



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

Monthly E-News

From the Office of MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col
March 2020 Update



Coronavirus

The coronavirus or COVID-19 is showing up all over the world, including here in Canada and right here in British Columbia. There is lots of information about it every day on the news. Here in British Columbia we are lucky to have Dr. Bonnie Henry as our Chief Public Health Officer who always seems so calm and professional in her daily briefings. I prefer to rely on her advice as to how we should guide our daily activities and protect ourselves in the face of this terrible virus.

As President of MNBC I am concerned about the health and safety of our staff and of our Citizens. Effective Wednesday, March 18 MNBC's staff in each of our 8 offices will be working from home, so while MNBC staff will continue to be able to serve the needs of Métis people here in our province, they will simply do it from home where there is a lower risk of their coming in contact with individuals who may be carrying the virus. That arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future.

For you our Citizens, I know this is a stressful time. Worrying about you and your family's safety and health, and the health of other loved ones can't help but put stress and worry on families. We are all in this together and we will get through it together.

As the Métis Nation Minister of Health I have been working closely with President David Chartrand of the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Métis National Council to ensure we are taking the necessary steps to protect our Métis people. Yesterday, I and senior officials of MNC met by telecon with senior officials of Indigenous Services Canada, Health Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada to discuss steps that are needed to be taken to address the needs of Métis people. I made it clear that our most vulnerable Métis Citizens, seniors and those with pre-existing health conditions, are our top priority.

I described to the senior government officials how our Métis communities have never received the health services that others already enjoy, and the COVID-19 virus is now just compounding the problem. Federal officials assured me yesterday that they are moving swiftly to ensure the Métis Nation receives funding from the \$100 million fund that has been set aside for Indigenous groups and additional public health needs.

We will be in touch with each of our Community Presidents within the next 24 hours to seek their input on what are the most essential needs of our Communities during this very challenging time to help our Citizens stay safe from the COVID-19 virus.

I will be working closely with our MNBC Minister of Health Susie Hooper and her team to process the needs of the communities so that we can quickly access the funds from Ottawa.

No one knows for sure how long this virus is going to be around but while it is here the provincial and federal governments are taking extraordinary measures to try and protect everyone. We at MNBC will make every effort possible to keep our Métis people safe.

I am also attaching an information bulletin for you that contains some important information about the COVID-19 virus.

Thank you for taking the time to read my E-Newsletter. If you have any questions or thoughts that you would like to forward to me, please email me at cmorin-dalcol@mNBC.ca. I always welcome your input. It is an honour and privilege to serve as MNBC's President.

Sincerely,

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

President,
Métis Nation British Columbia