

MEMORANDUM OF Understanding

Between

**Parks Canada Agency – Executive Director, Pacific and Mountain Parks and
Executive Director, Prairies, Yukon and Northwest Territories**

And

Métis Nation of Alberta

Respecting Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program

Prepared on this 31 day of July, 2018.

BETWEEN: The Parks Canada Agency – (referred to in the MOU as “Parks Canada”), represented by the Executive Directors

AND: Métis Nation of Alberta – (referred to in the MOU as “MNA”), which has incorporated the Métis Nation of Alberta Association as its legal and administrative arm, represented by its President

1. INTRODUCTION:

WHEREAS the mandate of Parks Canada Agency, a body corporate established under Section 3 of the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, is to protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada’s natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations;

AND WHEREAS the MNA, through its registry and democratically elected governance structures at the local, regional, and provincial levels, is mandated and authorized to represent the citizens who comprise the Métis Nation within Alberta, including dealing with collectively held Métis rights, interests, and outstanding claims against the Crown;

AND WHEREAS Parks Canada and the MNA share a common interest in protecting the natural and cultural resources of National Parks/National Historic Sites located in the province of Alberta (see Annex I);

AND WHEREAS the MNA has a connection to the lands and waters comprising the National Parks/National Historic Sites located in the province of Alberta (see Annex I);

AND WHEREAS Parks Canada is engaged in a process of inviting and welcoming Indigenous Peoples to Parks Canada places to which they feel a connection or a desire to reconnect without undue requirements for purchasing passes, permits or identification.

2. UNDERSTANDING:

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITNESSES that the Parties record their mutual understanding as follows:

- I Complimentary entry under the Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program will be implemented through self-identification by duly registered citizens of MNA, through the presentation of a formal identifier issued by MNA, at National Parks/National Historic Sites located in the province of Alberta (see Annex I). MNA citizens will then receive an entry pass for the duration of their stay in the National Park or Site.
- II The Métis Nation of Alberta will implement an application and control process mutually approved by both parties for ensuring that only duly registered citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta participate in the Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program and its benefits.
- III The Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program does not authorize the bearer to among other things hunt, fish or trap within the National Park/ National Historic Site ¹ except where pre-existing harvesting agreements exist.
- IV The Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program does not permit, among other things, the harvesting of plants and natural objects or removal of cultural objects.
- V The Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program does not override any general admission fees for attractions and services, including campgrounds, hot pools and other park facilities, or any other levies associated with park/site/area use other than entry.

3. LEGAL EFFECTS:

This MOU is without prejudice to respective legal positions and is not meant to define, create, recognize, deny or amend any rights or obligations of either party, including Aboriginal title or treaty rights.

This MOU will not be construed as a treaty or land claim agreement within the meaning of Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 as amended.

This MOU is not a contract or legally enforceable as such.

4. DURATION OF THE MOU:

The effective date of this MOU shall be the date of the last signature appearing below.

¹ Hunt and trap, as defined in the *National Parks Wildlife Regulations*.

5. REVIEW, EVALUATION AND REPORTING:

An annual meeting will be convened by signatories to this MOU or their representatives to review and revise this MOU as required.

Métis Nation of Alberta and Parks Canada shall provide information on:

- The number of Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program participants.
- Other relevant statistics and information as determined by both parties.

6. AMENDMENTS:

This MOU may be amended from time to time by a written Amendment signed by both Métis Nation of Alberta and Parks Canada.

7. CANCELLATION/TERMINATION:

This MOU may be terminated by either party upon receipt of 60 (sixty) days written notice of the other party's intention to terminate.

APPROVAL:

Representing Parks Canada Agency:

Representing Métis Nation of Alberta:

Dave McDonough
Name

July 31, 2018
Date

Audrey Poitras
Name

July 31, 2018
Date


Signature


Signature

Michaela Kent
Name

July 27, 2018
Date

Bev New
Name

July 31, 2018
Date


Signature


Signature

Karen Collins
Name

July 31, 2018
Date


Signature

**Annex I – List of heritage sites
included in the Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program
with Métis Nation of Alberta**

National Parks

- Banff National Park
- Elk Island National Park
- Jasper National Park
- Waterton Lakes National Park

National Historic Sites

- Banff Park Museum National Historic Site
- Bar-U Ranch National Historic Site
- Cave and Basin National Historic Site
- Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site

National Historic Sites which are included with the park entry fees

- Athabasca Pass National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- First Oil Well in Western Canada National Historic Site (within Waterton Lakes National Park) – close until further notice because of the Kenow fire – see website
- Howse Pass National Historic Site (within Banff National Park)
- Jasper House National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- Jasper Park Information Centre National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- Maligne Lake Chalet and Guest House National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- Sulphur Mountain Cosmic Ray Station National Historic Site (within Banff National Park)
- Yellowhead Pass National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)

National Park or National Historic Sites with no entry fees

- Frog Lake National Historic Site – self-guided site
- Wood Buffalo National Park