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# FOREWORD BY THE MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA JUSTICE COUNCIL

his Métis Justice Strategy was informed by consultation with Métis people throughout British Columbia, and in consultation with Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), Minister of Justice Lissa Smith, and the MNBC Justice Council. We recognize the contributions of MNBC citizens, and the ongoing commitment of our communities to engage in improving Métis people's access to traditionally-grounded restorative justice supports.

As a governing member of the Métis National Council, MNBC advocates for a Métis-specific approach to all justice programs, policy development, and provision of service, so that the unique histories and current realities of Métis people are accurately reflected. It is crucial to utilize a Métis-specific approach, rather than the pan-Indigenous approach that is often employed and, when implemented, erases Métis experiences and identity. Indigenous policies and services are often not inclusive nor safe for Métis as a unique Indigenous People. The Métis-specific approach of this Métis Justice Strategy relies greatly on grassroots engagement and consultation. The MNBC Justice Council hosted seven regional consultation sessions that included 166 people from 38 MNBC Chartered Communities. Email submissions from around the province were incorporated in this process.

The impact of colonization on Métis people is essential to thoroughly understand the root causes of involvement in the justice system, the experience of barriers faced by Métis people, and violence against Métis women, girls, and 2S LGBTQQIA+ people.

As far back as the 18th and 19th centuries Métis people experienced unique forms of colonial violence. Laws, policies, and practices were enacted to specifically disrupt the Métis Nation, families, and way of life. Examples include the sale of the Northwest, intentional resettlement of Red River, the script system and disenfranchisement. Since the birth of the Métis Nation, Métis people have consistently resisted and protected our distinct culture, and identity; for example, the formation of the Provisional Government and Legislative Assembly as part of the Red River Resistance in 1869, and the Battle of Batoche in 1885. Métis people also had distinct experiences of colonial institutions such as residential schools, day school, sixties scoop, and violence of the child welfare system. There are compounding intergenerational impacts of colonization on Métis people that have resulted in a lower likelihood of educational achievement, and a sustainable and liveable income, as well as lower employment rates. These impacts also include a higher likelihood of substance use, disruption of Métis families, poverty that results in food insecurity and

precarious housing or risk of being unhoused, and violence - especially sexualized violence for women and 2S LGBTQQIA+ people. These colonial factors were recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada as resulting in higher rates of criminalization and incarceration.<sup>1</sup>

In order to safely and effectively support Métis people involved in the justice system, including those who may be healing from and overcoming trauma such as abuse, neglect, and violence, this must be contextualized through the knowledge of the Métis experience: colonization; historic and contemporary traumas and losses; recognition of Métis strengths and resilience. In development and delivery of any programming or interventions related to Métis people involved in the justice system, a Métis-specific trauma-informed lens is a priority. From staff training, Métis cultural competence, and the development of well informed Gladue reports and submissions, MNBC promotes an understanding of the unique history of Métis affected by colonization to underpin a non-judgmental and strengths-based approach that honors difference, choice, and compassion. It is also important for Métis trauma-informed care to include Métis-specific values, such as kinship ties, faith and spirituality, food, respect for life, and respect for the land.

The federal government has taken steps to recognize the Métis Nation, an example of this being the launch of the Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework in 2018. There are many serious issues and barriers faced by Métis people in the current Canadian justice system. The lack of Métis identity data that is collected has impacted the way municipal and provincial police, as well as the RCMP, understand Métis people's circumstances and how they respond to them. This has led to a mistreatment of Métis people, and a lack of support for Métis victims and their families. Métis people have continually faced racism that is different from the First Nation and Inuit experiences accessing justice services. This racism is rooted in a lack of information about Métis experiences, particularly in the form of disaggregated data, fewer opportunities for Métis people to express their own concerns and experiences, and significant disadvantages facing the Métis Nation and specifically MNBC, hindering MNBC's participation and ability to deliver services. Due to these doors being largely closed to Métis people, they have been unable to define their experiences of racism and pursue solutions. Rather, the Métis experience has been lumped together in pan-Indigenous approaches.

The lack of understanding of Métis identity and the misrepresentation of Indigenous people as a whole have been reflected in media portrayals, which have led to continued dehumanization and mistreatment by Canadian society, particularly by service providers. There is a distinct need to understand the unique risk factors and barriers facing Métis people, and to bring forward unique policies and solutions that address issues contributing to an over-representation in the justice system, as well as prevention, intervention, and the dismantling of barriers.

<sup>1</sup> See: R. v. Gladue [1999] 1 SCR 688

### MESSAGE FROM MNBC PRESIDENT & MINISTER OF JUSTICE

MNBC created the Métis Nation British Columbia Justice Council (MNBCJC) in 2019. MNBCJC current members include the MNBC Minister of Justice Lissa Dawn Smith (Chair), MNBC Associate Minister of Justice Dean L. Gladue (Vice-Chair), Dr. Kate Elliott (MNBC Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Minister of Women and Gender Equity, Métis Women of BC chair), MNBC Senator Alan Edkins, (MNBC Senate Representative), Kaitlyn Jepson (Youth Council Representative), Mark Carlson (Captain of the Hunt Representative), Glen Lucier, Peter Lang, and Ted Ingram.

The MNBCJC and BC Government committed to the development and implementation of a Métis Justice Strategy. The Métis Justice Strategy was developed from grassroots engagement and consultation with MNBC Chartered Communities. These consultations, which were conducted in 2019, included seven regional sessions and incorporated submissions received via email.

Through these submissions, MNBCJC determined that the Métis Justice Strategy would need to focus on the following key areas:

- 1. Prevention
- 2. Access to Justice
- 3. Métis-specific Education
- 4. Metrics
- 5. Self-Governance, s. 35 Rights and Reconciliation
- 6. Partnership and Relationship Building
- 7. Legislative Reform and Systemic Change

The following recommendations that culminate in the Métis Justice Strategy were informed by the submissions and guided by the seven focus areas and provide a starting point for improving justice for Métis people in BC. This Métis Justice Strategy reflects the declaration of MNBC citizens made on February 20th, 2021, which reaffirmed MNBC as the official Métis government of the self-governing Métis community in British Columbia.

MNBC thanks The Law Foundation of BC and the BC Government for supporting the MNBC Métis Justice Strategy Consultations that led to this Métis Justice Strategy.

Lissa Smith

President, MNBC Minister of Justice

#### MESSAGE FROM THE BC ATTORNEY GENERAL

In 2019, in response to the continued overrepresentation of Métis people in the justice system, the Province committed to advancing a Métis Justice Strategy. This has yielded a Métis-led strategy that seeks to address that overrepresentation of Métis people in the justice system. The need for a Métis Justice Strategy stems from a lack of access to culturally safe services and supports for Métis people at all stages of the justice system.

The twelve recommendations contained within the Métis Justice Strategy, demonstrate the comprehensive nature of the grassroots engagement and consultation that occurred in 2019, through seven regional consultation sessions hosted by the MNBC. The Métis Justice Strategy presents a set of recommendations that can begin to alleviate the harms that Métis people face in the current justice system.

In endorsing the Métis Justice Strategy, B.C. moves closer to achieving the commitment set out in the Declaration Act Action Plan to develop and implement a Métis Justice Strategy. This action demonstrates our Province's commitment to improving justice outcomes in this Province for Métis people.

I would like to acknowledge the work of MNBC throughout this process, in leading consultations and engagement, and drafting and developing the Métis Justice Strategy. I would also like to acknowledge The Law Foundation of BC for supporting the MNBC Métis Justice Strategy consultations that informed the Métis Justice Strategy.

I am excited that by proceeding with the Métis Justice Strategy, we can work in partnership with MNBC to make a safer and more culturally-responsive justice system for Métis people in B.C.

Honourable Niki Sharma, K.C.

Attorney General

### MNBC LEADERSHIP & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MNBC Minister of Justice and Associate Minister of Justice

### **MNBC JUSTICE ADVISORIES**

**MNBC Justice Council** 

**MNBC Senate** 

# **MÉTIS COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SUPPORTS**

Métis Elders

**Métis Communities** 

# **MÉTIS STAFF & TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

**MNBC Ministry of Justice** 

**Regional Staff & Chartered Communities** 

# SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES OF THE MÉTIS JUSTICE STRATEGY



The MNBC Métis Justice Strategy is supported by the relationship with the BC Government through MNRA II, and by the relationship with the Government of Canada through the Canada-Métis Nation Accord.

In particular, the BC Government's Declaration Act Action Plan calls for the Province to endorse and implement a Métis Justice Strategy to reduce the substantial overrepresentation of Métis Peoples in and impacted by the justice system.

Métis are an Aboriginal People included in s.35 of the Canadian Constitution.

Métis hold existing inherent rights that are recognized and affirmed in s.35(1) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. Métis people in British Columbia came together to create MNBC in 1996, and ratified the original constitution in 2003.

To administer a Métis justice system is a long-term objective for MNBC. This work will assure equitable access to Métis-specific services as well as Métis safe Indigenous services and programs. This is essential for all Métis people interacting with the BC justice system.

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) is BC law.

The Declaration Act requires that the BC Government take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples. MNBC's responsibility is to ensure the Métis voice is heard. MNBC should be included in discussions involving legislative reforms, particularly changes to the justice system that impact Métis people. MNBC should have representation in the amending, drafting, and implementing of regulations and policies under the Declaration Act and all other Provincial reconciliation-based policies, regulations, or statutes that affect Métis rights and interests.

Prioritizing reconciliation between the Métis people and the BC Government. The BC Government and MNBC will continue to work together to strengthen relationships and partnerships to ensure better outcomes for all Métis people in BC.

Reconciliation between BC, and all Aboriginal people, including Métis people represented by MNBC should be the goal.

Métis inclusion is essential in justice programs and services; marginalized and multi-barriered members of the Métis Nation need culturally-safe and effective programming equitable with First Nations and Inuit.

The practice of naming programs or services as Aboriginal or Indigenous but excluding Métis people and MNBC must be corrected. A program labelled "Aboriginal" or "Indigenous" must have Métis representation and participation from MNBC.

# MÉTIS JUSTICE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS — POLICY AND PROCEDURE REVIEW

**RECOMMENDATION:** Undertake a review of all Provincial legislation to ensure the use of the terms First Nations, Métis, Aboriginal, and Indigenous is consistent, appropriate and promotes equity among Aboriginal people.

Existing regulation, policy, and procedure should also be reviewed for consistency. In addition to reviewing existing law and policy, MNBC recommends the continued review of prospective legislation, regulations, policy, and procedure to ensure future material supports equity among Aboriginal people.

# 2. AUDIT EXISTING INDIGENOUS/ABORIGINAL SERVICES TO ASSESS MÉTIS ELIGIBILITY

**RECOMMENDATION:** Métis people in BC need to know more about existing Indigenous justice services. MNBC recommends Métis-specific research that identifies which Métis services and programs already exist, and metrics on which Indigenous or Aboriginal programs provide culturally safe, culturally competent, and accessible Métis services. MNBC requires resources for MNBC to complete an audit of justice programs, supports, and services to identify resources and gaps, ensuring that Métis have the supports they require in British Columbia.

The practice of naming programs or services as Aboriginal or Indigenous, but excluding Métis people and MNBC, needs to be corrected. MNBC requires that any program labelled Aboriginal or Indigenous must have MNBC representation and participation.

Asset mapping and development of a directory of Indigenous justice services available to Métis in British Columbia is required:

- Which Indigenous Programs in BC are available to Métis already?
- Which are funded to provide services to Métis but do not?

Metrics need to be compiled as to the extent that Métis citizens utilize the Native Courtworker Program and outcomes. MNBC recommends the expansion of additional Indigenous court workers and other services and programs provided by the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC to ensure needs are met for courthouses and Métis communities in BC.

Metrics will allow us to evaluate the Métis Justice Strategy and ensure that MNBC and the BC Government are making a positive difference.

Further collaboration with the BC First Nations Justice Council is critical in order to identify existing initiatives in BC that can be Métis-inclusive. This collaboration will support the delivery of Métis-specific services through existing frameworks while incorporating provisions to include high quality Métis-specific training for these existing initiatives, and ensuring these initiatives are provided through a Métis-specific cultural and political lens.

# 3. MÉTIS-SPECIFIC TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER PARTNERS

**RECOMMENDATION:** Investment in province-wide professional development; creation and delivery of culturally-accurate training on Métis people, history, impacts of colonization, contemporary issues and barriers facing Métis people involved in the justice system. This training is foundational in advancing reconciliation with the BC Government and supports all recommendations in the Métis Justice Strategy.

MNBC has identified a need for the education of government, nonprofit organizations, justice sector professionals, the public, Métis people, and other partners on who the Métis are, Métis rights, recognition as an Aboriginal people of Canada, and Métis history, culture, and values. MNBC envisions a curriculum that provides education on the historical and contemporary impacts of colonization, which contribute to the overrepresentation of Métis people in the justice system. This will educate those working with Métis people about the Métis world view, and the impacts of colonization.

Métis training will prioritize education about systemic injustices experienced by Métis, calls to action for reconciliation, Calls for Justice relevant to Métis women and girls resulting from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and Métis-specific recommendations developed by the Women of the Métis Nation / Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

MNBC will develop Métis-specific training with a justice-specific Métis curriculum and deliver the sessions in partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

#### **Target Audience:**

- Judiciary (Judges and Justice of the Peace)
- Lawyers
- Legal Aid and courts (including court workers)
- Probation, corrections, sheriffs, and parole officers
- Gladue report writers and justice/legal advocates
- Government partners (staff and leadership)
- Police and RCMP
- First Nations partners
- Pan-Indigenous service providers with government-funded service contracts

# 4. DEVELOP TRAUMA-INFORMED CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMING AND SUPPORTS FOR ALL MÉTIS INVOLVED IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

**RECOMMENDATION:** Investment in trauma-informed, culturally-sound and safe programming to assist Métis youth and adults involved in the justice system in BC. This programming will increase the connection of Métis people to their culture – strengthening identity, building health and wellness, and improving outcomes for Métis youth and adults involved in the justice system.

MNBC supports the Indigenous Courts initiative and will continue its efforts to collaborate with the BC First Nations Justice Council to include culturally-competent and well-informed services for Métis people, including Métis-specific trauma informed services.

## 5. INVESTMENT IN THE SUPPORTIVE MÉTIS ELDERS PROGRAM

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Supportive Métis Elders Program would create a roster of Métis Elders that are approved by each MNBC Chartered Community. The Elders would be expected to serve in a supporting role for any individual, family, or community suffering a loss of freedom or institutionalization.

The Métis Elders would be resourced and supported to provide cultural and spiritual support to Métis people in correctional institutions. MNBC recommends that Métis Elders are provided access to jails, healing centers, and other places of institutionalization. A Métis Elder would be available from a roster in every institution for moral and cultural support.

Adequate training would be necessary for all new positions including Métis Advocates, Métis Justice Navigators and Métis Elders. In addition to Métis culture and history training, it would include Elderspecific training with Traditional Knowledge components. Métis Elders need to be provided honoraria or other financial payment or resources for their training, and then further supports need to be provided. The Métis Elders roster should include Métis Elders from all regions of BC, and be accessible to support incarcerated Métis individuals, families, and their communities.

The Métis Elder program will work collaboratively in designing and implementing the program. This will require a multi-stage project.

**Stage One** Inventory of Métis Elders compiled.

**Stage Two** Assessment and analysis of metrics to identify the need.

Stage Three Training stage (Métis-specific training, trauma-informed facilitation and support training,

and ensuring Métis Elders are trained and supported to provide the services required).

**Stage Four** Start visits between Métis Elders and participants, provide debriefing and support for

Métis Elders to address vicarious traumatization, and deal with challenging participants

for example.

**Stage Five** Reporting to allow for an evaluation of the program.

### 6. MÉTIS METRICS

**RECOMMENDATION:** In order to meet the objectives outlined in this Métis Justice Strategy, MNBC requires accurate statistics on the number of Métis people – both adults and youth – that are involved in the justice system in BC. MNBC also needs to better understand how Métis people are identified, and how that information is actioned.

Information sharing agreements between MNBC and both federal and provincial justice ministries must be established to enable access to these metrics for informed decision making. The BC Government will work with MNBC to address data gaps.

Metrics will allow MNBC to accurately understand Métis involvement in the justice system and establish and focus programs to meet the needs of Métis people in BC. The following items are examples of metrics to inform engagement of the Métis Justice Strategy:

- Number and percentage of Métis people in federal and provincial jails.
- Number and percentage of Métis people engaged in other justice systems (Gladue report, legal services funded actions, community supervision programs).
- Number and percentage of Métis parole successes and failures with reasons whenever possible.
- Number and percentage of Métis youth engaged in youth probation services and the Ministry of Children and Families.

# 7. MÉTIS-SPECIFIC TRAINING FOR GLADUE REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS FOR MÉTIS IN BC

**RECOMMENDATION:** Métis-specific training for Gladue Report writers is needed. Métis individuals eligible for Gladue reports and submissions also need to know what Gladue is and how to access a report. MNBC recommends the BC Government ensures access to Gladue reports when a Métis person is engaged in the criminal law system.

- The BC Government ensures access to Gladue reports for Métis people; and expansion of eligibility of Gladue report funding.
- Inclusion of MNBC in any administration of the Gladue program.
- MNBC recommends the BC Government provide funding to enable collaboration between MNBC and the BC First Nations Justice Council in order to administer a program delivering Métis-specific Gladue reports.

- Métis-specific training for Gladue report writing needs to be developed and delivered in BC, both for existing Gladue writers, as well as for training Métis Gladue report writers.
- Métis community participation in the Gladue report writing process.

## 8. MÉTIS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

**RECOMMENDATION:** The MNBC Senate requires ongoing core funding to allow for continued monitoring of our justice system and the provision of impartial guidance. Guaranteed funding of the MNBC Senate will ensure the existence of an autonomous authority of Métis Elders and knowledge keepers. This will allow the MNBC Senate to guide, champion and oversee the development of Métis restorative justice and Métis judicial procedures that maximize the rights and benefits of Métis people within the justice system.

The focus of restorative justice is rehabilitation and reintegration rather than punishment. The goal is to reduce the number of Métis people in institutions, and produce transformative justice where harm within a community is repaired by the community. Ongoing funding ensures the goals of each program are supported from start to finish, with no impediments. The goal is to provide culturally-safe, restorative justice for Métis people in BC.

#### Potential restorative Métis justice programs in BC will include:

- Training programs held in all regions as to the goals of restorative justice.
- Assessment of restorative justice proposals by each of our communities.
- The establishment of cultural camps to instill all aspects of Métis culture upon attendees.
- The creation of sentencing circles and facilitators to meet the needs of restorative justice.

Métis-specific programs and services for incarcerated Métis people: provide culturally-relevant programs and services to Métis people in institutions on issues such as substance misuse and addictions, family and domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, and the historic and inter-generational trauma experienced by generations of Métis people.

Métis Jury: The Indigenous Jury Pilot Project in BC initially excluded MNBC. Should the BC Government be involved in future Indigenous jury projects, they will ensure MNBC participation. There will be further dialogue with relevant services and agencies regarding Métis representation on juries, and Métis-specific court projects with the goal of developing Métis trauma-informed, culturally-sound and safe processes.

#### 9. INDIGENOUS JUSTICE SERVICES

**RECOMMENDATION:** Participation by MNBC in the operation and establishment of Indigenous Justice Services in BC.

Further collaboration with the BC First Nations Justice Council is critical on both the current and proposed Indigenous Justice Centres, in order to ensure Métis inclusion in the services provided. Given the large number of Métis people in British Columbia, MNBC inclusion in the Indigenous Justice Centres project is crucial. MNBC recommends that Indigenous Justice Centres include Métis-specific services through partnerships with MNBC, or that there be a separate Métis justice centres.

# 10. ONGOING COMMITMENT TO MÉTIS-SPECIFIC PARTNERSHIP AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

**RECOMMENDATION:** MNBC and the BC Government need to continue to work on reconciliation and relationship building, particularly in aid of the most vulnerable Métis children, youth, and families in British Columbia.

A sign that the BC Government has built a meaningful relationship with MNBC will include greater involvement in decision making processes and partnerships.



### 11. ONGOING ISSUES RELATED TO MMIWG IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

**RECOMMENDATION:** Strengthen relationships with Métis Women British Columbia and Le Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak to magnify the voices of Métis women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, and ensure success of the Calls for Miskotahâ (Change) in the Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People report.

The BC Government and BC justice system should strengthen their relationships with provincial and national Métis women's groups to collaborate on ways to achieve Calls for Miskotahâ (Change). The BC Government must make greater commitment towards amplifying the voices of Métis women, girls and 2S LGBTQQIA+ peoples in justice- related policies.

Many of the *Calls for Miskotahâ* (*Change*) have been mentioned previously in the Métis Justice Strategy: establishing baseline data in all policy areas, including Métis-specific metrics in justice statistics (including Métis GBA+ analysis), ensuring mandated trauma-informed cultural safety programs, and ensuring that Métis justice system interactions are evaluated through a Métis lens to ensure cultural sensitivity.

The Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People report also underlines improvements that must be made regarding victim services and victims of domestic violence. Indigenous women are more than twice as likely to report being the victim of a violent crime compared to non-Indigenous women. As well, Métis women and 2S LGBTQQIA+ Métis folks face barriers to accessing culturally relevant supports, such as addictions counselling and mental health counselling.

A review of the BC justice system must be undertaken to ensure not only that adequate victim services are being provided to Métis people, but also that the services being provided have adequate Métis cultural sensitivity and provide services through a Métis-specific cultural lens. Victim services must be included in the Métis-specific training.

## 12. MÉTIS YOUTH JUSTICE

**RECOMMENDATION:** To bring transformative change to the Métis youth experience in the justice system with a focus on preventative and early intervention programs and services and research; this would include addressing the inter-generational trauma, caused by colonization, which has led to the over representation of Métis youth, especially 2S LGBTQQIA+ Métis youth, in the existing criminal justice system, as well as a gap in research focusing on Métis youth involved in the youth justice system.

The following items are required to develop programs and services that focus on Métis youth, including those with lived experience from the child welfare system, transitioning out of care, and/or the youth justice system:

- Engage with MNBC Chartered Communities, Métis children and family service providers, and MNBC Ministries to carry out research to inform the change and prevention and early intervention needed for Métis youth within the justice system.
- Develop Métis-specific youth justice principles and evidence-based strategies that will inform the development of proactive supports to address criminal justice involvement of Métis youth.
- Develop preventative and culturally responsive restorative justice programs, as well as programs and services that provide earlier intervention, restorative, reintegrative, and transitional supports and services that target the predictors of involvement in the justice system.
- Establish a committee that will work in an advisory capacity with MNBC Ministries to develop and implement Métis youth specific culturally grounded policies and processes.
- MNBC will engage with the governments of British Columbia and Canada to develop a process for referral and review of youth justice case files, including exploring potential legislative amendments to address barriers to sharing youth justice case file information.

Métis youth enter or become static in the current justice system due to inter-generational trauma from colonialism and socially determined influences, such as poverty, other forms of trauma, and disconnection from culture, language, and community, including trauma from being involved in the justice system. These practices must be addressed by developing Métis culture and heritage revitalization and reclamation programs and services for Métis children, youth and 2S LGBTQQIA+ Métis youth.

It is necessary to do this transformative work to redirect and support Métis youth through community-based programs that hold them accountable with trauma informed, corrective, and restorative approaches.

# **CONCLUSION**

Guided by the Métis Nation BC Justice Council, and supported by grassroots engagement and consultation, the 12 recommendations of this Métis Justice Strategy are intended to inform unique policies and solutions that address the over-representation of Métis people in British Columbia's justice system.

These recommendations collectively stress the need for a Métis-specific approach to justice that supports Métis experiences (including a focus on Métis women, girls, Métis youth and 2S LGBTQQIA+ Métis folks) and identity, and ensures a Métis-specific, trauma-informed lens is applied in the context of Métis people.

