



Otipemisiwak Métis Government / Government of Canada Co-Developed Way Forward on Métis Self-Government

Update to 2023 Self-Government Agreement

On February 24, 2023, Canada and the Métis Nation of Alberta (now Otipemisiwak Métis Government) signed the Métis Nation within Alberta Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement (“2023 Agreement”). On March 28, 2024, the Federal Court refused to cancel the 2023 Agreement, but struck the “Métis Nation within Alberta” definition in and Chapter 6 of the 2023 Agreement based on a breach of a duty to consult owed to other Métis groups as a result of their inclusion in the agreement. The Court remitted those parts of the agreement back to the Minister for reconsideration. The vast majority of the 2023 Agreement remains in place and legally binding on Canada today, but will be updated to respect the Federal Court’s decision.

Changes to the 2023 Agreement

An updated 2023 Agreement will clarify that it does not include other Métis groups or prevent Canada from recognizing the rights or self-government of other Métis groups that may claim to have these rights. The “Métis Nation within Alberta” definition will be updated to reflect that this Métis collectivity that holds a s. 35 right to self-government is comprised of its Citizens and Métis Communities comprised of those Citizens. This Métis collectivity mandates the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, which includes its Citizens’ Council, District Councils, and Institutions, as its government.

Summer/Fall 2024: Updated 2023 Agreement initialed by negotiators.

Fall 2024: Consultations on initialed agreement with various groups.

Winter 2024: Approvals sought for signing of updated 2023 Agreement.

Early 2025: Signing of an updated 2023 Agreement.

Métis Nation within Alberta Self-Government Treaty

Chapter 12 of the 2023 Agreement, which remains in place and legally binding, commits to negotiations “with a view to reaching a Métis Nation within Alberta self-government Treaty within two years...”. As the process to update the 2023 Agreement is undertaken, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Canada will continue to work towards the goal of finalizing a Métis Nation within Alberta Self-Government Treaty in 2025.

Self-Government Treaty (“Treaty”)

Based on Chapter 12 of the 2023 Agreement, the Parties will continue to negotiate on a Treaty. This process will include the following steps: (1) Internal Consultations on Treaty, (2) Initialing of Treaty by Parties, (3) Consultations on Treaty, (4) Ratification of Treaty by Citizens, (5) Signing of Treaty by the Parties, and (6) Treaty Implementation Legislation.

Fall 2024: Consultations with Citizens and the Métis Communities comprised of those citizens on the Treaty, as well as ongoing negotiations with Canada based on the 2023 Agreement.

Early 2025: A draft of the Treaty is initialed by negotiators for the Parties and consultations on the initialed Treaty with potentially impacted groups begins.

Fiscal Financing Agreement (“FFA”)

The Parties will reach an FFA that addresses the “Expenditure Needs” of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government based on the requirements and criteria set out in the 2023 Agreement (Ch. 12), as well as the Canada’s Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy, including developing a Métis Annex to this policy.

Spring/Summer 2025: Following consultations on the Treaty and potential changes to it based on those consultations, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government undertakes province-wide ratification vote on the Treaty. All Citizens over 16 years old of age are eligible to vote.

Tax Treatment Agreement (“TTA”)

The Parties will reach a TTA dealing with the tax treatment of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, including its District Councils, Institutions, and any other tax related matters agreed to by the Parties.

Summer/Fall 2025: The Parties sign the ratified Treaty.

Treaty Implementation Plan (“Implementation Plan”)

The Parties will reach a Treaty Implementation Plan setting out the respective actions and activities following the effective date of the Treaty.

Next Parliamentary Session: Legislation to give legal force and effect to the Treaty and make it binding on all governments and third parties is introduced in Parliament.

Treaty Implementation Legislation (“Legislation”)

Following approval and ratification of the Treaty by both Parties, the Minister will recommend Legislation to Parliament to give legal force and effect to Treaty.