

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



Monthly E-News

From the Office of MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col
(Issue #2)

DECEMBER 2018 UPDATE - While our thoughts turn to families and friends at this special time of the year, I wanted to take this opportunity to pass along our best wishes for the Christmas season, but I also want to update you on some of the various meetings and events that I have attended on behalf of Métis Nation British Columbia in the past month.

Louis Riel Day at the Legislature –

On November 16th we had a large turnout of our Métis citizens and community members on the front grounds of the BC Legislature as we recognized Louis Riel Day. I was very pleased that some members of our Board along with Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Carol James were able to join us to help raise our flag. This is a very significant event that recognizes our first leader Louis Riel and also recognizes the fact that there are nearly 90,000 self-identified Metis in British Columbia.



Policy Forum and Special Sitting of the Métis Nation Assembly – On November 26 & 27, we were in Winnipeg to attend the Recognition of the Métis Nation Policy Forum, which was then followed by the Special Sitting of the Métis Nation Assembly on November 28 & 29. The Policy Forum heard from lawyers Tom Isaac and Jason Madden regarding Section 35 Negotiations (progress is being made in the Métis Nation – here in British Columbia our Section 35 negotiations will begin in 2019). Tom Isaac, who is a very experienced negotiator and an extremely knowledgeable lawyer on Métis Section 35 Rights is providing legal advice to us at MNBC as we prepare to move forward with our negotiations. The Special Sitting of the Métis Nation Assembly dealt with a number of resolutions. One in particular dealt with adopting a map showing the historic Métis Nation. It is contentious, and while MNBC's representatives and Métis Nation Ontario's representatives did not vote for it, it did receive the majority support of the Assembly. During the debate, we were assured that even with its passage, MNBC in the future can still bring forward proposed changes to the boundaries, if supported by research

showing the historic presence of Métis in British Columbia. We will be doing that.

First Ministers Meeting in Montreal – On December 7, I along with the other leaders of the Métis Nation were in Montreal to attend the annual meeting of first ministers. We are there because Prime Minister Trudeau very much wants the three national indigenous groups to be represented at the meeting with the Premiers. Although the Premiers and Prime Minister always have many issues to cover, time is also set aside at each meeting for the Prime Minister and Premiers to hear from the national indigenous leaders. During the meeting, Métis Nation President Clem Chartier and I had an opportunity to chat briefly with BC Premier John Horgan about the large population of Métis people in British Columbia, and the need for him to mention that in his comments at First Ministers' meetings. It was a constructive dialogue that I will continue with his government in the New Year.

Policy Forums in Ottawa – As we continue to make progress in so many areas with the federal government, there is a need to have policy forums on various subjects which give us the opportunity for substantial input from the Métis Nation on key societal issues and possible future programs and services for Métis people to be funded by the Government of Canada. On December 10, 11 & 12 we met in Ottawa to discuss Early Learning and Child Care, as well as Homelessness and Reducing Poverty. All very important discussions that provide valuable Métis input into policy development and the potential of future programs and services for Métis people throughout the Métis Nation and here in British Columbia

In closing, we continue to make good progress with Canada on behalf of Métis people like never before. The work that we are doing on the national level is all intended to make a difference for Métis families and I am very proud of how the new initiatives and programs will help to make a difference for Métis people here in British Columbia.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff – we wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2019. It will be a good year for Métis people.

I am honoured to continue to work on your behalf.

Thank you.

*Clara Morin Dal Col
President, MNBC*

About MNBC

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents nearly 90,000 self-identified Métis people in British Columbia, of that, more than 18,000 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 nation for Métis in BC.