



1. Statement of Policy

The Government of the Northwest Territories will provide health benefits assistance to eligible recipients of the Metis Health Benefits Program.

2. Principles

The Government of the Northwest Territories will adhere to the following principles when implementing this Policy:

- (1) The Metis Health Benefits Program should, within existing resources, assist eligible recipients of the Program who require health services beyond those covered by the Northwest Territories Health Care Plan.
- (2) The Metis Health Benefits Program should be the payer of last resort, above and beyond the other benefits programs offered by the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, employer plans, or other such programs.
- (3) Benefits defined under the Metis Health Benefits Program should be provided on the basis of professional medical/nursing or dental judgement.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to eligible recipients who qualify for benefits under the Metis Health Benefits Program.

4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Policy:

Benefits Administrator - an individual or company contracted by the Government of the Northwest Territories to administer the Metis Health Benefits Program.



Eligible Recipients - those Metis who meet the eligibility requirements of this Policy.

Non-Insured Health Benefits Agreement - the contribution agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories for the delivery and administration of non-insured health benefits to registered Indians and Inuit.

Registered Indians and Inuit - as defined by the Government of Canada in the Non-Insured Health Benefits Agreement.

5. Authority and Accountability

(1) General

This Policy is issued under the authority of the Executive Council. The authority to make exceptions and approve revisions to this Policy rests with the Executive Council. Authority and accountability is further defined as follows:

(a) Minister

The Minister of Health and Social Services (the Minister) is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this Policy.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services (the Deputy Minister) is accountable to the Minister and responsible to the Minister for the administration of this Policy.

(2) Specific

(a) Minister

The Minister may approve program provisions.



6. Provisions

(1) Effective Date

The effective date for the Metis Health Benefits Program is April 27, 1995.

(2) Eligible Recipients

Eligibility to the Metis Health Benefits Program is restricted to those Metis who:

- (a) meet the eligibility criteria as defined in Schedule 1 attached;
- (b) are not registered or are not eligible to be registered as Indians or Inuit; and
- (c) are 59 years of age or younger.

(3) Terms and Conditions

(a) Level of Benefits

Effective October 1, 1997, benefits under the Metis Health Benefits Program are provided with the intent of offering eligible recipients 80 percent coverage of full benefits afforded to Registered Indians and Inuit pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Non-Insured Health Benefits Agreement as may be amended from time to time.

(b) Extended Health Benefits Policy

Eligible recipients who are eligible under the Northwest Territories Extended Health Benefits Program for Seniors or for Specified Disease Conditions must first seek reimbursement from the Northwest Territories Extended Health Benefits Program. Eligible recipients can apply for reimbursement to the Benefits Administrator for items not covered by the Northwest Territories Extended Health Benefits Program.



An eligible recipient who has access to benefits under the Northwest Territories Extended Health Benefits Program and who chooses not to participate in that program, is not eligible for assistance under the Metis Health Benefits Program.

(c) **Eligible Recipients with Employer or Similar Plans**

Eligible recipients who have employer or similar plans offering health or transportation benefits must first seek reimbursement from the employer or similar plan. Eligible recipients can apply for reimbursement to the Benefits Administrator for items not covered by the employer or similar plan.

An eligible recipient who has access to benefits under an employer or similar plan and who chooses not to participate, is not eligible for assistance under the Metis Health Benefits Program.

(d) **Reimbursement**

- (i) Eligible recipients, or those authorized to claim on their behalf, may be reimbursed up to 80 percent of total cost.
- (ii) Eligible recipients with employer or similar plans may request reimbursement of any outstanding balance, up to 80 percent of total cost of benefits, following reimbursement by the employer or similar plan.

(4) **Financial Conditions**

Original receipts are to be submitted by eligible recipients or those authorized to claim on a recipient's behalf. Receipts are to be received by the Benefits Administrator no more than twelve months after the date that the services were rendered for reimbursement.



7. Financial Resources

Financial resources required under this Policy are conditional on approval of funds in the Main Estimates by the Legislative Assembly and there being a sufficient unencumbered balance in the appropriate activity for the fiscal year for which the funds would be required.

8. Prerogative of the Executive Council

Nothing in this Policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or take action respecting Metis health benefits outside the provisions of this Policy.

Premier and Chairman of the
Executive Council



SCHEDULES

Metis Health Benefits Program Eligibility Criteria

Schedule 1



SCHEDULE 1

METIS HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A person shall be eligible for benefits if he or she is:

- (1) a Canadian citizen, resident of the Northwest Territories and is registered under the Northwest Territories Health Care Plan; and
- (2) is a descendant of the Chipewyan, Slavey, Gwich'in, Dogrib, Hare or Cree people and resided in or used and occupied the Mackenzie Basin (meaning that portion of the Northwest Territories north of 60 degrees latitude, described in Treaty 8 and Treaty 11) on or before January 1, 1921; or
- (3) is a Community Acceptance Member meaning:
 - (a) an individual who was a resident of the Mackenzie Basin on or before December 31, 1986 and is a Canadian citizen of aboriginal ancestry who was accepted by a majority vote, conducted on or before December 31, 1987; or
 - (b) an individual who is listed on the Metis Nation - Northwest Territories list provided by the President of the Metis Nation - Northwest Territories on September 7, 1995; or
- (4) was adopted as a minor under the laws of any jurisdiction or any Metis custom, by a person qualified under 3 or 4; or
- (5) is a descendant of a person qualified under 3 or 4.