

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

Monthly E-News

From the Office of MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col

(Issue #10)



FEBURARY 2020 UPDATE - The state of the Metis Nation

Metis Nation Ontario has been suspended from the Metis National Council (MNC) for failing to abide by a resolution of the Metis Nation General Assembly that was passed in November 2018. The resolution arose from questions about the membership of the MNO and required the MNO to allow a review of the MNO Citizenship Registry by representatives of the other Governing Members to ensure that those who had been registered met the definition of Metis citizenship that had been established by the Metis Nation back in 2002. MNO was given one year to abide by the resolution. If they didn't, the

resolution required that they be suspended from the Metis National Council. Since the resolution of the General Assembly was passed, MNO has not opened up its Registry to the review as the resolution required. Given MNO's failure to abide by the resolution from 2018, MNO was suspended from the MNC in January of this year until the Metis Nation General Assembly reconvenes and revisits the issue. I expect that will happen sometime this Spring.

Also in January, Metis Nation of Alberta and Metis Nation - Saskatchewan joined with MNO in what they have described as a "Tri-Council Meeting". The three Governing Members last year in June each entered into a Metis Government Recognition and Self-Government agreement with Canada. Given the signing of the agreements, the three Governing Members have common priorities and issues to address. Neither MNBC nor the Manitoba Metis Federation have entered into such an agreement with Canada. Here at MNBC, we are into negotiations with Canada for a similar agreement but are not yet there.

MNBC has greatly benefited from our strong working relationship within the Metis National Council. In fact, it is that relationship that was fundamental to the signing of the Canada-Metis Nation Accord in April 2017. All Presidents of the Metis Nation, including Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and myself, along with MNC's President Clement Chartier signed the historic Accord with the Prime Minister and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. Since that time, the Government of Canada has committed about \$2 billion to the Metis Nation over the coming years. In the current fiscal year alone, MNBC will receive about \$30 million for everything from early learning and child development, to housing, to post-secondary education, to employment training, and economic development. Those funds are the result of our leadership at the national level working closely with the Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers on behalf of all Metis people. It is all about working relationships and putting together good business cases.

It is unfortunate when divisions arise within our Metis Nation from resolutions or other events because we have and we will accomplish so much more when we are working together on behalf of all Metis people. It is essential however to ensure that the integrity of the Metis Citizenship process is intact.

Investing in our Metis Children and Families

A few days ago, I had the pleasure of letting the Executive Directors of the five Metis Children and Family Service providers know that MNBC would be investing \$1.5 million in their programs in each of two years to enhance existing services for Metis children and families. The \$1.5 million this year, and an additional \$1.5 million next fiscal year will enable the agencies to do more for all Metis children and families in their areas. On behalf of MNBC, I thank the Executive Directors and their staff members for all the work that they do for Metis children and families.

Meeting with Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

In January I met with the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon. Selina Robinson to discuss how we can work together to meet the housing needs for Metis people. As the MNBC Minister for Housing, it was the first time such a meeting was held and I was pleased with our conversation. I outlined for her our plan to undertake a Metis Seniors Home Repair Program this year, and we discussed how we could work together with BC Housing on some other initiatives for Metis people.

National Meetings

- **Health** - In January, as the National Metis Minister of Health I was pleased to meet with the Federal Minister of Indigenous Services, the Hon. Marc Miller at his office on Parliament Hill. National Metis Minister of Finance David Chartrand and I met with Minister Miller to discuss the implementation of the Indigenous Children and Families Legislation (Bill C-92), and also the proposed distinctions-based Indigenous Health Legislation which Minister Miller will be leading.
- **Michif Language** - The Michif Working Group which also comes under my responsibility at the national level held our second meeting in Ottawa in January. Our focus is on revitalizing our Michif language through the implementation of the new Indigenous Languages Act.

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,



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.