

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



Monthly E-News

From the Office of MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col
(Issue #5)



July 2019 UPDATE — Summer is now upon us, and it is my sincere hope that you will be able to enjoy some quality time with your family and friends. We have much to be thankful for living in Canada, and it is always nice when you can share some special time with loved ones.

Métis Self-Government Agreements

Canada has just signed self-government agreements with Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation Saskatchewan and Métis Nation of Ontario. They have been in negotiations with Canada for many months and have just recently been successful in resolving some of the wording and language issues resulting in the signing of the agreements on June 27th. This is an important achievement for each of the jurisdictions and I congratulate them and thank them for helping to lay the groundwork for us.

Neither the Manitoba Métis Federation nor ourselves have signed self-government agreements. Here in British Columbia, we have had to spend considerable time in helping officials better understand our historical presence and our Métis rights, and we have a provincial government that does not even accept that Métis have any rights. That's different from some of the other Métis jurisdictions.

We signed our Memorandum of Understanding for Advancing Reconciliation with the Government of Canada in July 2018 after several months of meetings, and last month our s.35 Métis Rights team and Canada's negotiators agreed on language for a Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Process MOU. This MOU, which is now in Ottawa being reviewed by senior officials before it is signed by Minister Bennett, will commit the government of Canada to working with us over the coming months in looking at the specifics of self-government including Core Governance and a fiscal relationship with Canada.

We have asserted S.35 Métis Rights in British Columbia and this all-important subject will be part of our discussions going forward under a Core Governance Agreement. We have made it plain to the federal government that Métis in British Columbia are not second-class



and that our Métis citizens have rights under s.35 of the Canada Constitution, 1982 just like Métis citizens in other parts of the Métis Homeland. I am confident that we will ultimately reach agreement with Canada. The provincial government here in BC, which does not acknowledge Métis rights, will be another story.

We have also engaged the services of a professional historical expert to research the historical presence of Métis in British Columbia. We know from earlier research that Métis have been present in BC since the late 1700's but now with sufficient funding from the federal government, we can do even greater research that will be extremely valuable to us in these negotiations and in establishing our Métis rights.

These negotiations between MNBC and Canada are not easy but we have established a very constructive working relationship with the federal negotiators that is enabling us to move forward on self-government and self-determination.

Annual Summit with Prime Minister Trudeau



On June 13, we had our Crown – Métis Nation Annual Summit in Ottawa with Prime Minister Trudeau. This Summit is an important element of the work to renew the relationship between Canada and the Métis Nation, based on recognition of rights, respect, and co-operation.



The meeting assessed progress on co-developed initiatives in areas such as social and economic policies and programs; governance; and reconciliation. Discussions also covered the significant pieces of legislation introduced in Parliament this past February, specifically Bill C-91, the Indigenous Languages Act, and Bill C-92, an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, which affirms the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services.

We also signed the following sub-accords:

- Economic Development
- Governance
- Homelessness
- Post-Secondary Education

Upcoming Events and Meetings – I will be in Batoche July 18-20 to participate in our annual Métis gathering. It is always so nice to see so many Métis people in one location that has such historical significance for us. I am also hoping to drop in on some Métis Community gatherings here in BC in July and August.

A reminder about the Regional Justice Consultation sessions that have started and will go until July 26th, with our final session in Prince George. We value your input and we encourage you to click on the link below and register to attend.

<https://www.mnbc.ca/news-events/posts/m-tis-nation-british-columbia-justice-consultation>

I am honoured to continue to work on your behalf. If you would like additional information or would like to share your comments on any subject, please email me at: cmorin-dalcol@mnbc.ca

Have a good summer.

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, 19,000 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.