

# MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



## Monthly E-News

From the Office of MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col  
(Issue #8)



**November 2019 UPDATE-** November is a month during which we remember those who have served, and continue to serve Canada in times of war, conflict, and peace. In communities across British Columbia, Métis Veterans, community leaders and members took the time in chilly weather at these year's Remembrance Day ceremonies to pay their respects to those who have served our country, including the thousands of Métis Veterans. Thank you to everyone who carried the Métis flag and placed a

wreath on behalf of the Métis Nation, and thank you to all community members who attended the ceremonies to pay their respects.

World War II Métis Veterans were forgotten by the federal government when they returned from their service overseas but they have been receiving some special recognition from the Métis Nation during the past few months. After years of lobbying past federal governments, and hard work by our national Métis Minister for Veterans MMF President David Chartrand, the Trudeau Government this year came through with a \$30 million Legacy Fund for Métis men and women who served in World War II.



Under the terms of the Canada-Métis Nation Métis Veterans Recognition Agreement, World War II Métis Veterans still with us today will each receive a \$20,000 cheque. The families of Métis Veterans who have passed away within the last three years can also receive compensation. Here in British Columbia we have had the honour of presenting cheques to Clifford Swain of Comox and George Watson of Vancouver.



The balance of the Legacy Fund will live on forever, with the revenue generated to be used for numerous initiatives, including education, supports, and monuments.

### **Louis Riel Day**

Here in British Columbia on November 16<sup>th</sup> we also pay tribute to our leader Louis Riel, who was also the first premier of Manitoba. Each year since 2015 our provincial government, through the office of the Lieutenant Governor has put out a proclamation that sets November 16<sup>th</sup> as Louis Riel Day. Our Métis flag is raised at the Legislature and in a number of Métis communities throughout British Columbia. I am always reminded of the fact that if it had not been for Louis Riel bringing Manitoba into Confederation through the Manitoba Act of 1870, Canada as a country might look very different today.



On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, I was very proud to be in Winnipeg and able to witness the Royal Canadian Mint's unveiling of a special edition proof dollar marking the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Louis Riel. We were very pleased to have our Community Presidents from Fort St. John (Jacqueline Alderking) and Kootenay South (Myrt Servatius) join us for the special event.

### **Upcoming Events**

Between now and Christmas it really gets busy with meetings in Ottawa in my roles as National Métis Minister for Culture, Heritage and Families, and as National Métis Minister for Health. I am confident that our strong working relationship with the federal government on behalf of all Métis people will continue.

I will also be visiting several of our Métis communities over the next few weeks, including Columbia River (Golden), Waceyá (Langley), Kelowna, Fraser Valley (Abbotsford) and Chilliwack.

I very much enjoy visiting our communities, chatting with our Citizens, and listening to your concerns.



Please feel free to contact me at [cmorin-dalcol@mNBC.ca](mailto:cmorin-dalcol@mNBC.ca) if you would like to reach me.

It is an honour and privilege to serve as your President.

Until my next E-Newsletter, please take care and be safe on our highways. Winter has arrived in many parts of our province.

Sincerely,

**President, MNBC**

**About MNBC**

*The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents nearly 90,000 self-identified Métis people in British Columbia, of that, nearly 20,000 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.*