

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



Monthly E-News

From the Office of MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col

(Issue #9)



DECEMBER 2019 UPDATE - The holiday season is upon us, and a new decade is just around the corner.

It has been a very busy November and December with meetings at the national and international levels on behalf of our Métis people and I'm very pleased to have also been able to attend community meetings or dinners with the Chilliwack Métis Association, Waceya Métis Society (Langley), Fraser Valley Métis Association (Abbotsford), North Fraser Métis Association (New Westminster), Métis Nation Columbia River (Golden), Kelowna Métis Association and Vernon & District Métis Association. I always enjoy these events and being able to chat with community members. Thank you to all of our

community leaders and members for all that you do for the Métis Nation.

Congratulations to the Graduates of the Métis Community Support Worker Program

On December 4th in Fort Langley, I was pleased to attend the graduation of nine students of the Métis Community Support Worker Program. This program, which was a partnership with the University of the Fraser Valley and funded by the Provincial Ministry of



Advanced Education, Skills and Training was an excellent example of collaboration to help these nine Métis students attain their career goals. Almost all of the graduates have already gained employment, and it was so nice to present them with certificates and see the pride of their accomplishment. Thanks to each of the students and their families for their commitment to the program.



Conversation with New Federal Minister



The new federal minister of Indigenous Services is Marc Miller and he has been given a lot of tasks by the Prime Minister. In a phone conversation with Minister Miller a few days after he was appointed I told him that a high priority for me was the effective implementation of the new legislation regarding Indigenous people taking back jurisdiction over our children in care. I explained to him how important this was for Métis families and our children, but I also told him how important it was to do it properly so that no Métis child was left

behind. He agreed with me and said that it was also one of his most important tasks. He will also be co-developing a new distinctions-based approach to the delivery of services to Indigenous Peoples. In my role as National Métis Health Minister, we will be working closely on that subject as well.

National Meetings

- **Health** - In mid-November we had a meeting of the Métis Nation Health Committee in Winnipeg. The federal budget of 2018 provided \$6 million over five years through the Public Health Agency of Canada to support the Métis Nation in gathering health data and developing health strategy. A portion of that funding has been allocated to MNBC.
- **Child & Family Services** – As the national Métis Minister for Culture, Heritage and Families we have established a Métis Nation Child & Family Services Committee with representation from each of the Governing Members. At our last meeting in late November one of the main topics was the new federal legislation Bill C-92 – An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families. This is the new legislation that comes into force on January 1, 2020 that provides for each of us to begin the process of transferring jurisdiction of Métis children in care to the Métis Nation. As I noted earlier, implementation has to be done carefully so that no Métis child is left behind.
- **Michif Language** – The Michif Working Group also comes under my responsibility at the national level, and we held our first meeting on December 10th in Ottawa. A big task for us is the implementation of the new Indigenous Languages Act. For the first time ever, we have legislation that will help us to revitalize and promote our language. We are now working on the allocation of funds to the Métis Nation to ensure we have the financial resources to carry out the work.



Just a few days ago, I was at the United Nations in New York with Métis Nation President Clem Chartier speaking about the importance of working to save the Michif language. I said that by advancing the rights of Indigenous peoples to speak their languages, societies become more inclusive, breaking down colonial impacts, leading to peaceful societies. This is also key to achieving reconciliation. It was a privilege to join with President Chartier in representing the Métis Nation at the United Nations.

In closing, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and successful New Year.

Sincerely,

Clara Morin Dal Col
President, MNBC

About MNBC

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents nearly 90,000 self-identified Metis people in British Columbia. Of that, over 19,000 are provincially registered Métis Citizens. The Métis National Council, the Provincial Government of British Columbia and the Federal Government of Canada recognize MNBC as the official governing nation for Métis in British Columbia.