

METIS SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN
POSITION PAPER
ON THE
ABORIGINAL LABOUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

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5.0 THE METIS SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN POSITION ON THE ABORIGINAL LABOUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

5.1 Principles Underlying the Position

5.1.1 Metis Self-Government

The Metis people of Saskatchewan through their organization are pursuing the goal of Metis self-government. Any structures devised to facilitate service delivery to Metis people must be developed within the long-term goals for Metis self-government.

5.1.2 Adherence to the Constitution Act, 1982

The Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as the "Indian, Inuit and Metis peoples." It is the position of the Metis people of Saskatchewan that the development of Aboriginal management and delivery mechanisms must be designed on the basis of these peoples and the political organizations that represent them.

5.1.3 A Metis-Specific Labour Market Within the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Labour Market

It is maintained by the Metis people and MSS, that there is not one single Aboriginal labour market in Saskatchewan. There is an Indian labour market and a Metis labour market. The Indian labour market has a totally different infrastructure, resource base and access to federal programming (through INAC and funds specifically targeted to INAC in CAEDS and other programs), etc. than the Metis labour market has. The Metis are excluded from a large proportion of program dollars because they cannot access Aboriginal funds directed through INAC. Participation rates of Metis people in EIC programs are not only low because of barriers which discriminate against Aboriginal peoples but also

5.1.7 Local Decision-Making

The Metis structure must be based on locally-defined needs. The structure must be sufficiently decentralized to allow for local decision-making.

5.1.8 Parity With Indian People

Funding allocations must be developed in a way which reflect the needs of the Metis people. The process of allocating according to past participation rates only serves to institutionalize the discriminatory and exclusionary practices of the old system into the foundation of the "new" system. This is inappropriate. It is proposed that we proceed on the basis of need and awaiting more precise statistical break-downs, accept the EIC assumption of a one-to-one relationship between Aboriginal individuals in Saskatchewan and establish parity in funding between Indian and Metis people over the next five years.

5.1.9 Developmental Funding

Because of the past discrimination against Metis people from programming and the exclusion of the Metis organizations from much of the funding available to the other groups through INAC, it is proposed that developmental funding be established to help build a bridge between what is and what is needed to support the new framework.

5.1.10 Service to Other Aboriginal Peoples

Throughout their educational and training programs, the Metis people of Saskatchewan have always provided access to other Aboriginal peoples. Services controlled by the Metis people will continue to be open to all people who are eligible.

5.2.3 Roles, Responsibilities and Mandates

M.S.S. - Provincial Metis Council

- appoints members to the Provincial Metis Management Board (PMMB)
- ratifies all appointments to RMMBs, except for EIC's members
- provides leadership and direction on the Aboriginal labour force.

Provincial Metis Management Board (PMMB)

- lobbies and negotiates with EIC for overall funding allocation
- sets provincial priorities (training and employment)
- makes allocations to the Regional Metis Management Boards (RMMBs)
- appoints one of its members to the National Management Board.

Regional Metis Management Boards

- each of the Regional Metis Management Boards recommends the appointment of members to the Provincial Metis Management Board
- undertakes community and labour market needs assessment in their region
- sets regional priorities (training and employment)
- submits training plans and funding requirements
- approves training programs and provides employment services
- are administrative (not political) boards and their composition will reflect their labour market and community realities of the region. This could include representation from different sectors of the Metis community
- each regional management board will have between 7 and 12 members