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NEWS RELEASE

Highlights of Spring Métis Elders and Youth Gathering

Surrey, BC [April 16, 2019] – Métis Elders, Youth and MNBC Leadership from across the province gathered in Kelowna on March 29-31st and in Prince George on April 12-14th to discuss and begin to define Cultural Wellness for the Métis Nation. The connection and sharing of knowledge between our Métis Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Youth was very evident at both gatherings. The purpose of this work is to define cultural safety (wellness) and create tools and resources to share this perspective with the Métis Nation and those that provide services and programs across the social sector.

MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col and Vice President Lissa Smith met with The Honourable Lieutenant Governor of BC, Her Honour Janet Austin, and arranged for Her Honour to join us on Sunday morning for a quick visit. Her Honour spoke to our Prince George attendees and remarked that when she heard the fiddle and spoons being played on Saturday, Her Honour wanted to join in. Her Honour in closing, commented about making future connections with MNBC Leadership and learning more about the Métis Nation.

“The Elders & Youth Gathering in Prince George this past weekend was a huge success.” MNBC Minister of Health, Susie Hooper commented. *“The room was bursting at the seams with knowledge, laughter, and storytelling, sharing culture, Michif, Elders and Youth. It was topped up with friends, fun, family and food. Everyone left asking when will this happen again. Metis people from all corners of our province were represented. We are all looking forward to the final outcome, once the materials gathered are put together. Hats off to our MNBC staff and the facilitators for putting this gathering together.”*

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Background:

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents nearly 90,000 self-identified Métis people in British Columbia; of that, 19,000 are provincially registered Métis Citizens with MNBC. The Métis National Council and the Provincial Government of British Columbia, as well as the Federal Government of Canada, recognizes the MNBC as the official governing organization for Métis in BC.