

# RELATIONSHIP DECLARATION for FIRST NATIONS CHILD WELFARE JURISDICTION



Whereas, First Nations children are sacred and possess an inherent right to maintain connections with their families, cultures, and Nations;

Whereas, Manitoba recognizes and respects the inherent right of First Nations to care for their children and families and to govern and make laws in respect of child and family services;

Whereas, if First Nations have made reasonable efforts over a one-year period to enter into a coordination agreement and the First Nation's child and family services law is validly enacted under An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families, such laws are paramount to the extent that there is conflict between Manitoba child and family services law and the First Nation's law.

Whereas, First Nations are actively revitalizing and enacting their inherent laws concerning the care and well-being of their children and families, with dedicated support from Manitoba;

Whereas, the child welfare system in Manitoba in respect of First Nations children and families is undergoing a transition to a system that is led and determined by First Nations Rights Holders;

Whereas, in recognition of inherent jurisdiction, Manitoba is committed to contributing funds and resources to support the delivery of child and family services by First Nations to their members;

Manitoba hereby demonstrates that it is committed to working in good faith to transition the delivery of child and family services to First Nations in Manitoba.

First Nations acknowledge this commitment and will in turn collaborate with Manitoba to transition responsibility for child and family services to First Nations.

For greater certainty, this declaration is intended to guide the relationship amongst the parties and is not intended to create or alter binding legal obligations.

SIGNED THIS MONDAY, THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2024, UPON THE SACRED GROUNDS  
OF THE LONG PLAIN FIRST NATION, MANITOBA, CANADA

**First Nations**  
RIGHTS HOLDERS

**Manitoba** 