



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Métis Nation British Columbia has a renewed sense of confidence!

Abbotsford, B.C. (October 14, 2011) – With a highly successful Annual General Meeting now behind us, the Métis Nation British Columbia is focused on accelerating the business of the people.

Armed with a strong show of support from up to 300 delegates who attended the AGM, MNBC President Bruce Dumont and the Board of Directors are moving ahead on plans to build Simpson Road Ventures, the business arm of MNBC, located at 30691 Simpson Road in Abbotsford, BC, into a strong economic engine.

As a part of this process, the MNBC Minister of Finance Bob Trumbley has announced the Federal department of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada has officially designated the Simpson Road location as a school. The ruling falls under subparagraphs 118.5(1)(a)(ii) of the Income Tax Act. The decision will bode well for MNBC's continuing efforts to reduce its accumulated debt and move the nation closer to achieving its annual zero-deficit target.

“What it means for MNBC is we can take this designation to the City of Abbotsford to appeal our outstanding property taxes,” says Bob Trumbley. He adds, “While we won't know the actual outcome of this appeal until later this month, we are hopeful it will lead to a significant cut in the current property taxes owing on the school plus, it will impact future property tax levels.”

During the AGM, guest speaker Federal Conservative Senator Gerry St. Germain and BC Minister of Health Michael de Jong commended the MNBC for its visionary leadership in purchasing the Abbotsford School and creating the Métis Skills and Education Centre. MSEC is already hosting a number of successful training programs including Culinary Arts, Firefighting Preparation and Blade Runners. Senator St. Germain also highlighted the signing of the Métis Nation Relationship Accord in May 2006 by MNBC and the Province of British Columbia. He called it a living, breathing instrument that is supporting change and helping to improve the lives of Métis citizens across the province.

The MNBC Governance structure is also growing stronger with the introduction and adoption of the *Métis Women's Act* and an important amendment to the *Citizenship Act*. The *Métis Women's Act* acknowledges the valuable contributions of Métis women past and present. The Women's Act, adopted at the AGM, ensures Métis Women of British Columbia as democratically elected members of the MNBC, will continue to have a voice at the table and a solid vote on any and all decisions!



Provincial Women’s Chairperson Donna Wright says, “With the adoption of the *Métis Women’s Act*, we are making history in that this is the first Aboriginal women’s act in Canada that entrenches the women into MNBC governance. History reminds us that Métis women are nurtures of our nation and today we are continuing the work and the strength of our grandmothers as we unite to move the nation forward.”

Meanwhile, the *Citizenship Act amendment*, which is an important component of the Métis Registry, aims to enhance the community acceptance process. The MNBC Central Registry will issue written community acceptance notifications to the Métis Chartered Community on behalf of the applicant. In return, the community board has ninety (90) days to provide the Central Registry with community acceptance for the applicant. If no response is received within 90 days, the applicant is considered accepted.

Also, Senate Chair, Senator Alan Edkins officially inaugurated Ericka Spence, MYBC Youth Representative for the North Central Region and Lynette LaFontaine’ as the MWBC Representative for the North Central Region following Métis by-elections earlier this year.

The Métis Nation British Columbia continues to build upon its relationships with both the federal and provincial governments. The two levels of government have recently publicly supported the MNBC is the only recognized governing body in British Columbia representing Métis people. The strong endorsement from Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan and Provincial Minister of Aboriginal Relations Mary Polak are a further acknowledgment of the positive work we are doing on behalf of the nation.

With both levels of government and the strength of our nation behind us, the MNBC President and Board have a renewed sense of optimism and is encouraged that the best is yet to come.

Métis Nation British Columbia’s vision is to build a proud, self-governing, sustainable Nation in recognition of inherent Rights for our Métis Citizens.

Métis Nation British Columbia’s mandate is to develop and enhance opportunities for our Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services through Teamwork, Respect, Dedication, Accountability, Integrity and Professionalism.

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