

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



Monthly E-News

From the Office of MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col

(Issue #6)



SEPTEMBER 2019 UPDATE - The 2019 Annual General Meeting of Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) was successfully held in Prince George in September. My thanks to the many MNBC citizens who travelled from all over the province to participate. I'd also like to recognize those citizens who, for the first time, joined the AGM through live-streaming on the internet.

Much information was presented over the two and half days to ensure citizens are aware of all the initiatives and activities that are underway to meet the needs of Métis people in British Columbia.

This was my third AGM as President. I was very pleased to be able to report that this fiscal year funding included everything from housing, to early learning and child development, to post-secondary education, to Indigenous skills and employment, and various other initiatives, totalling almost \$28 million – more than any other time in our history. This is very good news for all Métis people in British Columbia. Now MNBC, through our staff, is moving to utilize those dollars so that they benefit Métis families.

I was very appreciative of the many positive comments that citizens shared with me at the AGM, and the emails I received after the AGM. It warms my heart to know that so many of our citizens know that we are on the right track. You should always feel free to email me at cmorin-dalcol@mNBC.ca or call me on my cell at 778-679-7543. I always welcome your input and feedback.

Thank you to all MNBC staff for the team effort in organizing the AGM, and thank you to our Prince George Métis Community Association for hosting the event.

Congratulations to the Chilliwack Métis Association

I am so pleased to congratulate Interim President, Ed Dandenault, the Board of Directors and the members of the Chilliwack Métis Association, for being selected as *Outstanding Chartered Community of the Year*. The community, with its 300 members, is very active with Youth and Elder participation.



Chilliwack Métis Association Elders have presented on Métis culture throughout the Fraser Valley. The Community received \$3,000 in recognition of their efforts.

Health Issues

Right after the AGM, I was in Calgary to attend the *World Indigenous Cancer Conference* as the National Métis Minister of Health. The conference was attended by about 400 delegates from Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Australia. In almost every category, cancer rates for Indigenous peoples, including Métis people, are higher than for non-Indigenous peoples. Many studies and initiatives are underway in different countries to learn more, and I found the sharing of information was very valuable. We have much to do here in Canada to address this terrible disease.

Last week in Toronto, the Métis Nation held a workshop on Tobacco Control. Smoking is a leading cause of cancer and there is no safe level of tobacco use. This was the first workshop that our Métis Nation held on the subject and I was pleased to be a part of it. There was good representation from most of the Governing Members, including here in British Columbia. Delegates included Youth and Elders, as well as smokers and former smokers. A lot of excellent ideas came out of the workshop, along with a proposed tobacco reduction strategy to be developed as a result. It will look at various ways to help our Métis communities and Métis people who would like to reduce the use of commercial tobacco.

Upcoming Meetings

Next week, I have a meeting of the Métis Nation Children and Families Working Committee as the National Métis Minister for Culture, Heritage and Families, and then I will be in an Ottawa meeting with the head of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to discuss the need to have more research into the state of health for Métis people. Much of what we have is out of date. I am also hoping to attend community meetings in Salmon Arm, Chilliwack and Grand Forks this month. I always look forward to meeting with our Citizens at the community level.

It is an honour and privilege to be the President of MNBC.

Thank you.

Clara Morin Dal Col
President, MNBC

About MNBC

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