



RESOLUTION OF THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 3-4, 2023

To Ratify the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty*

WHEREAS the Red River Métis is a distinct Indigenous people which was historically known, and continues to be known as the Red River Métis – a vibrant Indigenous collectivity that was established with its own identity, language, culture, institutions, and way of life centred in the Red River Valley and expanding throughout the historic Northwest, and whose citizens and individuals entitled to become citizens are today located within what is now Manitoba as well as elsewhere inside and outside of Canada;

AND WHEREAS for over two centuries the Red River Métis has exercised its rights of self-determination and self-government, and protected its rights and its identity with the 1816 Victory of the Frog Plain / la Victoire de la Grenouillère, the 1816 unveiling of the Red River Métis Flag, the 1849 Sayer Trial, the 1869 Red River Resistance, the 1885 Battle of Batoche, and in recent times, several court decisions including the Supreme Court of Canada's 2013 decision in *MMF v Canada*;

AND WHEREAS in 1870 the Red River Métis, under the leadership of Louis Riel, became the Founder of Manitoba and Canada's Negotiating Partner in Confederation and, after governing our province peacefully, they then faced a Reign of Terror resulting in many Red River Métis dispersing throughout our Homeland, and beyond, in search of peace and security;

AND WHEREAS the Red River Métis has the inherent right to self-determination and self-government that is recognized, affirmed, and protected by sections 25 and 35 of Canada's *Constitution Act, 1982* that includes jurisdiction and law-making authority;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) is the representative self-government of the Red River Métis, which is a modern-day version of governance that has been growing for over two hundred years from roots deep in the late 1700s and early 1800s at the beginnings of *la nouvelle nation*;

AND WHEREAS the MMF is the Government of the Red River Métis, and is mandated to deal with all rights, freedoms, interests, or claims protected by sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* that Red River Métis Citizens collectively hold, including, but not limited to, the right to Crown consultation and accommodation, and the rights of self-determination and self-government;

AND WHEREAS the Governments of Canada and Manitoba historically required the MMF to incorporate in order to establish inter-governmental relationships with the MMF as the valid representative of the Self-Governing Red River Métis;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Assembly, both the Annual General Assembly and Extraordinary General Assembly, are an integral part of the Red River Métis government structure and process;

AND WHEREAS in 2013 *MMF v Canada*, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized that the Red River Métis section 31 *Manitoba Act* claim was a “collective claim for declaratory relief for the purposes of reconciliation between the descendants of the Métis people of the Red River Valley and Canada” and, under the leadership of President David Chartrand, granted the MMF standing by concluding “[t]his collective claim merits allowing the body representing the collective Métis interest to come before the court”;

AND WHEREAS the MMF represents Red River Métis Citizens, a community not bound or defined by provincial or international boundaries, and the MMF is advancing the collective claim of the Red River Métis, further to the declaration of the Supreme Court of Canada in *MMF v Canada*;

AND WHEREAS on July 19, 2019, the MMF Cabinet unanimously passed the *Manitoba Métis Self-Government Declaration Resolution*, which affirmed and declared our right of self-determination and our exercise of self-government, acknowledging that our roots are in Winnipeg, Manitoba – the Heart of our Red River Métis Homeland;

AND WHEREAS on September 22, 2019, the MMF Annual General Assembly endorsed the *Manitoba Métis Self-Government Declaration Resolution* passed by the MMF Cabinet on July 19, 2019, affirming and declaring our right of self-determination and our exercise of self-government (the “Declaration”), and directed the MMF President and Cabinet to take all necessary actions to fully implement the Declaration which involves the conclusion of a constitutionally protected treaty;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Declaration and direction received, the MMF and Canada signed the *Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement* (“MMSGRIA”) on July 6, 2021, which immediately recognized the MMF as the existing democratic self-government of the Red River Métis;

AND WHEREAS in the MMSGRIA, the MMF and Canada committed to continue to negotiate to conclude a constitutionally protected treaty;

AND WHEREAS the MMF and Canada have completed the draft *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty* (the “Treaty”), which is to be ratified by the Red River Métis, following which the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations will recommend Implementation Legislation to Parliament to ratify and give the force of law to the Treaty, to ensure that it is a treaty within the meaning of sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS the MMF has held Treaty Consultation and Engagement meetings with Red River Métis Regions, Locals, and Citizens in advance of this ratification vote;

AND WHEREAS a resolution in substantially the same form to this resolution was adopted and approved by the MMF Cabinet at a meeting of February 27, 2023;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. Approves, adopts, and hereby ratifies the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty* dated _____, 2023, in the form presented at this Assembly and attached to this Resolution.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

2. The MMF President is hereby authorized and directed to sign the final version of the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty*, and to accept changes from the version dated _____, 2023 necessary to complete the Treaty, including the translation of a French language version, provided that such changes do not substantially change the provisions of the Treaty from those in the version attached to this Resolution.

Moved By: Minister Jack Park
Seconded By: Minister Frances Chartrand

Date: June 3, 2023