

E-Newsletter - UPDATE on Coronavirus
From the Office of MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col
March 25, 2020

Coronavirus Update:

MNBC is moving quickly to respond to the needs of our Métis Citizens and community members during this COVID-19 pandemic. Given the daily announcements from governments, it is a stressful time for many people, but we are all in this together, and we will do everything possible to help our Citizens and community members that are most in need.

Before today's announcement from Canada, our first step was to send out \$3000 to each of our communities right away. Here's how we arrived at this course of action:

On March 18th, I sent out a note to all Community Presidents soliciting their input regarding how best to meet the needs of our most vulnerable Métis Citizens and community members. We heard back from many very quickly and I also had the opportunity to have phone conversations with some of them. Based on feedback from many of our Community Presidents, I proposed to the MNBC Board of Directors on the weekend that an immediate payment of \$3000 to each Chartered Community be made so that Communities can move very quickly in helping our Citizens and community members most in need. Community Presidents are best positioned at this moment to respond when a Citizen or community member calls with special needs. The Board agreed with the proposal and those funds are now going out to the Communities.

This morning we were just informed that MNBC will be receiving \$3.625 million from the federal government to provide us with the financial resources to help our Métis communities and our Métis people through this pandemic. We are thankful for this funding and I have asked our Executive Director and our Health Team to very quickly provide me and the Board of Directors with recommendations on how these funds can be used to help our Citizens and community members most in need. No one knows how long we will have to deal with this COVID-19 pandemic but in numerous phone conversations that I have had in the last few days with Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand, MNC President Clément Chartier and with federal government ministers, I have conveyed to them how important it is for MNBC to be able to look after the needs of our Métis people and they have assured me that we will have the funding we need. This morning's announcement was very welcome.

Our MNBC Health Team, with the assistance of other MNBC staff, is reaching out to Community Presidents and to our older Citizens to learn what is needed the most, and how MNBC can best help out our Métis people. The input the team receives will form the basis of the recommendations to me and the Board. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to our Health Team and other MNBC staff for all the work you are doing during this crisis.

I also want to give a big round of applause to Community Presidents and their Boards for all the work they are already doing to look after the needs of their communities. Here's just one example that I wanted to share with you from Chilliwack Métis Association (CMA) President Louis De Jaeger:

“Just a big thank you from us at CMA. We have our program in place, up and running. We are starting to make soups and stews next week which we will have in individual freezer bags (heat & serve) for those who need a quick nourishing meal. We are using our office for a pick up and drop off center. Our board is tele-conferencing weekly on ZOOM now as we pick up more Métis clients. We are also calling all the citizens on our list as we know some are too proud to ask for help. I am blessed with the most amazing group of Directors.”

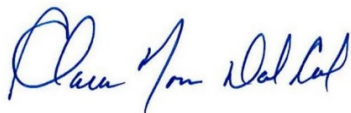
Thank you to all Community Presidents and Boards for all that you're doing.

Please check the MNBC website – specifically the COVID-19 link for regular updates on how to stay safe during this pandemic. Our Health Team will also be sending out important information.

We are in this together and we will look after each other. If you have any questions or thoughts that you would like to forward to me, please email me at cmorin-dalcol@mNBC.ca. Health or safety related questions regarding COVID-19 can be emailed to Covid19@mNBC.ca.

Please stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dawn Marie Dalcol". The signature is fluid and cursive.

President, MNBC