

May 28, 2025

Minister Debra Fisher
Ministry of Education
MNBC Headquarters

Re: **Mandate Letter for Minister of Education**

Taanishi Minister Fisher,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Education.

Citizens of Métis Nation British Columbia have elected us to form the Métis government in B.C. and have put their trust in us to be the voice for our Nation, working alongside of our Métis Chartered Communities. Together as a strong, collaborative Board, with the support of our expert and dedicated Métis Public Service staff, we will rise to meet any challenge on the road to self-determination. We hold our rights as a sacred gift from our Creator and our Métis ancestors who fought and died for them so that we may stand strong as a Nation today, and achieve formal recognition of our Section 35 rights in B.C.

Achieving recognition of our Section 35 rights is not just a milestone; it is critical to our sovereignty and is the pathway to ensuring that our Nation thrives for generations to come. We will achieve our sustainability as a Nation through the formal recognition of our rights and the development of foundational government-to-government agreements, in addition to diversifying our revenue streams through new economic development opportunities. Our children, communities, Métis culture, heritage, language and values remain at the heart of who we are as Métis people, and we must do all we can to uplift them in our work.

As a Minister of Métis Nation British Columbia, you are responsible for supporting Métis self-determination in British Columbia by advancing the meaningful implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through both the federal *United Nations Declaration Act* (UNDA) and the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), and by upholding the distinct, inherent rights of Métis people as recognized under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

As your President, I am committed to our vision of a thriving, self-determined Métis Nation, and I'm calling on each one of you in your roles as Ministers regardless of portfolio to continue to work together to advance our Six Goals of the Nation.

1. **Promote Métis Rights and Recognition, and Achieve Jurisdiction of Our Children:** *Assert our Métis rights as an Indigenous People under Section 35 of the constitution of Canada and gain our rightful recognition and jurisdiction of Métis children in care.*

2. **Promote Cultural Revitalization and Cultural Wellness:** *Preserve, promote and revitalize Métis culture, heritage, and languages and strengthen cultural wellness as a foundation of overall well-being for Métis people.*
3. **Pursue Socio-Economic Reconciliation:** *Address racism and systemic barriers to lift up Métis people, families, Chartered Communities and individual of all ages, genders, and abilities to help bridge socio-economic gaps that still exist due to the legacy of colonization*
4. **Support Métis Chartered Communities:** *Support empowered and engaged Métis Chartered Communities by strengthening agreements, increasing governance capacity, and providing greater opportunities through better communication, strategic partnerships, programs and services.*
5. **Generate Core Capacity, Infrastructure, and Economic Development:** *Generate greater core capacity, infrastructure and economic development opportunities to serve the growing needs of Meti people and communities in B.C.*
6. **Develop and Restore Respectful Relationships and Partnerships:** *Develop and nurture mutually respectful relationships with Métis Chartered Communities, First Nations, federal, provincial and municipal levels of government, other organizations and entities, and pursue key partnerships and agreements.*

Over the term of your appointment as Minister of Education, I expect to see tangible progress on the following strategic priorities for the Ministry of Education:

- Expand access to childcare spaces for Métis families in a cost-effective and culturally grounded way.
- Construct, develop, and ensure operations of our 13 Métis Childcare developments.
- Advance jurisdiction over childcare in collaboration with the provincial and federal government, recognizing Métis Nation-specific governance distinct from other Indigenous groups.
- Pursue greater proportional funding for Métis K-12 Education.
- Encourage and increase Métis representation on Indigenous Education Councils.
- Continue to advocate for greater Métis inclusion in the K-12 system overall, including greater recognition and capacity.
- Continue to advocate for Métis social sector rights in Education.

Currently in B.C., Métis Education is not a secured right. We must go beyond “distinctions-based funding” and be included in all possible education funding, not only Indigenous.

As a Minister of Métis Nation British Columbia, you hold a position of responsibility that requires the utmost integrity, accountability, and commitment to the greater good of the Nation, aligned with our MNBC Constitution, Acts, Board Policies, Métis Cultural Values, and your Oath of Office where you pledged to “be a true and faithful servant to the Métis Nation as a member of the MNBC Board of Directors. In all matters debated, resolved, or brought before the MNBC. Board I will honestly and truly declare my mind and my opinion. I shall treat all confidential information as confidential and I shall not disclose it to any third party or to use it for any purpose whatsoever during and subsequent to my term of

office. I will uphold and defend the *Constitution* of the Métis Nation British Columbia. I will carry out my duties, obligations, and responsibilities in a manner that will bring honour to the Métis Nation. I will truly and faithfully, and to the best of my skill and knowledge, execute the powers and trusts placed in me. I will dedicate my service to treat all Métis people equally. I accept my responsibility to be of service to my people and to honour our future and our children, ahead of myself.”

In strengthening our Nation together in B.C., I encourage all Ministers to reach out and nurture those important friendships and connections that we will build our future partnerships upon. You are also expected to be inclusive in your work and bring forward the important voices of the Citizens of our Nation, including Métis women, youth, elders, 2SLGBTQQA+, and veterans.

As we continue our important work of Nation-building in B.C., we recognize that we and our Citizens have come through a time of deliberate colonial dispossession and on-going attempted erasure as a people. This has resulted in on-going inter-generational trauma and its effects. We must be role models and leaders in lateral kindness, and always work in a positive, proactive manner that is solutions-oriented, focussed on outcomes but always in a spirit of kindness and wisdom that honours our ancestors. Together we will build a lasting legacy for our Métis people in B.C. that upholds our ways.

I look forward to your contributions and am confident you will excel in this role in a way that honours our past and embraces our future as Métis people and Métis Nation British Columbia.

Maarsii,



Walter Mineault
President
Métis Nation British Columbia

Accepted by,



Debra Fisher
Minister of Education
Métis Nation British Columbia

Cc:

Colette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer
Sasha Hobbs, Chief Strategy Officer
Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director
Board Operations