly.
4. An agenda consisting of an initial list of priorities will be developed and mutually agreed to by both Parties.
5. The Province will be invited to participate in discussions regarding issues and at times and on terms as agreed by the Parties,
6. The Parties will prioritize the objectives as referenced in section 2, and dedicate time, expertise, key decision makers, and technical support to achieve them.
7. The Parties agree to build on the current tripartite partnership (Regional Advisory Committee on First Nations Child and Family Services) to collaborate and coordinate in improving the well-being of First Nations in Manitoba.
8. Each Party will determine who will represent it in these discussions.
9. A technical working group comprising representatives of both parties will be established to carry out the direction of the discussions, and this group will meet regularly. The technical working group will establish a meeting schedule including times and places, which is agreeable to its representatives.
10. The Parties recognize the AMC requires reasonable capacity to participate in the discussions contemplated under this MOU. The Parties will work to develop a mutually acceptable agenda, workplan and budget to support the AMC's participation in discussions.
11. This MOU is not legally binding; it is intended only as an expression of good will and political commitment, and does not create, amend, recognize or deny any legal or constitutional right or obligation on the part of either Party.
12. The Parties will establish a joint communications approach in relation to this MOU, which may include details on how and when the Parties would jointly inform the public or the media of the fact of this MOU and its contents.

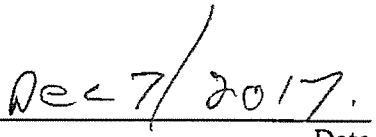


- 13. The Parties will discuss establishing a cost effective mechanism for resolving disputes arising during the discussions.
- 14. Representatives of each Party will identify what topics or content of discussions are confidential and cannot be shared outside of the technical working group and decision makers, and both Parties and their representatives will respect any identified need for confidentiality.
- 15. This MOU comes into force when signed and will remain in effect until it is replaced by a subsequent agreement between the Parties or until termination occurs under section 16.
- 16. Either Party may terminate this MOU on 30 days written notice to the other Party.
- 17. This MOU will not affect the ability of First Nation governments or citizens to access, participate in, and benefit from any programs or services that are generally available to non-First Nation governments or non-First Nation citizens from time to time.


Signed and agreed to by the Parties on the dates set out below:

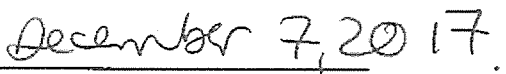
ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS

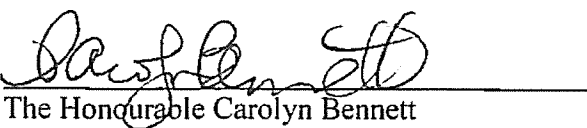
  
 Arlen Dumas  
 Grand Chief  
 Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

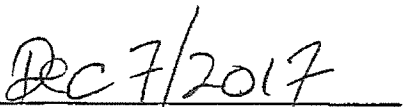
  
 Date

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA

  
 The Honourable Jane Philpott  
 Minister of Indigenous Services  
 Government of Canada

  
 Date

  
 The Honourable Carolyn Bennett  
 Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and  
 Northern Affairs  
 Government of Canada

  
 Date