

## Framework for Guiding the Work of the Joint Task Force

This framework provides the **Guiding Principles, Desired Outcomes and Description of Work** of the Joint Task Force on First Nations and Métis Education and Employment. The work of the Joint Task Force will begin with the assumption that gaps exist between First Nations and Métis people and non-aboriginal people. While the emphasis of the project is on recommending solutions, it is understood that in order to effectively propose and analyse solutions, there is a need to understand barriers and challenges. To this end, the Joint Task Force will be informed by research and consultation to identify issues, as well as solutions. In order to fulfill its mandate the Joint Task force will use strategies that ensure that the consultation and research processes will: go “deep and wide”, are transparent, guarantee confidentiality and encourage the stories and experiences of the participants. The following principles will guide the work of the Joint Task Force.

### Guiding Principles

- The Joint Task Force will conduct its mandate *with* communities, organizations, educational systems, employers, and governments.
- We respect the diversity of First Nations and Métis in Saskatchewan.
- We recognize the right and responsibility of First Nations and Métis for the education and well-being of their children
- We embrace learning as lifelong, holistic, and experiential, which is rooted in language and culture, is place-based, spiritually oriented, communal and open to multiple ways of knowing the world.
- We acknowledge that cultural/language communities have the right to define success for their own well-being.
- We embrace the value of Indigenous knowledges (ways of being, knowing, valuing and doing), which conveys our responsibilities and relationships to all life, as a foundational aspect of lifelong learning for all children and youth.
- We will promote a gifts/strengths orientation for individuals, communities, organizations, and employers, building on their successes.
- We will promote and support a long-term view for capacity development and sustainability in governance and financing structures with well-defined roles and responsibilities for everyone involved in education.
- We will strive for equitable outcomes for First Nations and Métis learners, based on the shared vision and the goals expressed in *Inspiring Success* with accountability embraced as an ethical and shared responsibility to the students and their communities by teachers, schools, boards of education, departments of education and governments.
- As an expression of respect, reciprocity and reconciliation, strengthened mutually beneficial partnerships between First Nations and Métis, public institutions and governments (federal and provincial) are viewed as the basis of prosperity and a shared future.
- We will challenge programs, school systems, institutions and employers to be responsive to both the aspirations (of cultural integrity) AND needs (social and economic) of First Nations and Métis.

- In recognizing the legacy of the colonization, we will invite educational systems and workplaces to play an active role in the process of decolonization, which seeks to strengthen and embrace Indigenous Knowledge and experience through various strategies including but not limited to anti-racist, anti-oppressive pedagogies and Indigenous pedagogies.

**Desired Outcomes:**

In undertaking the Joint Task Force, the parties have agreed that the following are the desired outcomes:

- Improved early childhood outcomes and the transition to school;
- Improved high school completion;
- Improved completion rates for post-secondary education;
- Improved labour market participation and attachment;
- Improved quality of life and enhanced self-sufficiency; and
- Stronger education systems with improved return on investment in PreK-12 and postsecondary education and training.

**Description of Work of the Joint Task Force on First Nations and Métis Education and Employment:**

- To recommend and prioritize evidence-based public policy, program and practical approaches in relation to the themes articulated in the project scope. These approaches will positively impact education and employment outcomes and have the potential for province wide application.
- To identify current issues, barriers and/or ineffective approaches and recommend changes or elimination.
- To identify investments, potential costs and savings associated with the recommended approaches identified in objective one and the changes recommended in objective 2.
- To arrange for literature reviews, analysis and advice that will inform the development of the recommendations.
- Engagement in the process will extend beyond the parties (e.g. Métis Institutions, Tribal Councils, First Nation Band Councils (education portfolios), Office of the Treaty Commissioner, First Nation and Métis Provincial Education Advisory Committee).