



RESOLUTION A

ADOPTED AT THE 2023 MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Subject: C-92 Resolution

Submitted by: Debra Fisher, Region 4 Director

Submitted to: AGM Clerk

Date Submitted: September 22, 2023

Vote Required for Approval: Majority

WHEREAS

1. The Métis Nation is an Indigenous people and one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada within the meaning of Section 35 (2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
2. The Métis Nation within British Columbia—which is an integral part of the larger Métis Nation—holds inherent rights to self-government and self-determination, as well as those rights as recognized in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;
3. Métis Nation British Columbia (“MNBC”) is mandated to represent the Métis Nation within British Columbia—which includes the Métis Nation’s citizens—with respect to their rights, claims, and interests;
4. Through policy development and advocacy, MNBC actively represents our thirty-nine (39) Métis Communities in British Columbia and MNBC citizens. MNBC engages Chartered Communities and citizens to address sensitive and critical matters, including but not limited to the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*,⁵ social work oversight, review of child protection responses, youth justice, youth transitions, children and youth with support needs, and the complexities associated with each of these issues;
5. MNBC and the Province of British Columbia signed a Joint Commitment to collaboratively work towards MNBC’s authority over child welfare for Métis children and families in British Columbia;
6. On June 12, 2019, Canada, represented by the Assistant Deputy Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (“ISC”), entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Métis National Council regarding the Canada-Métis Nation Child and Family Services Accord (“CFS MOU”). MNBC is a signatory to the CFS MOU, which states promoting Métis jurisdiction over the design and delivery of child and family programs and services as a primary goal;

7. The federal *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* affirms that the “inherent right of self-government recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* includes jurisdiction in relation to child and family services, including legislative authority in relation to those services and authority to administer and enforce laws made under that legislative authority” and recognizes numerous rights, opportunities, and responsibilities of Indigenous governing bodies in the provision of child and family services to their citizens.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The Citizens of MNBC declare inherent jurisdiction over child and family services of Metis in BC, and authorize MNBC to exercise jurisdiction on our behalf. MNBC will develop Metis child welfare laws and will provide Metis child and family services including negotiating agreements and any other instrument that recognizes this jurisdiction.