



**LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA  
AND  
FRASER HEALTH AUTHORITY**

This Letter of Understanding made this June 25, 2019  
Hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”

**WHEREAS** the Métis are a distinct Aboriginal people who are recognized in Section 35(2) of the Constitution Act (1982);

**WHEREAS** the mandate of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is to develop and enhance opportunities for Métis people throughout British Columbia by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services;

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation British Columbia signed the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II with the Province of British Columbia on November 16, 2016;

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II identifies health (community, families and individuals) and data collection as two of its nine objectives;

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation British Columbia has signed the Métis Community Governance Charter with the following five (5) Métis Chartered Communities within the Fraser Health Authority (Fraser Health) region:

- Golden Ears Métis Society;
- Waceya Métis Society;
- Fraser Valley Métis Association;
- Chilliwack Métis Association;
- Nova Métis Heritage Association; and

**WHEREAS** Fraser Health Authority provides health care to the residents of the Fraser Health region, as prescribed in the *Health Authorities Act*, Section 5(1) and Section 5(2).

**A. Definitions**

In this Letter of Understanding:

1. Métis means an Aboriginal person as defined in Section 35(2) of the Constitution Act (1982); who identifies themselves as Métis, is of historic Métis National Ancestry, is distinct from First Nations and Inuit, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

2. "Métis Community" means a group or body of Métis persons in subparagraph (A)(1) above living in the same place, gathered closely together in forming a recognizable unity, having common characteristics and a community of interest based on Métis language, culture, history and traditions.
3. "Joint Committee" refers to a committee jointly established by the Parties to oversee the implementation and review of this Letter of Understanding.

## **B. Purpose**

The Purpose of this Letter of Understanding is to recognize and acknowledge that:

1. The Parties have common goals of (a) equitable access to health services and (b) improved health and wellness outcomes for Métis people within the Fraser Health Region.
2. The Métis Nation BC Regional Governance Council of the Lower Mainland in the Fraser-Salish region have the responsibility as elected officials of the Métis Nation British Columbia, to advise and influence the delivery of Aboriginal health services provided to Métis people within the Fraser Health region, for their respective communities.
3. The Parties agree to ensure that the planning and delivery of health services to Métis individuals, family and communities within the Fraser Health region are culturally appropriate.

## **C. Principles**

This Letter of Understanding is based upon the following principles:

1. Collaboration and inclusion;
2. Mutual respect and Responsibility;
3. Information Sharing and Engagement;

## **THEREFORE THE PARTIES HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:**

1. This Letter of Understanding constitutes a framework in which the Parties will facilitate equitable access to health services and improved health and wellness outcomes for Métis individuals, families and communities within the Fraser Health region (see map in Appendix 4). This framework encompasses new approaches to how Métis health services may be initiated and how Métis communities are meaningfully engaged in planning with Fraser Health through the Joint Committee.
2. The Parties will support the Métis Chartered Communities to maximize their capacity to meaningfully participate in the planning and delivery of health programs to Métis individuals, families and communities in the Fraser Health region.
3. Recognizing the importance of the social determinants of health, the Parties will seek to improve the health outcomes for Métis individuals, families and communities by effective shared decision-making and shared accountability that will (a) reduce the perceived barriers and (b) increase access to health services in the Fraser Health region.
4. Métis Nation British Columbia will participate and collaborate with Fraser Health through the Joint Committee to support the health and wellness of Metis people within the Fraser-Salish Region.

5. The Parties will use a cooperative, collaborative approach to improving the health status of Métis individuals, families and communities through the design, delivery and evaluation of health services in the Fraser Health region.

**D. Evaluation of the Letter of Understanding**

The Parties will review the effectiveness of this Letter of Understanding, and undertake a formal evaluation prior to its renewal, all based on criteria agreed by the Joint Committee.

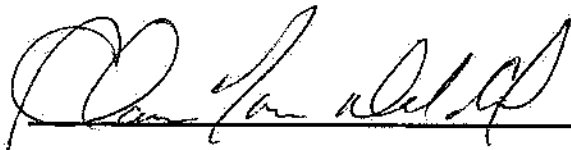
**E. Dispute Resolution**

1. The focus of the dispute resolution process is to ensure the safety and well-being of Métis individuals, families and communities.
2. In the event of a dispute between Métis Nation British Columbia and Fraser Health Authority with respect to the interpretation, application or implementation of this Letter of Understanding, if the Joint Committee is unable to resolve the dispute, the issue will be passed to the respective senior level management within the Parties for resolution.

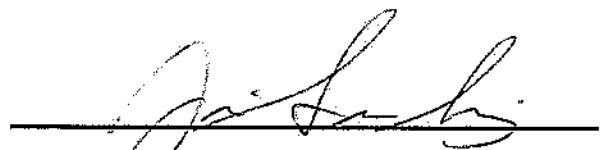
**F. Term**

1. The Term of this Letter of Understanding will be five years from the Effective Date.
2. This Letter of Understanding may be renewed with written consent of both Parties.
3. Either Party may terminate this Letter of Understanding by providing sixty days advance written notice including the reason for the termination.

**Dated the 25 day of June, 2019:**

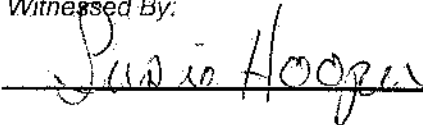


**Clara Morin Dal Col**  
President  
Métis Nation British Columbia



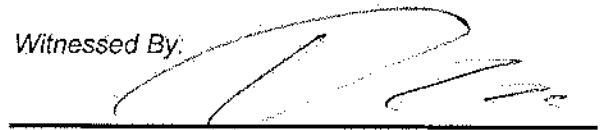
**Jim Sinclair**  
Board Chair  
Fraser Health Authority

*Witnessed By:*



**Susie Hooper**  
Minister of Health  
Métis Nation British Columbia

*Witnessed By:*



**Dr. Victoria Lee**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Fraser Health Authority