



# Métis Nation of Alberta

*A strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights*

(780) 455-2200 | 1-800-252-7553 | albertametis.com  
11738 Kingsway NW | 100 Delia Gray Building | Edmonton, AB | T5G 0X5

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## Office of the President

March 30, 2021

Honourable Adriana LaGrange  
Minister of Education  
228 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B

Dear Minister LaGrange,

On behalf of our Provincial Council and Métis Nation of Alberta citizens I am responding to your announcement yesterday regarding the new Draft K–6 curriculum.

The Métis Nation has monumental concerns with what was released to Albertans in your press release to the extent we have had very little input into the design of this new draft curriculum despite our attempts to be included in the committees that were established.

For the past number of years, our staff at the Rupertsland Institute worked very hard with Alberta Education and its stakeholders to contribute to the development of a K-12 curriculum that was agreed to by all parties. The spirit of inclusion, cooperation and collaboration was at the forefront of that partnership where Métis representation was evident in committee structures and the various levels of curriculum-making process.

As such, your announcement yesterday and the official unveiling of the draft curriculum was disheartening to say the least and a shock to our citizens who saw their input and collaboration reduced to nothing more than a “side-note” mention of the Métis while the tone of your message carried a Eurocentric-American point of view, effectively eliminating the voice and history of the Métis Nation in Alberta.

The lack of transparency held by the Alberta government leading up to the release of the draft curriculum also breaches UNDRIP principles and is another example of Alberta’s continued colonial practice over Métis peoples; the secretive approach under which your collaborations were held undermines the collective approach valued by our communities. I therefore find this unacceptable.

True collaboration would consider your Elder, Betty Letendre's comments, and bring the Métis voice and representation back to the forefront. We expressed our concerns last year regarding the exclusion of Rupertsland Institute from the Curriculum Working Groups, but your department refused to make space for Métis Albertans who would have brought the “collective voice” mandated by the Métis citizens in

Alberta. As such, your curriculum will exclude a huge portion of Alberta's real history and the Métis contributions to the development of this country.

I am calling on you to conduct a re-draft of the K-12 curriculum in collaboration with the Métis and other Indigenous groups in this province. This will address the concerns regarding the UNDRIP and will allow Alberta Education to uphold the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions *Calls to Action*.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Poitras". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey Poitras  
President  
Métis Nation of Alberta

cc: Mark Ingham, Special Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister  
MNA Provincial Council  
Lorne Gladu, CEO - Rupertsland Institute  
Betty Letendre, Métis Elder