

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
("PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT")**

Between:



Southern Chiefs' Organization
(as presented by Grand Chief Jerry Daniels)

-and-



MacDonald Youth Services
(as represented by Board Chairperson Jim Krovats)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Agreement is to formalize the relationship between the parties in order to collaboratively establish a governance and community care model that reflects the ongoing needs and aspirations of the First Nations of Southern Manitoba. This relationship is founded upon principles of reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) acknowledging that all services and structures affecting southern First Nation children, families and communities must be developed and delivered in a manner consistent with treaty and aboriginal rights.

WHEREAS:

-First Nations Chiefs of Southern Manitoba established the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) as a political forum to protect, preserve, promote and enhance First Nation's people's inherent rights, languages, customs, and traditions through the application and the implementation of the spirit and intent of the Treaty-making process.

-MacDonald Youth Services (MYS) fosters hope and opportunities to empower children, youth and families throughout Manitoba to grow and heal through safe, caring, respectful and collaborative relationships.

-The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) report calls to action 1 to 5 focus on child welfare, and state clearly that it is a key area with a necessity for Indigenous lead initiatives.

-The Federal government recently passed Bill C92, which legislated authority to Indigenous communities to create their own legislation regarding child welfare.

-The overrepresentation of Southern First Nation children in care is a crisis, and there is an urgent necessity for significant change.

-A partnership between SCO and MYS is a mutually beneficial arrangement that will enrich service delivery to youth and be a trailblazing collaboration in reconciliation consistent with First Nation jurisdiction.

THEREFORE:

In Partnership, SCO and MYS commit to the following:

- a. Creation of a governance framework that is guided by the principles of reconciliation.
- b. Designing and building a community care model consistent with the evolution of the child welfare system as contemplated by southern First Nations.
- c. SCO will guide MYS in its responsibility to implement a culturally appropriate service system during this transition.
- d. MYS will ensure that concrete actions are taken to transform their community care and governance model.
- e. Working together in good faith to support a smooth transition flowing from this innovative new alliance.

OUTCOMES:

- a. The appointment of a SCO representative to the MYS Board of Directors.
- b. The establishment of an advisory group to help co-manage the partnership
- c. Development of a joint work plan that meets our mutual objectives to evolve services and infrastructure for the Southern First Nations community
- d. Joint reporting mechanisms to measure the specific outcomes of the partnership.

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to the terms of this Partnership Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding between the Southern Chiefs' Organization and MacDonald Youth Services.

Signed at the Southern Chiefs Organization 20th Annual Chiefs-In-Summit, September 17, 2019.



Grand Chief Jerry Daniels, SCO



Jim Krovats, MYS Board Chairperson