

CENTENNIAL ALBERTA-METIS SETTLEMENTS ACCORD AFFIRMATION

WHEREAS in this, Alberta's centennial year, the Government of Alberta and the people of the Metis Settlements take pride in the historic achievements of their good will and common purpose;

AND WHEREAS these achievements, unparalleled elsewhere in Canada, include:

- the *Alberta-Metis Settlements Accord*, and related legislation, which began a new era of cooperation in Settlement development, self-governance and self-reliance, and
- the *Constitution of Alberta Amendment Act, 1990*, which recognized Metis historical contributions and securing their land base for future generations;

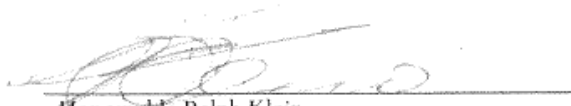
AND WHEREAS under the Accord and related legislation the Settlements and the Province each assumed responsibilities in a common effort to further the goals of the Accord;

AND WHEREAS these responsibilities included scheduled, restricted payments by the Province, periodic financial reviews and, in particular, a review by the Minister and Metis Settlements General Council in 2006 to consider whether the funding "reflects the needs of the settlements and their members in light of prevailing circumstances";

AND WHEREAS in preparation for this review process the Minister and General Council have jointly determined that significant progress has been made toward Accord goals, but is unlikely to continue after 2007 without changes in Settlement governance structures, practices and financial arrangements;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Alberta and the Metis Settlements General Council wish to cooperate in determining what changes are required to allow for ongoing progress toward the goals of the Accord and related legislation;

NOW LET IT BE KNOWN that we, the Government of Alberta and the Metis Settlements General Council, make the following statement of common cause:


Honourable Ralph Klein
Premier


Witness

We are committed to planning for continued progress after 2007 toward the Accord goals of land security, effective self-governance, and economic self-reliance.

To this end, the *Alberta-Metis Settlements General Council Transition Assessment and Planning Project Stage 2 Goals and Guidelines Agreement* was signed on July 27, 2005 by the General Council President and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

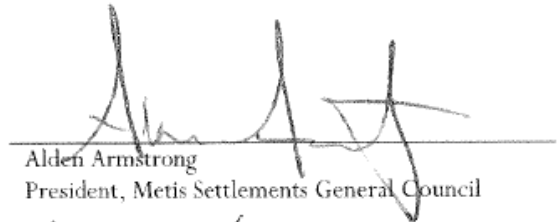
The purpose of the Goals and Guidelines Agreement is to address the issues identified in the Transition Assessment and Planning Stage 1 report that the Goals and Guidelines document refers to as obstacles to progress, including:

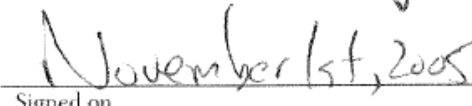
- the changes required in Settlement governance structures, practices and funding, and
- the policies, economic initiatives, financial, or other assistance required from Alberta.

The Transition Assessment and Planning Project is a joint effort by Alberta and the Metis Settlements to assess progress under the Metis Settlements Accord and to prepare for the new era under the Accord that begins in 2007 when specific funding commitments under the Accord end.

To achieve these objectives, we will provide the necessary resources and information, and the support of our departments and agencies as needed to complete this task in a timely manner under the coordination of the Minister responsible for the Metis Settlements and the President of the Metis Settlements General Council.

The Centennial Alberta-Metis Settlements Accord Affirmation is a political document. It does not abrogate or derogate from any existing rights enjoyed by members of the Metis Settlements of Alberta, nor does it create any rights or legally enforceable obligations for Alberta or the Metis Settlements General Council


Alden Armstrong
President, Metis Settlements General Council


Signed on