



METIS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.

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THE CHALLENGE

Since the transfer from Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC) to the province, Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan Inc. (METSI) has taken on responsibilities the were once HRDC's including the distribution of student payroll, paying invoices for student seat purchases and programs.

- METSI has not received additional funding to take on this added work load and in fact have lost in their allocation to the first nations in the Consolidated Revenue fund (CRF) and Employment Insurance (E I). Reason; The National Aboriginal Resource Allocation Model.

METSI has lost a total of \$1,227,083 in this fiscal year on the CRF and EI allocations. METSI took a drastic cut to their administration budget to ensure that the 12 regions would not be put into the same dilemma.

- METSI must plan and negotiate with other organizations including HRDC to offset some of our administration costs.

METSI has an excellent administrative system in place that also manages Urban Aboriginal and Urban Youth Funds. We also have a monitoring process that makes METSI accountable to the funding agencies which is very effective.

- METSI is now to report to the Province in regard to the Urban Aboriginal and Urban Youth funds. We are concerned that there will be restrictions placed on how we deliver our training through the Common Planning Forum. As a Nation we do not want to take the responsibility away from the Provincial Métis Urban Council. If the province is willing to contribute funds for Métis training through METSI then the forum will have meaning.

Metis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan, Inc.

Funding History

The initiative now known as **Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan, Inc.** began in 1992 as the "Pathways to Success" Program. The Pathways ran under yearly contribution agreements with CEIC until 1996. In 1997, a Regional Bilateral Agreement (a three year funding arrangement) was signed between Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and Human Resources Development Canada. At this time 'Pathways' was re-incorporated as **Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan, Inc. (METSI)**. In the middle of the 1997-98 fiscal year the Regional Bilateral Agreement was rolled into an Aboriginal Flexible Funding Arrangement. This arrangement was to offer METSI more flexibility on funding criteria. METSI is currently prepared to sign the next phase of this initiative which will be a five year agreement titled the **Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement**. This new agreement will complete the cycle of devolution of administrative responsibilities that began under the AFFA. The following will outline the initial funding levels at the onset of Pathways and detail the annual decreases that METSI has received.

Losses based on first year funding levels

Fiscal Year	Total CRF (Metis \$)	CRF (Loss)/Gain	Total EI (Metis \$)	EI (Loss)/Gain	Total \$ Lost
1992-93	40% of funds to Saskatchewan				
1993-94	\$6,124,000	(\$18,000)	\$1,374,000	(\$360,000)	-378000
1994-95	\$5,733,410	(\$1,140,190)	\$3,575,440	\$ 55,440	-1084750
1995-96	\$4,262,744	(\$2,980,856)	\$1,986,847	(\$745,193)	-3726049
1996-97	\$5,955,748	(\$1,329,571)	\$2,270,071	(\$506,774)	-1836345
1997-98	\$5,812,713	(\$1,297,639)	\$3,543,772	\$302,527	-995112
1998-99	\$5,857,803	(\$1,974,758)	\$2,232,266	(\$770,935)	-2745693
Losses Grand Total					-\$10,765,949

In setting our funding targets each fiscal year METSI averages \$8,000 for total costs per client. Using this average, approximately 1,346 clients could have been funded had METSI's funding not decreased. This issue is being addressed between MNS and HRDC for future agreements. However, in order for METSI to maintain the current level of service with present funding levels it would be beneficial to enter into a MOU with the Department of Social Services DSS. This arrangement between DSS and METSI would enable more Métis people in Saskatchewan being served through our regional offices as well as long-term savings to the Department.



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Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc.
Provincial Training Allowance Discussion Paper
June 15, 1999

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Throughout the inception of the Provincial Training Allowance (PTA), training opportunities have been provided for approximately 600 low income Métis students with a living allowance to pursue Adult Basic Education (ABE) and short skills training programs.

The PTA has been instrumental in allowing students to upgrade low education levels. It has provided students with a necessary source of income while upgrading their skills to enter the workforce or to pursue higher levels of education. Without access to this program 300-325 Métis students would not have access to ABE or short skills training programs.

Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc. (METSI) has often used the PTA in partnership with the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI). This partnership has created opportunities for many Métis students across Saskatchewan.

It has come to the attention of METSI that the province is proposing to negate PTA eligibility for METSI sponsored programs. This proposed change creates two immediate problems.

1. Strategy will severely reduce the number of Métis students receiving ABE and short skills training. This will inturn result in less opportunities being offered by METSI as our resources will be devoted to training allowances.
2. Strategy will greatly inhibit the flexibility and ability of METSI to partner with DTI in the delivery of accredited programming.

It is because of these problems that the following questions must be asked.

1. What will happen to the PTA eligibility of programs with blended funding, i.e.: METSI (federal) and DTI (provincial)
2. Is the province aware of the negative effects that curtailing PTA eligibility will have on low-income Métis students? How will the province meet its equity goals outlined in the Provincial Training strategy by reducing Métis access to the PTA?
3. The new training strategy has emphasized the formation of new and innovative partnerships. How does the provinces strategy of reducing PTA eligibility to METSI sponsored programs support this goal.

Summary.

METSI is strongly opposed to the proposed change to PTA eligibility. The ultimate result is that 300-325 Métis students per year will not receive any ABE or short skills training programs. The outcome will be added strain on income support, opposed to creatively meeting the training and employment needs, through partnership, of the Métis people.



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Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc.
Proposed change to the Department of Social Services financial assistance policy
June 15, 1999

PROPOSED CHANGE:

The development of an agreement between the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Department of Social Services (DSS), which would mutually benefit DSS and Métis people. We propose to keep Métis Social Assistance Recipients (SAR), who are not eligible for the Provincial Training Allowance (PTA), on basic Social Assistance while in training. Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc. (METSI) will pay for tuition, books, etc. This will result in a far greater number of Saskatchewan Assistance Plan (SAP) recipients who will receive training through METSI. A far greater number of our people will become trained and employable. The obvious benefit to Social Services is the long-term savings. For a small commitment a large number of your clients will become employed. In some cases the intergenerational dependency of assistance will be broken.

RATIONAL:

following is brief snapshot of the socio/economic conditions of Métis people.

- A single parent, often a teenager, heads one in four families
- Half of Métis families live in poverty
- Six times more likely to die by injury, poisoning, or violence
- Three times more likely to be disabled

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW: Family of two annual.

Saskatchewan Assistance plan \$8460.00

Provincial Training Allowance \$8850.00

It is clear the cost to train opposed to remaining dependent is essentially equal.

METSI's CURRENT STATUS:

- To reduce dependency on Social services, a collaborative approach must be taken.
- Presently SAP recipients are immediate cut off upon funding by METSI
- This results in an extreme burden upon our resources, the majority of clients are SAR
- The vast majority of SAR applicants are denied funding due to lack of resources, resulting in their return to SAP

SUMMARY:

As noted in the National Children's Agenda, "The effects of poverty creates a number of negative issues, all of which dramatically increase the likelihood of necessary future interventions and dependency of income support payments. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples envisioned a new partnership where a sincere commitment among peoples to live together in peace, harmony, and mutual support would exist. This proposed change to the SAP would provide an opportunity for the DSS and METSI to fulfill this envisioned partnership.

Research compiled by METSI identifies the need to expand services to SAR, coupled with the above mentioned documents, there is an obvious need to explore this option in detail with the DSS. METSI in conjunction with the SAP would dramatically increase the number of Métis students accessing training opportunities, resulting in increased employability.