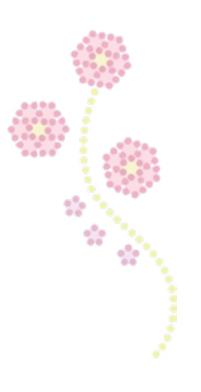


# **MNGA Reports 2024**

**MARCH 1-3, 2024** 

KISHCHEE TEY MO'YAWN AEN LI MICHIF WE'YAWN PROUD TO BE MÉTIS





## **Contents**

Anthems	
O Canada	3
Métis Anthem	3
Board Reports	
President's Report	6
Vice-President's Report	10
Treasurer's Report	13
Secretary's Report	17
Region 1 Director Report	19
Region 2 Director Report	29
Region 3 Director Report	33
Region 4 Director Report	35
Region 5 Director Report	39
Region 6 Director Report	41
Region 7 Director Report	43
CEO Report	46
Board and Executive Expenditure Report	48
Ministry Reports	
Children and Families	50
Citizenship	53
Community Services	56
Culture, Heritage, and Language	58
Digital Governance	61
Economic Development and Tourism	63
Education and Early Learning   K-12	65
Elders	69
Environmental Protection, Agriculture, & Food Sovereignty	72
Health	76
Housing and Homelessness	80
Intergovernmental Affairs	84

# **Contents**

Justice	87
Mental Health and Harm Reduction	90
Métis Rights	95
Skills Training, Employment, and Post-Secondary	98
Sport and Active Living	102
Veterans	105
Women and Gender Equity	109
Youth	112
Senate Report	117
Community Reports	
Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society	121
Cowichan Valley Métis Association	123
Kelowna Métis Association	125
Kootenay South Métis Society	128
Métis Nation Columbia River Society	131
Métis Nation Powell River	134
North Fraser Métis Association	135
North Island Métis Association	139
Northwest Métis Association	142
Prince Rupert & District Métis Society	145
Rocky Mountain Métis Association	148
Salmon Arm Métis Association	151
South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association	153
Tri-River Métis Association	156
Two Rivers Métis Association	158
Vermillion Forks Métis Association	161

### **Anthems**

### **O CANADA**

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

### **MÉTIS ANTHEM**

We are proud to be Métis, watch our Nation rise again. Never more forgotten people, we're the true Canadian. In the forest, on the river, and across the western plain, As the white man journeyed westward to the land of the Indian. A new race was created, a new nation rose up strong. Hardship as its destiny, and its curse to not belong. We are proud to be Métis, watch our Nation rise again. Never more forgotten people, we're the true Canadian. For this newest generation, and the future ones to come. With the past to motivate us, it will help to keep us strong. As we build the Métis Nation, as we watch it rise again, Our past loss is motivation, to inspire our future gain. We are proud to be Métis, watch our Nation rise again. Never more forgotten people, we're the true Canadian. We are proud to be Métis, watch our Nation rise again. Never more forgotten people, we're the true Canadian



# **Board Reports**



## **President's Report**

### **Respectfully Submitted: LISSA DAWN SMITH**

Minister of Justice, Minister of Veterans, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

I'd like to begin my report by acknowledging the tireless dedication and volunteer service provided by the leadership of each of our 40 Chartered Communities. A big maarsi!

Our government is growing steadily, and we are now proud to represent more than 25,000 registered Citizens living throughout British Columbia. Our twenty-five-thousandth citizen was sashed by Patrick Harriott, Minister of Culture, Heritage, and Language at a ceremony in front of the provincial Legislature in November.

We are excited to announce that the Sea to Sky Métis Association has become the newest MNBC Chartered Community, which fills a gap in the populated Lower Mainland region. This addition reflects the ongoing growth of our government in B.C.

Child care remains a challenge for Métis parents. From November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, early learning and child care professionals gathered in Victoria for the Métis Early Years Conference hosted by our Ministry of Education. A safe learning environment requires Métis-specific content and approaches. MNBC also partnered with Mission Public Schools and the Fraser Valley Métis Association to bring culturally-responsive child care spaces to the West Heights Community. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on January 9<sup>th</sup>, and the child care program is opening this spring.

The Board of Directors has endorsed a recommendation to approve the creation of 24 child care spaces in Saanich. Métis-specific child care on this site will support the successful rezoning of the project, which will include a community space and housing.

Our Ministry of Education offered the Good Beginnings – Growing Our Children course throughout January and February for individuals wanting to become registered with our Child Care Resource and Referral Program. This 30-hour, online course includes Métis cultural content.

MNBC worked with School District 70 – Pacific Rim, and the Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society to co-develop a tripartite Métis Education Agreement for kindergarten through grade 12. Taanishi aen ishi Nakishkaatooyaahk ('how we connect') represents the voice of our people in the region, and ensures culturally-distinct education and early learning services are provided to Métis children.



MNBC has become the new steward of Point Ellis House in Victora. Constructed in 1861, this iconic landmark holds historical significance for Métis people in the area, reflecting our unique heritage, customs, and way of life. It is a space where visitors engage with Métis heritage by learning about British Columbia's unique past.

Our Ministry of Culture, Heritage, and Language is completing a 10-year Michif Language Revitalization plan, and preparing to launch the Amelia Douglas Institute for Métis Culture and Language at our head office in Surrey. Also supporting culture, the Board endorsed a resolution to provide \$30,000 - annually for two years – for the Vancouver Island Rendezvous, plus a resolution to provide \$10,000 for the Jamboree at McLeese Lake.

Our Ministry of Women and Gender Equity is planning to partner with Trans Care BC on the Information Project, which will address the increase of misinformation, discrimination, and violence against Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary Métis youths' access to gender affirming care and information. This project was endorsed by the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Committee.

Our new Agriculture and Food Sovereignty portfolio under the Ministry of Environmental Protection has reinstated the Home Garden Program for a fourth consecutive year. The popular initiative has been expanded to accept applications from 400 households. This Ministry also launched the Harvester Hub, which allows citizens to apply directly for Harvester Cards, plus track their application. The Harvester Survey opened in February with a refreshed look.

In December, MNBC's Ministry of Health and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer signed a Letter of Understanding to improve awareness of Métis health challenges, and create long-term goals in support of self-determination. Our Ministry of Health also held its Ta Saantii Mamawapowuk Health Gathering with Interior Health in Kelowna to discuss Métis experiences in the healthcare system.

Our Board Executive attended a government engagement trip in Ottawa in November to convey support for the self-determination of our fellow Governing Members through the adoption of Bill C-53, but highlighted the importance of MNBC being included in this legislation. MNBC Regional Director Dean Gladue also appeared before the Indigenous and Norther Affairs (INAN) committee to support the bill's passing. We advocated strongly for our right to care for vulnerable Métis children in B.C., and expressed our concerns over the Manitoba Métis Federation's Draft Treaty, which infringes on our rights. Our delegation also attended the Métis National Council Annual General Meeting.

Provincially, we hosted the inaugural Métis Summit in Victoria that same month. Objectives were to advance our work on reconciliation, and sound the alarm on the Distinctions-Based Approach legal primer that was developed without meaningful consultation with MNBC, and neglects many of our inherent rights. Our Summit included a meeting with Premier Eby and a private reception for MLAs that featured fiddling and jigging by local performers. Our delegation was recognized by the Legislative Assembly during Question Period.

Intergovernmental Affairs has implemented a systematic regional engagement program to ensure our

Regional Directors have strong relationships with their local MPs and MLAs. This initiative positions us to leverage those political relationships when an issue arises.

Municipally, the team advocated for housing projects in Campbell River, Prince George and Saanich at the annual Union of B.C. Municipalities convention in Vancouver. With the success of that outreach, we will be bringing an even larger MNBC presence at the next convention.

Our Ministry of Youth shared Métis culture through music and dance at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Guiding Youth Home gala in November. Hosted by the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association, this event raises awareness about the growing number of Indigenous youth experiencing homelessness.

Our Board recognizes the need to repair and rebuild relationships with First Nations. We understand that Métis rights in B.C. are different from the rights of our First Nations cousins. Significant work has been taking place to renew our relationship, including developing a First Nations Relationship Plan and hiring a staff member to help implement that plan. As examples of outreach, we attended the New Moon Gathering at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey and the Songhees Nation South Island Powwow in Victoria.

We continue to bring awareness of Métis veterans at both a provincial and federal level. In November, we attended a Métis Veterans BC (MVBC) meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Associate Minister of National Defence, and MP for Surrey Centre Randeep Sarai. We raised the need to increase funding opportunities for our veterans, as currently the duties of the MVBC committee are carried out on a volunteer basis. A funding proposal has been drafted to support the development of the Veteran's Portal and CRM.

We also drew attention to the need to have Métis culture better represented at commemorative veterans events, such as D-Day and Remembrance Day – both overseas and here at home. In planning for the upcoming Invictus Games, we highlighted to the need for Métis inclusion. Discussions have been held with Veteran's Affairs Canada, and have included representation from both the MNC and the newlyformed National Métis Veteran's Council.

Locally, Region 1 Director Patrick Harriot attended the Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony in Victoria, along with Veteran Women's Representative Barbara Hulme. In October, we participated in a retreat in Osoyoos with the MVBC Committee and representatives from our Ministry of Youth to better identify collaboration opportunities and increase youth engagement. We are also planning to meet with the new Base Commander at CFB Esquimalt to ensure we can engage in Indigenous-focused military programs such as RAVEN, which provides Indigenous recruits a paid training opportunity with the Canadian Armed Forces, and includes lessons in First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures.

We is in the final stages of creating a veteran's sash for our membership, as well as an MVBC commemorative challenge coin in recognition for their service.

We are motivated by the strides made in our Justice portfolio. Our Ministry of Justice and MNBC Justice Council have been pushing our agenda forward. We increased internal capacity, and are having more

frequent and substantive meetings with the MNBC Justice Council, which I am honored to co-chair.

B.C.'s new Attorney General Niki Sharma has agreed to pilot a Métis-focused collaboration in one of the province's Indigenous Justice Centres. MNBC has been advocating for Métis inclusion and cultural supports at these centres, which are run by the BC First Nations Justice Council. We are thrilled to see the provincial government supporting the change needed for First Nations in our province; now we need to see the same supports for our Nation.

Our provincial Métis Justice Strategy had a few wins and a few bumps along the way in 2023. We are close to sending it to Cabinet for approval. In parallel, we have started work on our federal Indigenous Justice Strategy, seeking grants from Canada to support the work. We are also developing a Justice and Policing accord that is expected to go to the Prime Minister's summit later this year.

Our Ministry of Housing and Homelessness is working on more than twenty projects across the province. We continue to receive Expressions of Interests from Chartered Communities for a variety of social infrastructure projects that include housing, office space and cultural gathering spaces.

Our Ministry of Skills Training, Employment and Post-Secondary is advocating for more flexibility in how our funding is used. We have supported more than 1,000 Métis clients across the province, and continue to advocate for more funding to move our Nation forward in a positive way.

Our vision remains steadfast: to build a proud, self-governing nation in B.C. where all Métis people have access to affordable housing, and their healthcare needs are met. We want to see our children raised in a culturally-safe environment. We remain steadfast in our pursuit of Indigenous Governing Body status with the federal government to support this work.

## **Vice-President's Report**

### **Respectfully Submitted: WALTER MINEAULT**

Minister of Housing, Minister of Métis of Rights

I am privileged to serve as the Vice-President of Métis Nation British Columbia, overseeing the portfolios for Métis Rights, and Housing and Homelessness.

As the Minister of Rights, I am well-briefed by staff. Our Historical Research Project continued through the fall with interviews and intensive research, ending the year with approximately 34 interviews being conducted in just six months. These interviews have been with our Knowledge Holders and Elders across B.C. We continue to create community partnerships in this work, and the research team will be busy writing and analyzing the information. We are on track to start our discussions with the Government of Canada this spring.

In addition, our Ministry of Rights is participating on a weekly basis at numerous tables, including many with Métis National Council and our Governing Members, to bring forward the work promised by Canada in the United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan that was co-written and developed with MNBC. This year will quickly become busy for our Rights work as we continue to advocate for our citizens.

Last year brought its share of challenges. Federally, we saw the introduction and advancement of Bill C53, which will provide our fellow Governing Members across Canada the right to self-government. Unfortunately, MNBC is being left behind in this era of reconciliation. While we are proud of our fellow members' success, MNBC is not named in this legislation. When called as a witness to Bill C-53, Region 3 Director Dean Gladue reiterated the need for MNBC to also be recognized in self-government legislation.

Provincially, we have also faced new challenges. As many are aware, the Province of B.C. released the Distinctions-Based Approach legal primer (DBA), a move that occurred without meaningful consultation with MNBC. The DBA pre-judges the extent of our Métis rights and the self-determination we seek in British Columbia. Our Board firmly believes that this is not aligned with the principles of reconciliation. We are pursuing measures to hold the Province accountable to their commitment of collaboratively crafting this pivotal document.

In the first six months of 2024, we are also planning to increase our staff in the Ministry of Rights to better support the influx of incoming legislation and policy. Our lobbying

at the leadership level is creating more and more opportunities at the technical level and therefore, we need to increase our capacity to support that work.

As the Minister of Housing and Homelessness, I am also proud to share that significant progress has been made on our housing policy. The Board of Directors has given its approval for the development of Second Stage Housing Policies. These policies are currently undergoing a review within MNBC. Additionally, we are in the process of establishing a Residential Tenant Selection Process to guarantee a fair and uniform assessment of potential tenants.

We've also made strides in our Housing Development initiatives. In Region 1, our Saanich site expansion will deliver 45 housing units, and incorporate 24 childcare spots and a cultural space for the Chartered Community. Region 4 has seen the submission of a rezoning application in Invermere, paving the way for 26 housing units that will also include a cultural space for the local community.

A partnership with the City of Terrace has been forged in Region 6 to acquire land, which will see 49 childcare spaces and between 40 to 80 housing units developed. This site has the potential for long-term expansion up to 140 units and will feature a cultural space for the Chartered Community. Over in Region 7, President Alana Copeland's Chartered Community has acquired the Crosstown Apartments in Fort St. John. This property consists of a 40-unit building and an adjacent house that will be transformed into a Métis House, which will function as a cultural centre. We also plan to introduce childcare services at this location by March 2025. For Region 5, we are working with local Presidents and the Regional Director to explore new opportunities to improve housing security for our citizens.

Collaboration with BC Housing has been instrumental, leading to the submission of four Project Development Applications. These applications could yield up to \$1 million in pre-development funds for projects in Saanich, Campbell River, Invermere, and Terrace. Lastly, in Hudson's Hope, we've invited contractors to submit their proposals for a housing project with the expectation of beginning construction in 2024.

A key component of our housing strategy includes the development of resources, support programs and strategies to support individuals facing homelessness and the rising cost of living. Through our lobbying efforts, we created a space to discuss Poverty Reduction strategies.

In collaboration with the Government of BC, and Kwusen Research Media, MNBC conducted a study that looked at these issues. We interviewed Métis people who have experienced homelessness. We learned that MNBC programs are more helpful and accessible than programs delivered by other organizations. However, we also heard that more programming is needed. We aim to negotiate continued support from the Government of B.C. to provide us with greater capacity to do this work and provide better support for our citizens.

In October 2023, we acquired a single-family residence in the Lower Mainland designated for secondstage housing. This facility is committed to providing refuge for women and children escaping abuse, and is set to commence operations in 2024.

I am also pleased to report the renewal of our Reaching Home contract, which now extends for another four years. This renewal is accompanied by a budget increase, earmarked specifically for enhancing supports and resources for those experiencing homelessness.

As well, the Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia has confirmed the continuation of the Welcome Home Kits program into 2024. This initiative supports vulnerable Métis individuals through the critical phases of their housing journey.

The summer of 2024 will mark the inception of the MNBC Tenant Advocacy Program. This new program will allow MNBC staff to assist Métis tenants in residential tenancy disputes. It will also introduce an innovative educational platform to address common tenancy inquiries – further empowering tenants with knowledge and resources.

As your Vice President, I've also chaired some Annual General Meetings for communities, and attended local events. Here is an overview of that community engagement:

- September 30 Chaired the Waceya Métis Society AGM
- October 10 Chaired the AGM in Fort St John
- October 14-17 Attended the swearing-in ceremony for the Métis Nation of Alberta
- October 20-22 Chaired the AGM for Chilliwack, and attended the Harvest dinner/dance
- October 27-28 Participated in the Louis Riel Event with the Okanagan Métis and received a 100-year-old HBC Capote
- November 3-5 Chaired the Kelowna Métis AGM
- November 6-9 Attended the Calgary TMX event with Curtis Belcourt
- November 17-19 Chaired the Port Alberni AGM
- November 19-23 Participated in Métis Summit days in Victoria
- November 26 December 1 Engaged in Lobby days in Ottawa
- December 11-15 Attended the MNC Board of Governors and AGM.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve as the Vice-President of Métis Nation BC. I am optimistic about the future and will continue to fight for the recognition of our constitutional rights and advocate for improved housing and services for Métis across British Columbia.

### **Treasurer's Report**

### Respectfully Submitted: PATRICK HARRIOTT

#### 2023/2024 Government Funding and Other Revenues

MNBC (Métis Nation British Columbia) receives funding from the Government of Canada, the BC Provincial Government, and other agencies to support programming and operations for the Métis people in BC.

All funding provided to MNBC comes through various types of contribution agreements and has specific reporting requirements as well as annual audit requirements. Funding is received by MNBC throughout the year and may be received or receivable on a fully upfront, monthly, quarterly, annual or on a non-regular basis.

Some of the funding agreements such as those with Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada are part of multi-year funding initiatives that are secured into the future, while many of the agreements are stand-alone agreements for a specific duration of time or agreements that are renewed on an annual basis.

As we near March 31<sup>st</sup> and completion of our fiscal year (FY) 2023/2024, the funding committed to-date for this fiscal year totals over \$70M. Although, committed funding has decreased from the prior fiscal year, due to the end of COVID funding agreements, and the receipt of one-time funding initiatives to build child care spaces, ongoing program funding has continued to increase.

The breakdown of FY 2023/2024 funding that has been committed through current agreements to MNBC is as follows:

- Government of Canada \$60.8M
- BC Government \$8.1M
- Other Agencies \$1.2M

Funding that has been received by MNBC in the current fiscal from April 1 - December 31, 2023, is summarized as follows:

- Funding relating to current year 2023/2024 Contribution Agreements \$46.7M
- Funding relating to prior year 2022/2023 Contribution Agreements \$3.7M
- Total funding received from April 1 to December 31, 2023 \$50.4M

#### Significant Funding Initiatives FY 2023/2024

MNBC has been able to continue many successful programs as well as implement new initiatives in FY 2023/2024.

Highlights and new initiatives as follows:

- Launch of the Amelia Douglas Institute for Métis Culture and Language (ADI)
   website. The website includes Michif language resources, information about Métis material arts, a Métis Material Arts Gallery, and a Métis in BC Artist Collective.
- Completion of the space at MNBC's headquarters for the Amelia Douglas Institute (ADI),
  opening January 2024. The ADI will provide educational programming on Métis arts, history,
  and language for both Métis in British Columbia and the general public. The ADI will provide
  educational programming on Métis arts, history, and language for both Métis in British
  Columbia and the general public.
- Partial launch of MNBC Hub, MNBC's online portal for citizenship applications, renewals and
  updating information as well as giving Chartered community presidents access to approve
  community acceptance and statistical information, to be fully implemented by February 6, 2024.
- Implementation of a new Citizenship Relations Management system (CRM). This is a robust system to manage the citizenship process, incorporating information and document management, workflow management and tracking, and data storage.
- MNBC's Historical Research Project commenced with interviews and intense research, ending the year with approximately 34 interviews being conducted. These interviews have been with our knowledge holders and Elders across BC an investment of \$1.8M.
- MNBC in collaboration with the Province of BC and Kwusen Research Media, worked on Poverty Reduction strategies. This included a study that looks at Métis living in poverty across BC, interviewing Métis who have or are experiencing homelessness.
- Métis First Time Home Buyers Program with \$1M in support funding. This program assists citizens towards the purchase of their first home.
- Agreement with the City of Surrey to build culturally relevant childcare space for Métis children at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre in Surrey – an investment of \$1.2M.

Initiatives that MNBC has been able to continue into this fiscal year as follows:

- Skills training, employment and post-secondary scholarships \$ 240,000
- Continuation of the Ma Nîķi program with \$1.3M for senior housing support. This program
  gives seniors the opportunity to receive up to \$20,000 for necessary home improvements and
  renovations.
- Continuation of the Métis Housing Rent Supplement Program with \$1.3M in support funding.
   This program aids eligible Citizens for rentals and housing supports.
- Continuation of SITÉM, skills training programs with an additional commitment from the BC

- Government of \$7M to provide skills training and employment readiness programs and supports for over 600 Métis Citizens across BC.
- Continuation of Chartered Community support with Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP). This funding allows each community to access \$15,000 in funding for a wide variety of supports. The UPIP funding has been confirmed for another fiscal year until the end of FY 2024/2025 and MNBC is hopeful that it will be renewed in another multi-year agreement thereafter.
- Continuation of the Elders Assistance Pilot Program An investment of \$197,000 to help low-income elders/seniors purchase health related necessities by providing up to \$2,500 per person and \$4,000 per couple.
- Continuation of the Counselling Connection Program with \$300,000 in support funding. This funding assists Citizens in covering the cost of counselling sessions.
- Continuation of Miyoopimatishihk (Wellbeing) Program an investment of \$490,000 to assist families of children birth to eight years old have access to supports for early childhood development.
- Continuation of the Métis Childcare Benefit Program with \$1.4M in support funding. This program assists parents of children birth to twelve years old with their childcare fees.
- Continuation of the Active Living Grant. This program gives citizens access up to \$250 per person towards supporting mental and physical health.
- Métis Guardians stewardship and conservation \$ 1.38M from 2023 to 2026
- Canadian Wildlife Services Harvester and land use supports \$100,000

MNBC is proud to announce that additional capital investments have been made during the year. In addition, the pre-development stage has begun on properties previously purchased. Property acquisition made up to December 31, 2023, are as follows:

- The purchase of land and building on Brunswick Place in Saanich of \$1.9M which will be combined with the 3656 Raymond Street parcel to accommodate the development of affordable housing as well as community space, a childcare centre and other amenities.
- The purchase of an apartment building, Crosstown Apartments, in Fort St. John of \$8.6M which will provide affordable rental housing for Métis families.
- The purchase of housing in Surrey of \$1.4M that will be used for a new program to provide safe, short-term accommodations to women and children fleeing abuse.
- Contract entered for three lots on Greig Avenue in Terrace to close in 2024. The property will be

- developed to provide housing, a childcare centre as well as cultural space and other amenities, with the first phase being the childcare centre.
- The purchase of 3 Sprinter Cargo style vans outfitted to provide Métis Mobile
   Community Initiatives. They are designed to bring MNBC programs and services to Métis
   children and families across the province. These vans will visit our Chartered Communities,
   service providers, and community partners as well as local public spaces delivering Métis
   culture, language and resources and building vital community connections across the province.
- Started Phase 1 of the architectural design process for the MNBC Multi-Use Development Project for four properties in Campbell River, Saanich, Fort St. John, and Terrace.

# **Secretary's Report**

### Respectfully Submitted: LOUIS DE JAEGER

Tansi, Bonjour MNGA Delegates,

The latter part of 2023 has been busy for the Executive. Besides meeting once a week, many decisions are made between regular MNBC Board meetings and are usually discussed at the Executive level. Numerous committee Chair or co-Chair positions are held by Executive members as well. This past December 12, 13 and 14, 2023 I attended meetings at the Metis National Council Board of Governors and Annual General Assembly in Ottawa. While in Ottawa, we usually try to squeeze in as many one on one's with government or staff officials pertaining to portfolios that affect citizens in BC, pop in to question period and this past trip a few of us were able to attend hearings for Bill C-53: An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments, and to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments. My role is also to support the Board, minute taking for in-camera meetings and assuring that they reflect the format and level of detail that the Board has determined.

Approved MNBC Board meeting Minutes are available on the MNBC website at: <a href="https://www.mnbc.ca/about-mnbc/mnbc-leadership/board-resources">https://www.mnbc.ca/about-mnbc/mnbc-leadership/board-resources</a>

April 20, 2023 Board Meeting
May 16, 2023 Board Meeting
June 3-4, 2023 MNBC MNGA

June 7, 2023 Special Board Meeting

June 12, 2023 Board Meeting

July 10, 2023 Board Meeting

August 14, 2023 Board Meeting

September 20-21, 2023 Board Meeting

September 22-24, 2023 MNBC AGM

October 16, 2023 Board Meeting

November 20, 2023 Board Meeting

December 2-3, 2023 MNBC MNGA

December 13-14, 2023 MNC AGA

December 18, 2023 Board Meeting

January 16-17, 2024 Board Meeting

January 29, 2024 Special Board Meeting (Scheduled)

February 12, 2024 Board Meeting (Scheduled)

February 28-29, 2024 Board Meeting (Scheduled)

March 1-3, 2024 MNBC MNGA (Scheduled)

In addition to these Board Meeting dates, the Board Executive meets weekly.

Approved MNBC Board meeting Minutes are available on the MNBC website at: <a href="https://www.mnbc.ca/about-mnbc/mnbc-leadership/board-resources">https://www.mnbc.ca/about-mnbc/mnbc-leadership/board-resources</a>

## **Region 1 Director Report**

### **Respectfully Submitted: PATRICK HARRIOTT**

#### Taanishi everyone!

As I enter into the 4<sup>th</sup> year of my term, it is my privilege to submit this report to you. I am feeling optimistic about all the hard work over the last 3 years starting to show results for our Nation. That isn't to say there are not big challenges that remain, and a lot of hard work ahead. With the many varied facets of the work being done, I know I won't be able to include everything; however, I hope this report captures the most essential parts of that work.

#### Region 1

I am very excited and honoured to have witnessed the signing of a Métis Education Agreement in Port Alberni. This agreement will see the Alberni-Clayoquot Métis Community be front and center in the supports for our Métis learners in school. There are Métis specific resources and a staff position contemplated in this agreement, collaborative decision making, ways to make sure our kids see themselves reflected in their schools. This is the second Métis Education Agreement in the province, the first being in Victoria with SD61. I am working to make sure other communities can get the assistance they need for a similar agreement with their school districts if they so desire it. I want to make sure I applaud the excellent and often difficult work all the Region 1 Communities are doing on behalf of our Métis learners, and the very productive relationship Cowichan, North Island, MIKI'SIW already have with their School Districts.

I am pleased to see many communities in our Region are finding new locations, or renovating existing ones, to continue their important work for Métis Citizens. Mid-Island was supported financially in renovating their new office space, and I am working to support Cowichan in the renovation of their beautiful heritage school which will include accessibility improvements. Both Alberni-Clayoquot and Qathet (Powell River) Communities are exploring exciting opportunities for long term office and community spaces, and I look forward to assisting however I can. Both North Island and Greater Victoria communities have been seeing frustratingly slow progress on new builds for their community spaces. With the restructuring of the MNBC Housing Ministry, I have already seen expedited movement on these projects and look forward to shovels being in the ground.



I want to bring to everyone's attention that the Vancouver Island Métis Rendezvous 2024 is being planned for the weekend of August 16th. Mark your calendars and tell your friends! It is already the largest Métis cultural gathering in BC and, as VIMR continues to grow, I am pleased to announce MNBC Board of Directors has approved continued funding support for the next 2 years.

MNBC was successful in winning the management contract for Point Ellice House heritage property! This location has deep ties to the history of Métis people in BC. Originally built by the Work family, the stories of the prominent Métis families of Amelia Douglas, Isabella Ross, and my own uncle and founder of Nanaimo Joseph Willam McKay all intersected here. It also has very deep ties to the colonial legacy of BC as it was the was later the home of Peter O'Reilly who was the Indian Reserve Commissioner. I am excited to bring the forgotten history of early Victoria, and the essential part Métis and other Indigenous people played, back into prominence. I am especially looking forward to the deep collaboration of the Greater Victoria Métis community as we bring not only a new historical perspective, but continue to practice our living culture, and shine a spotlight on our vibrant current community. I am happy to have been the one to bring this first opportunity in the province to be managed by MNBC's new Tourism Ministry.

A key piece of supporting communities is financial security. The ability to create own-source revenue has been something missing from MNBC as a whole, and from what we have been able to offer to communities. MNBC finally has a robust economic development strategy nearing completion and I have been very vocal that it must include pathways for our Chartered Communities to benefit from. If we are to wear one of the names we are known by proudly, Otipemisiwak "Those That Own Themselves", economic independence is an essential part. We cannot rely only on the whims of government funding to resource the priorities of the Nation. Important subjects like Chartered Community capacity, K-12 support and education agreements, culture, and Elders are just some of the chronically underfunded priorities we work to support with little or no government funding.

#### Culture, Heritage, and Language

The Amelia Douglas Institute is ready to have its official opening! From the first MNBC board meeting where I put this on the table, after 3 long years of planning and all the hard work by our MNBC CHL team, all the pieces are in place. Unexpected snow delayed the official opening, but plans are in place for a late March launch. There are beautiful heritage items on display in the collection, as well as incredible new works of art produced by MNBC Citizens across the province. The role I see ADI playing is collecting and preserving the physical history and stories of Métis people in BC, educating the public, sharing and passing on the knowledge of our crafting and material culture to future generations of our Métis communities, and lifting up and growing our vibrant Métis artist community across the province.

Language is such an important part of the work that the CHL Ministry is tasked with. Our CHL Team has engaged Dr. Heather Bliss, a language revitalization specialist, who has put together a comprehensive 10-year plan using best practices. An essential part of this work will be education on

the best practices themselves, and an understanding of just how precarious the situation our Michif language is in. As the language funding sub-accord with Canada is set to begin, we have taken the initiative in reaching out to our counterparts in Alberta and Saskatchewan, discussed how best to work together, and have begun to gather all resources available. There are foundational pieces of work that still need to be done to ensure the depth and richness of our language is preserved beyond the introductory phrases many of us are already familiar with. I cannot stress enough the urgency to work with our few remaining Michif mother-tongue speakers before they join the ancestors. Equally important is to ensure this is done in a good way, and with best practices, so that this work will form the foundation of language learning for generations to come.

#### **Métis Rights**

The two-year historic research initiative is well underway, and we expect to have an interim report by the end of this fiscal year. This long overdue study is an essential part of the evidence-based approach I have been advocating for at MNBC. It is how all Indigenous rights have been affirmed in the courts and is a key part of what is termed "credible assertions". There is no doubt that we hold the inherent and internationally recognized rights to look after the well being of our children, to seek equity in the social determinates of health, and to continue to practice and revitalize our living culture from the attempted cultural genocide illuminated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Métis people are still vastly overrepresented in the criminal justice system, child welfare system, homelessness population, and mental health and addictions; also, there continues to be an unacceptable underrepresentation in high school graduation rates, positive health outcomes and life expectancy, and economic opportunities. I am committed to gathering the data for evidence-based assertions to effect change in the provincial and federal governments and continuing to push hard for the overdue recognition and restitution Métis people deserve in this province.

Last year the BC Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation officially recognized Métis people hold "certain rights" in this province; however, there is still a lot of work to be done in holding the BC Government accountable for their responsibility in upholding those rights in light of the BC Declaration Act.

I cannot end my report on the essential work of advocating for and asserting our rights as Indigenous people without mentioning our relationship with the First Nations of these lands. There has been a lot of discussion in the media both provincially and across Canada regarding the frictions in the relationships between Métis and First Nations as we all labour to realize a better life for our peoples. I will not attempt to sugarcoat the difficult work that lays ahead in the effort of reconciliation, both with colonial governments and other Indigenous ones, but I will say that I am committed to this work. There are some historic transgressions to work through and some very damaging rhetoric to resolve, but this is vital work that must be done.

I am committed to Indigenous solidarity, finding opportunities to work together on issues that affect all of us, and seeking paths forward in a respectful way. That work is being done and some good examples have been the two years working together on the "In Plain Sight- Racism In Healthcare" Task Team, and recently the Indigenous Fraser Health Agreement with the 31 Stó:lō First Nations. I also know that there are many of our Chartered Communities and MNBC Citizens for whom these respectful relationships have already existed for many years.

#### **Summary**

After 3 years of having the privilege of representing Vancouver Island and Powell River (qathet), I can see the hard work and changes that have been made starting to make a difference for Métis people in Region 1, and across BC. There remain large challenges, and there is no doubt many things still need to be improved, but I feel our Nation is on much firmer foundations and is now prepared to take them on.

As is my usual practice, I have attached a schedule to this report of my meetings since my last report 6 months ago. This does not include the countless long hours of emails and phone calls as part of the work I have done for the Nation.

Maarsii!

Anavaan pimohtanaan naansaamb wiiyaanaan!

(We walk forward together!)

Governance and Policy Committee Meeting	8/1/2023	1:30:00 PM	8/1/2023	3:00:00 PM
Minister Harriott meeting MLA Routley (In-person)	8/1/2023	9:30:00 AM	8/1/2023	10:00:00 AM
MNBC meeting with MLA Malcolmson - In person	8/1/2023	2:15:00 PM	8/1/2023	2:55:00 PM
MNBC Meeting with MP Lisa Marie Barron (In-person)	8/1/2023	3:00:00 PM	8/1/2023	3:45:00 PM
Post-meeting Nanaimo and Pre-meeting MP Blaney	8/2/2023	3:30:00 PM	8/2/2023	4:00:00 PM
MNBC Meeting MP Rachel Blaney	8/3/2023	11:30:00 AM	8/3/2023	12:00:00 PM
Post-meeting MP Blaney meeting	8/3/2023	12:00:00 PM	8/3/2023	12:30:00 PM
Check-in w/ Minister Harriott	8/4/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/4/2023	10:30:00 AM
MNBC meeting with MLA Parmar (In-person)	8/4/2023	11:30:00 AM	8/4/2023	12:00:00 PM
Post-meeting MLA Parmar meeting	8/4/2023	12:30:00 PM	8/4/2023	1:00:00 PM
Sasha and Patrick	8/4/2023	1:00:00 PM	8/4/2023	1:15:00 PM
CBC INTERVIEW	8/8/2023	3:30:00 PM	8/8/2023	4:30:00 PM
Indigenous Child Welfare Director Position	8/8/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/8/2023	12:00:00 PM
Interview TB	8/8/2023	9:30:00 AM	8/8/2023	10:00:00 AM
Provincial Indigenous Director Child Welfare Position	8/8/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/8/2023	12:00:00 PM
MNBC Strategic Plan Discussion	8/9/2023	9:00:00 AM	8/9/2023	11:00:00 AM
Executive Finance Meeting - Anna and Patrick	8/10/2023	9:00:00 AM	8/10/2023	10:00:00 AM
Kingston Case	8/10/2023	11:00:00 AM	8/10/2023	11:30:00 AM
Point Ellice House Working Group -RFP Prep	8/11/2023	10:30:00 AM	8/11/2023	12:00:00 PM
Board Meeting	8/14/2023	9:00:00 AM	8/14/2023	2:30:00 PM
In-Camera Board Meeting	8/14/2023	2:30:00 PM	8/14/2023	3:30:00 PM
Governance and Policy Committee Meeting	8/15/2023	1:30:00 PM	8/15/2023	3:00:00 PM
Regional Director/CS Manage/CS Coordinator	8/15/2023	12:00:00 PM	8/15/2023	1:00:00 PM
Sasha and Patrick	8/15/2023	11:00:00 AM	8/15/2023	11:30:00 AM
CHL Ministry Updates	8/16/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/16/2023	11:00:00 AM
Executive Committee Meeting	8/16/2023	1:00:00 PM	8/16/2023	3:00:00 PM
Meeting with Cowichan Valley Metis Nation Leaders	8/18/2023	11:00:00 AM	8/18/2023	2:30:00 PM
Youth Camp at Strathcona Lodge	8/18/2023	2:30:00 PM	8/18/2023	9:00:00 PM
Region 1 Leadership Circle in person	8/19/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/19/2023	4:00:00 PM
Youth Camp at Strathcona Lodge	8/20/2023	12:00:00 AM	8/21/2023	12:00:00 AM
Call with Tom McCullum	8/21/2023	5:30:00 PM	8/21/2023	6:00:00 PM
	8/21/2023	4:00:00 PM	8/21/2023	
Informal Board Meeting Raven Grad	8/21/2023	12:30:00 PM	8/21/2023	5:30:00 PM 3:15:00 PM
	8/21/2023		8/21/2023	
Region 1 - Regional Director Meeting Amelia Douglas Institute AGM		10:00:00 AM		11:00:00 AM
3	8/23/2023	9:00:00 AM	8/23/2023	9:45:00 AM
Check-in w/ Minister Harriott	8/23/2023 8/23/2023	11:30:00 AM	8/23/2023	12:00:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting Meeting w/ BC Ombudsperson		2:00:00 PM	8/23/2023	3:30:00 PM
3	8/23/2023	1:00:00 PM	8/23/2023	2:00:00 PM
Point Ellice House Working Group	8/23/2023	12:00:00 PM	8/23/2023	1:00:00 PM
Call with Veteran Chair Armit	8/24/2023	3:30:00 PM	8/24/2023	4:30:00 PM
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Parks Canada Meeting- MNBC	8/24/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/24/2023	11:00:00 AM
Youth sash initiative	8/25/2023	1:00:00 PM	8/25/2023	1:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	8/28/2023	4:00:00 PM	8/28/2023	5:30:00 PM
Métis Rights and Self-Government: IN-PERSON	8/28/2023	12:00:00 PM	8/28/2023	4:00:00 PM
Region 1 Weekly Meeting -	8/28/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/28/2023	11:00:00 AM
CHL Check In	8/29/2023	9:30:00 AM	8/29/2023	10:00:00 AM
CHL Ministry Updates	8/29/2023	12:00:00 PM	8/29/2023	1:00:00 PM
Governance and Policy Committee Meeting	8/29/2023	1:30:00 PM	8/29/2023	3:00:00 PM
MFCBC Region 1 Monthly Project Check-In	8/29/2023	2:00:00 PM	8/29/2023	2:30:00 PM
MNBC and RBCM conversation	8/29/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/29/2023	11:00:00 AM
Executive Committee Meeting	8/30/2023	1:00:00 PM	8/30/2023	3:00:00 PM
Debrief	8/31/2023	11:00:00 AM	8/31/2023	11:30:00 AM
Songhees Nation Response	8/31/2023	2:00:00 PM	8/31/2023	3:00:00 PM
Virtual BoG Meeting	8/31/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/31/2023	11:00:00 AM
BC Ferries sailing	9/4/2023	8:00:00 AM	9/4/2023	10:00:00 AM

Governance and Policy Committee Meeting	8/1/2023	1:30:00 PM	8/1/2023	3:00:00 PM
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Sasha and Patrick	8/4/2023	1:00:00 PM	8/4/2023	1:15:00 PM
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In-Camera Board Meeting	8/14/2023	2:30:00 PM	8/14/2023	3:30:00 PM
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Sasha and Patrick	8/15/2023	11:00:00 AM	8/15/2023	11:30:00 AM
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Region 1 Leadership Circle in person	8/19/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/19/2023	4:00:00 PM
Youth Camp at Strathcona Lodge	8/20/2023	12:00:00 AM	8/21/2023	12:00:00 AM
Call with Tom McCullum	8/21/2023	5:30:00 PM	8/21/2023	6:00:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	8/21/2023	4:00:00 PM	8/21/2023	5:30:00 PM
Raven Grad	8/21/2023	12:30:00 PM	8/21/2023	3:15:00 PM
Region 1 - Regional Director Meeting	8/21/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/21/2023	11:00:00 AM
Amelia Douglas Institute AGM	8/23/2023	9:00:00 AM	8/23/2023	9:45:00 AM
Check-in w/ Minister Harriott	8/23/2023	11:30:00 AM	8/23/2023	12:00:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting	8/23/2023	2:00:00 PM	8/23/2023	3:30:00 PM
Meeting w/ BC Ombudsperson	8/23/2023	1:00:00 PM	8/23/2023	2:00:00 PM
Point Ellice House Working Group	8/23/2023	12:00:00 PM	8/23/2023	1:00:00 PM
Call with Veteran Chair Armit	8/24/2023	3:30:00 PM	8/24/2023	4:30:00 PM
Executive Finance Meeting - Anna and Patrick	8/24/2023	9:00:00 AM	8/24/2023	10:00:00 AM
MNGA Governance Committee	8/24/2023	5:30:00 PM	8/24/2023	6:45:00 PM
Parks Canada Meeting- MNBC	8/24/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/24/2023	11:00:00 AM
Youth sash initiative	8/25/2023	1:00:00 PM	8/25/2023	1:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	8/28/2023	4:00:00 PM	8/28/2023	5:30:00 PM
Métis Rights and Self-Government: IN-PERSON	8/28/2023	12:00:00 PM	8/28/2023	4:00:00 PM
Region 1 Weekly Meeting -	8/28/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/28/2023	11:00:00 AM
CHL Check In	8/29/2023	9:30:00 AM	8/29/2023	10:00:00 AM
CHL Ministry Updates	8/29/2023	12:00:00 PM	8/29/2023	1:00:00 PM
Governance and Policy Committee Meeting	8/29/2023	1:30:00 PM	8/29/2023	3:00:00 PM
MFCBC Region 1 Monthly Project Check-In	8/29/2023	2:00:00 PM	8/29/2023	2:30:00 PM
MNBC and RBCM conversation	8/29/2023	10:00:00 AM	8/29/2023	11:00:00 AM
Executive Committee Meeting	8/30/2023	1:00:00 PM	8/30/2023	3:00:00 PM

GEMs	9/5/2023	13,00,00 DM	0/5/2022	4:00:00 DM
		12:00:00 PM	9/5/2023	4:00:00 PM
Special Electoral Act Committee Meeting	9/6/2023	5:30:00 PM	9/6/2023	6:30:00 PM
BC Ferries itinerary -Van to Vic	9/7/2023	5:00:00 PM	9/7/2023	7:00:00 PM
Executive Finance Meeting - Anna and Patrick	9/7/2023	9:30:00 AM	9/7/2023	10:30:00 AM
MNBC & Fort Langley Engagement	9/7/2023	1:00:00 PM	9/7/2023	3:00:00 PM
Medicine Growers Connect	9/8/2023	10:00:00 AM	9/8/2023	11:00:00 AM
Metis Museum	9/8/2023	9:00:00 AM	9/8/2023	10:00:00 AM
Métis Rights and Self-Government Committee	9/8/2023	2:00:00 PM	9/8/2023	3:30:00 PM
Region 1 Weekly Meeting	9/8/2023	1:30:00 PM	9/8/2023	2:00:00 PM
Metis Data Governance Committee Meeting	9/9/2023	7:30:00 AM	9/9/2023	4:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	9/11/2023	4:00:00 PM	9/11/2023	5:30:00 PM
Governance and Policy Committee Meeting	9/12/2023	1:30:00 PM	9/12/2023	3:00:00 PM
Patrick and Russ	9/12/2023	12:00:00 PM	9/12/2023	1:00:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting	9/13/2023	1:30:00 PM	9/13/2023	3:30:00 PM
Royal BC Museum Collections viewing	9/14/2023	1:00:00 PM	9/14/2023	4:00:00 PM
BC Ferries sailing	9/18/2023	10:00:00 AM	9/18/2023	12:00:00 PM
Fabrictime textiles	9/18/2023	12:00:00 PM	9/18/2023	1:00:00 PM
ICAB MEETING	9/18/2023	5:00:00 PM	9/18/2023	6:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	9/18/2023	4:00:00 PM	9/18/2023	5:30:00 PM
Meeting with patrick - planning for fall products	9/18/2023	10:30:00 AM	9/18/2023	11:30:00 AM
Preparation for MMF Consultation	9/18/2023	1:00:00 PM	9/18/2023	1:30:00 PM
TRC messaging for Sept 28 RBCM panel	9/18/2023	2:00:00 PM	9/18/2023	3:00:00 PM
Check in w Panel Members	9/19/2023	2:30:00 PM	9/19/2023	3:30:00 PM
Board Meeting	9/20/2023	9:00:00 AM	9/20/2023	2:00:00 PM
In-Camera Board Meeting	9/20/2023	2:00:00 PM	9/20/2023	4:00:00 PM
Board Meeting	9/21/2023	8:30:00 AM	9/21/2023	12:00:00 PM
MNBC AGM 2023	9/22/2023	12:00:00 AM	9/25/2023	12:00:00 AM
MNBC AGM 2023	9/22/2023	12:00:00 AM	9/25/2023	12:00:00 AM
BC Ferries sailing	9/24/2023	7:00:00 PM	9/24/2023	9:00:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	9/25/2023	4:00:00 PM	9/25/2023	5:30:00 PM
CHL Ministry Updates	9/26/2023	10:00:00 AM	9/26/2023	11:00:00 AM
R1 - AGM RGC Follow Up	9/26/2023	1:30:00 PM	9/26/2023	2:30:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting	9/27/2023	1:00:00 PM	9/27/2023	3:00:00 PM
MNBC & Michif Media Meet and Greet	9/28/2023	1:00:00 PM	9/28/2023	2:00:00 PM
RBCM panel discussion	9/28/2023	8:00:00 AM	9/28/2023	11:00:00 AM
Truth & Reconciliation Day w/Elder Tom McCallum	9/29/2023	9:00:00 AM	9/29/2023	10:00:00 AM
Legislative Review - Declaration Act Secretariat	9/29/2023	3:00:00 PM	9/29/2023	4:00:00 PM
Songhees Powow	9/29/2023	5:00:00 PM	9/30/2023	5:00:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting	10/4/2023	1:00:00 PM	10/4/2023	3:00:00 PM
Executive Finance Meeting - Anna and Patrick	10/5/2023	9:30:00 AM	10/5/2023	10:30:00 AM
NDP Convention Pre-meet	10/5/2023	2:00:00 PM	10/5/2023	3:00:00 PM
Canadian Heritage MAP & CCSF Meeting	10/6/2023	1:00:00 PM	10/6/2023	1:50:00 PM
Debrief	10/6/2023	1:30:00 PM	10/6/2023	2:00:00 PM
Métis Rights and Self-Government Committee	10/6/2023	2:00:00 PM	10/6/2023	3:30:00 PM
Governance and Policy Committee Meeting	10/10/2023	1:30:00 PM	10/10/2023	3:00:00 PM
Indigenous Nouveau - Cultural graphics	10/10/2023	11:00:00 AM	10/10/2023	12:00:00 PM
CHL Ministry Updates	10/11/2023	10:00:00 AM	10/11/2023	11:00:00 AM
Executive Committee Meeting	10/11/2023	1:00:00 PM	10/11/2023	3:00:00 PM
Meeting & Debrief w/ Dr. Shelly Niemi	10/11/2023	9:00:00 AM	10/11/2023	10:00:00 AM
Pre-meet for MIRR Senior Leadership Table	10/11/2023	3:30:00 PM	10/11/2023	4:30:00 PM
Recording with Norman	10/11/2023	11:00:00 AM	10/11/2023	12:00:00 PM
Travel HAMILTON ON  Elyta Hamilton for NDB Convention	10/12/2023	5:30:00 AM	10/12/2023	12:00:00 PM
Fly to Hamilton for NDP Convention MNBC/UFV	10/12/2023	12:00:00 AM	10/13/2023 10/12/2023	12:00:00 AM
	10/12/2023	11:00:00 AM		12:30:00 PM
Shakamohta (Connect) HR Systems Phase 1	10/12/2023	9:00:00 AM 7:30:00 AM	10/12/2023	11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 AM
HOLD: Meeting w/MP Blake Desjarlais	10/13/2023 10/13/2023	11:00:00 AM	10/13/2023 10/13/2023	12:00:00 AM
Meeting with MP Gord Johns	10/13/2023	11.00.00 AW	10/13/2023	12.00.00 FM

NDP Convention - Hamilton ON	10/13/2023	12:00:00 AM	10/16/2023	12:00:00 AM
Travel Reservation to EDMONTON	10/15/2023	4:00:00 PM	10/15/2023	6:00:00 PM
UPDATED Travel Reservation to HAMILTON	10/15/2023	4:00:00 PM	10/15/2023	9:00:00 PM
Board Meeting	10/16/2023	9:00:00 AM	10/16/2023	12:00:00 PM
In-Camera Board Meeting	10/16/2023	12:00:00 PM	10/16/2023	4:00:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	10/16/2023	4:00:00 PM	10/16/2023	5:30:00 PM
Victoria from Edmonton October 17	10/17/2023	5:00:00 PM	10/17/2023	7:00:00 PM
Indigenous Youth Internship Year 16 Ceremony	10/18/2023	11:00:00 AM	10/18/2023	4:00:00 PM
Lansdowne Lecture from Robert Papen	10/18/2023	4:30:00 PM	10/18/2023	5:30:00 PM
Metis Nation Greater Victoria AGM	10/18/2023	4:45:00 PM	10/18/2023	5:45:00 PM
Check-in - Patrick	10/19/2023	10:30:00 AM	10/19/2023	11:00:00 AM
Children & Family Services Judicial Review	10/19/2023	1:00:00 PM	10/19/2023	2:00:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting	10/19/2023	3:00:00 PM	10/19/2023	4:30:00 PM
Michif Language Plan: Focus Group Feedback	10/19/2023	6:00:00 PM	10/19/2023	7:00:00 PM
MNGA resolution - Citizenship	10/19/2023	11:00:00 AM	10/19/2023	12:00:00 PM
Check In	10/20/2023	10:30:00 AM	10/20/2023	11:00:00 AM
Parks Canada LOU/MOU Strategic Response	10/20/2023	11:00:00 AM	10/20/2023	11:30:00 AM
Victoria to CALGARY INTL AB	10/23/2023	12:30:00 PM	10/23/2023	2:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	10/23/2023	4:00:00 PM	10/23/2023	5:30:00 PM
MNC National Languages conference	10/23/2023	5:00:00 PM	10/25/2023	5:00:00 PM
REVISED Travel Reservation to CALGARY INTL AB	10/25/2023	6:30:00 PM	10/25/2023	8:00:00 PM
MNGA Governance Committee	10/26/2023	5:30:00 PM	10/26/2023	6:45:00 PM
Patrick & Addison Connect	10/26/2023	3:30:00 PM	10/26/2023	4:00:00 PM
MNGA Resolution - Out of Province Citizenship	10/27/2023	3:30:00 PM	10/27/2023	4:30:00 PM
Recording with Norman at HQ	10/29/2023	12:00:00 AM	10/31/2023	12:00:00 AM
MIMN AGM BEVAN BOWAN Nanaimo	10/30/2023	6:00:00 PM	10/30/2023	7:00:00 PM
1/2 Day Planning Session - Digital Government	10/30/2023	12:30:00 PM	10/30/2023	4:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	10/30/2023	4:00:00 PM	10/30/2023	5:30:00 PM
Bi-Weekly CEO/BOD Update Meeting	10/31/2023	3:30:00 PM	10/31/2023	4:30:00 PM
Fort Langley & MNBC	10/31/2023	10:00:00 AM	10/31/2023	11:00:00 AM
CHL Ministry Updates	11/1/2023	9:00:00 AM	11/1/2023	10:00:00 AM
Executive Committee Meeting	11/1/2023	2:00:00 PM	11/1/2023	4:00:00 PM
Surrey Property-Mineault&Harriott, Ken&Darrin	11/1/2023	12:00:00 PM	11/1/2023	12:30:00 PM
Métis Rights and Self-Government Committee	11/3/2023	2:00:00 PM	11/3/2023	3:30:00 PM
In person meeting with Addison	11/6/2023	10:30:00 AM	11/6/2023	12:00:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	11/6/2023	4:00:00 PM	11/6/2023	5:30:00 PM
Shakamohta access	11/6/2023	12:30:00 PM	11/6/2023	1:00:00 PM
Governance and Policy Committee Meeting	11/7/2023	1:30:00 PM	11/7/2023	3:00:00 PM
MNBC and RBCM conversation	11/7/2023	3:00:00 PM	11/7/2023	4:00:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting	11/8/2023	1:00:00 PM	11/8/2023	3:00:00 PM
Meeting with Kear Poittris	11/9/2023	12:00:00 PM	11/9/2023	1:00:00 PM
Breakfast with Patrick & Kear	11/9/2023	12:00:00 PM	11/9/2023	1:00:00 PM
Pre-meet Minister Anandasangaree HQ visit	11/9/2023	1:30:00 PM	11/9/2023	2:30:00 PM
Rencontre CCRÉA - 9 Novembre 2023	11/9/2023	3:00:00 PM	11/9/2023	4:00:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting Meetings with Director - Patrick Harriott	11/10/2023	1:00:00 PM	11/10/2023	2:30:00 PM
<u> </u>	11/10/2023	11:00:00 AM	11/10/2023	11:30:00 AM
Defamation Hearing	11/10/2023	7:55:00 AM	11/10/2023	3:25:00 PM
MMF/MNBC Court Hearing Debrief UVic Indigenous writers event	11/10/2023	2:00:00 PM	11/10/2023	2:30:00 PM
Laying wreath at cenotaph (BC Legislature)	11/10/2023 11/11/2023	7:00:00 PM 10:00:00 AM	11/10/2023 11/11/2023	9:00:00 PM 12:00:00 PM
Remembrance Day	11/11/2023	12:00:00 AM	11/11/2023	12:00:00 I M
Informal Board Meeting	11/11/2023	4:00:00 PM	11/12/2023	5:30:00 PM
Minister Gary Anandasangaree HQ Visit	11/14/2023	2:00:00 PM	11/14/2023	2:45:00 PM
OCAP training	11/14/2023	9:00:00 AM	11/14/2023	11:00:00 AM
Post-Meeting Minister Anandasangaree	11/14/2023	2:45:00 PM	11/14/2023	3:45:00 PM
Pre-meet Minister Anandasangaree HQ visit	11/14/2023	11:30:00 AM	11/14/2023	12:30:00 PM
R1 agenda items meeting	11/14/2023	1:00:00 PM	11/14/2023	2:00:00 PM
na agenda nema meeting	TT/ T+/ CUCO	T.00.00 I IVI	T T/ T+/ COCO	2.00.00 F W

Urban Indiagnous Loadership Meeting	11/14/2023	4:00:00 PM	11/14/2023	7:00:00 PM
Urban Indigenous Leadership Meeting				
Executive Committee Meeting	11/15/2023	1:00:00 PM	11/15/2023	3:00:00 PM
Good Governance Awards	11/15/2023	9:00:00 AM	11/15/2023	10:00:00 AM
OCAP training	11/15/2023	9:00:00 AM	11/15/2023	11:00:00 AM
Pre-meet Lobby Days	11/15/2023	11:00:00 AM	11/15/2023	12:00:00 PM
Pre-meet Métis Summit Week	11/15/2023	3:00:00 PM	11/15/2023	4:00:00 PM
Flag Raising at Ladysmith City Hall	11/16/2023	11:00:00 AM	11/16/2023	12:00:00 PM
Louis Riel Day	11/16/2023	12:00:00 AM	11/17/2023	12:00:00 AM
Louis Riel Day proclamation ceremony	11/16/2023	8:30:00 AM	11/16/2023	9:30:00 AM
LOUIS RIEL DAY proclamation.	11/16/2023	6:30:00 AM	11/16/2023	8:15:00 AM
We are Metis Film (time TBA)	11/16/2023	5:00:00 PM	11/16/2023	7:00:00 PM
Meet Shelagh Rogers	11/17/2023	9:00:00 AM	11/17/2023	10:00:00 AM
Alberni/Clayoquot AGM	11/18/2023	12:00:00 PM	11/18/2023	1:00:00 PM
Start driving to Alberni	11/18/2023	8:30:00 AM	11/18/2023	11:30:00 AM
Summit prep	11/18/2023	4:00:00 PM	11/19/2023	4:00:00 PM
Board Meeting	11/20/2023	9:00:00 AM	11/20/2023	2:00:00 PM
In-Camera Board Meeting	11/20/2023	2:00:00 PM	11/20/2023	3:00:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	11/20/2023	4:00:00 PM	11/20/2023	5:30:00 PM
Métis Summit week - Victoria	11/20/2023	12:00:00 AM	11/24/2023	12:00:00 AM
	11/20/2023		11/24/2023	
Meeting with BC NDP Caucus		1:00:00 PM		1:30:00 PM
Meeting with BC United Caucus	11/21/2023	3:30:00 PM	11/21/2023	4:15:00 PM
Meeting with MLA Michael Lee	11/21/2023	11:00:00 AM	11/21/2023	11:30:00 AM
Meeting with Premier David Eby	11/21/2023	2:30:00 PM	11/21/2023	3:00:00 PM
Métis Summit Week Reception	11/21/2023	7:00:00 PM	11/21/2023	10:00:00 PM
Phone Mid Island Leader	11/21/2023	9:00:00 AM	11/21/2023	9:30:00 AM
Discussion with Carly	11/22/2023	9:30:00 AM	11/22/2023	10:30:00 AM
Question Period	11/22/2023	1:00:00 PM	11/22/2023	2:30:00 PM
ADI Admission Rates	11/23/2023	2:00:00 PM	11/23/2023	3:00:00 PM
CIGI - workshop ideas	11/23/2023	11:00:00 AM	11/23/2023	12:00:00 PM
Finance Meeting	11/23/2023	12:00:00 PM	11/23/2023	12:30:00 PM
MNGA Governance Committee	11/23/2023	5:30:00 PM	11/23/2023	6:45:00 PM
RBCM discussion Brigitte Furlonger(zoom)	11/23/2023	1:30:00 PM	11/23/2023	2:00:00 PM
Cowichan Valley Metis Resolution	11/24/2023	3:45:00 PM	11/24/2023	4:30:00 PM
Cowichan Valley Christmas potluck(time tba)	11/26/2023	1:00:00 PM	11/26/2023	2:00:00 PM
Travel Reservation to OTTAWA ON	11/27/2023	6:00:00 AM	11/27/2023	4:00:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	11/27/2023	4:00:00 PM	11/27/2023	5:30:00 PM
Lobby Days Ottawa	11/27/2023	12:00:00 AM	12/2/2023	12:00:00 AM
MNBC Internal Brief	11/27/2023	4:30:00 AM	11/27/2023	5:15:00 AM
MNBC Internal De-Brief and Next Day Briefing	11/27/2023	2:30:00 PM	11/27/2023	3:30:00 PM
Travel to Ottawa - November 27th	11/27/2023	6:30:00 AM	11/27/2023	4:30:00 PM
RGC REGION 1	11/28/2023	6:00:00 PM	11/28/2023	7:00:00 PM
Minister Families & Children, Jenna Sudds	11/28/2023	12:30:00 PM	11/28/2023	1:00:00 PM
Minister Housing & Infrastructure, Sean Fraser	11/28/2023	2:30:00 PM	11/28/2023	3:00:00 PM
MNBC Internal Brief	11/28/2023	6:30:00 AM	11/28/2023	7:15:00 AM
MNBC Internal De-Brief and Next Day Briefing	11/28/2023	3:30:00 PM	11/28/2023	4:30:00 PM
Region 1 RGC - November 28 - AGENDA				8:00:00 PM
Meet and Greet with MP Sarai	11/28/2023	6:00:00 PM 12:15:00 PM	11/28/2023	
	11/29/2023		11/29/2023	1:15:00 PM
Meeting with BC NDP Caucus	11/29/2023	5:00:00 AM	11/29/2023	5:30:00 AM
MP for Cloverdale-Langley City, John Aldag	11/29/2023	10:00:00 AM	11/29/2023	10:30:00 AM
Question Period - Lobby Days	11/29/2023	10:30:00 AM	11/29/2023	1:00:00 PM
Minister of Canadian Heritage Pascale St-Onge	11/30/2023	8:00:00 AM	11/30/2023	8:45:00 AM
Minister of Indigenous Services Patty Hadju	11/30/2023	5:45:00 AM	11/30/2023	6:15:00 AM
Meeting with MP for Nunavut Lori Idlout	11/30/2023	10:00:00 AM	11/30/2023	10:30:00 AM
Travel Reservation from OTTAWA	12/1/2023	4:30:00 PM	12/1/2023	8:30:00 PM
Minister Agriculture Lawrence MacAulay	12/1/2023	6:15:00 AM	12/1/2023	6:45:00 AM
MNGA-virtual	12/1/2023	4:00:00 PM	12/3/2023	4:00:00 PM
MNGA	12/2/2023	12:00:00 AM	12/4/2023	12:00:00 AM

Informal Board Meeting	12/4/2023	4:00:00 PM	12/4/2023	5:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	12/4/2023	4:00:00 PM	12/4/2023	5:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	12/4/2023	4:00:00 PM	12/4/2023	5:30:00 PM
Bi-Weekly CEO/BOD Update Meeting	12/5/2023	3:30:00 PM	12/5/2023	4:30:00 PM
Governance and Policy Committee Meeting	12/5/2023	1:30:00 PM	12/5/2023	3:00:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting	12/6/2023	1:00:00 PM	12/6/2023	3:00:00 PM
Signing of Education Agreement SD70	12/6/2023	11:00:00 AM	12/6/2023	1:00:00 PM
Key Messages for Point Ellice House	12/7/2023	3:30:00 PM	12/7/2023	4:00:00 PM
MNBC OPHO Refreshed LOU	12/7/2023	10:00:00 AM	12/7/2023	10:30:00 AM
Sharing a Meal Together	12/7/2023	12:30:00 PM	12/7/2023	2:00:00 PM
CHL Ministry Connect	12/8/2023	12:00:00 PM	12/8/2023	1:00:00 PM
Historical Research in person interview	12/8/2023	10:00:00 AM	12/8/2023	11:00:00 AM
Meeting with Ashley Zarbatany (NDP)	12/8/2023	1:00:00 PM	12/8/2023	2:00:00 PM
MNGV Xmas gathering(time tba)	12/10/2023	12:00:00 PM	12/10/2023	4:00:00 PM
NDP Cowichan Xmas party	12/10/2023	5:00:00 PM	12/10/2023	7:00:00 PM
Rendezvous Planning Committee Meeting	12/10/2023	6:30:00 PM	12/10/2023	7:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	12/11/2023	4:00:00 PM	12/11/2023	5:30:00 PM
MNC BoG Meeting	12/11/2023	9:00:00 PM	12/12/2023	9:00:00 PM
Travel Reservation to OTTAWA	12/11/2023	6:00:00 AM	12/11/2023	4:30:00 PM
MNC AGA	12/11/2023	9:00:00 PM	12/11/2023	9:00:00 PM
MNC AGA Resolution Discussion	12/12/2023	1:00:00 PM	12/12/2023	1:30:00 PM
CBC interview Point Ellice House	12/12/2023	7:30:00 AM	12/13/2023	8:30:00 AM
Link for Point Ellice interview- CBC	12/13/2023	7:45:00 AM	12/13/2023	8:00:00 AM
MNC AGA	12/13/2023	5:30:00 AM	12/13/2023	1:30:00 PM
Travel Reservation to OTTAWA	12/13/2023	4:00:00 PM	12/14/2023	11:00:00 PM
MNC AGA	12/14/2023	5:30:00 AM	12/14/2023	1:30:00 PM
	12/14/2023	3:30:00 AM	12/16/2023	
MIKI'SIW community event	12/18/2023		12/18/2023	6:00:00 PM
Board Meeting		9:00:00 AM	1. 1.	1:00:00 PM
In-Camera Board Meeting	12/18/2023	1:00:00 PM	12/18/2023	2:30:00 PM
Informal Board Meeting	12/18/2023	4:00:00 PM	12/18/2023	5:30:00 PM
MNBC and RBCM monthly conversation	12/19/2023	3:00:00 PM	12/19/2023	4:00:00 PM
MP Alistair MacGregor Xmas	12/19/2023	4:00:00 PM	12/19/2023	6:00:00 PM
Region 1 Leadership Closed Door Meeting	12/19/2023	6:00:00 PM	12/19/2023	8:00:00 PM
Reguon 1 Leadership Circle	12/19/2023	6:00:00 PM	12/19/2023	8:00:00 PM
MNGV potluck	12/20/2023	5:00:00 PM	12/20/2023	6:00:00 PM
MNBC Holiday closure	12/21/2023	12:00:00 AM	1/6/2024	12:00:00 AM
NDP Indigenous Commissio (4pm)	12/22/2023	4:00:00 PM	12/22/2023	5:00:00 PM
New Year's Eve	12/31/2023	12:00:00 AM	1/1/2024	12:00:00 AM
New Year's Day	1/1/2024	12:00:00 AM	1/2/2024	12:00:00 AM
Informal Board Meeting	1/8/2024	4:00:00 PM	1/8/2024	5:30:00 PM
Bill C-53 NDP Indigenous commission	1/9/2024	12:30:00 PM	1/9/2024	1:30:00 PM
CHL Ministry Updates	1/9/2024	10:00:00 AM	1/9/2024	11:00:00 AM
Governance and Policy Committee	1/9/2024	1:30:00 PM	1/9/2024	3:00:00 PM
Executive Committee	1/10/2024	1:00:00 PM	1/10/2024	3:00:00 PM
Executive Finance Meeting - Anna and Patrick	1/11/2024	9:30:00 AM	1/11/2024	10:30:00 AM
Findings Discussion and ELP Update	1/11/2024	11:00:00 AM	1/11/2024	11:30:00 AM
Meeting w/ Patrick, Louis & Shawna	1/11/2024	1:00:00 PM	1/11/2024	2:00:00 PM
BoD - Technical Briefing	1/12/2024	9:00:00 AM	1/12/2024	11:00:00 AM
Daily 1:1 w/ Patrick	1/12/2024	8:30:00 AM	1/12/2024	9:00:00 AM
IMIT/Digital Govt Monthly Meeting	1/12/2024	11:00:00 AM	1/12/2024	12:00:00 PM
Point Ellice House advisory discussion	1/12/2024	1:30:00 PM	1/12/2024	2:30:00 PM
Rendezvous Planning Committee Meeting	1/14/2024	6:30:00 PM	1/14/2024	8:30:00 PM

## **Region 2 Director Report**

### Respectfully Submitted: LOUIS DE JAEGER, MBA

Minister of Health, Minister of Economic Development, Minister of Tourism, Secretary MNBC Executive

#### **Committees & Boards**

Chair - Amelia Douglas Institute

Chair - 2SLGBTQQIAA+ Committee

Chair – Business Advisory Committee

Co-Chair – Emergency Preparedness Committee

Co-Chair – People & Culture Committee (Human Resources)

Co-Chair – Northern Health Leadership Committee

Co-Chair – Interior Health Leadership Table (MILT)

Member - Environment Advisory Committee

Member – Finance & Audit Committee

Member - Governance & Policy Committee

Member - Métis Rights & Self-Governance Committee

Member – RIRSD Leadership Table

Member – MIRR Leadership Table

Member – Data Governance Committee

Member – Aboriginal Health Steering Committee (Indigenous

Health Collaborative Council IHCC)

Member – Feedback and Accountability Sub-Committee

Member – Finance Review, Recruit & Retention, UNDRIP

Member – Indigenous Monitoring Advisory Committee (IMAC-TMX)

Member – Western Indigenous Pipeline Group

External

Métis Financial Corporation of BC – Board Member The Chilliwack Social Research and Planning Council Indigenous Advisory Board UFV School of Business

UFV Senate Committee on Indigenization

Chair – Indigenous People's Commission for British Columbia

Tansi, Bonjour and Hello,

The latter part of 2023 has been significant as we adjust to post-COVID realities and re-focus on the economic health of Métis Nation BC (MNBC). In Region 2, our communities continue to grow as we see larger and larger numbers of citizens attend community events. As always, my hands are held high to you, dedicated Presidents, boards and community volunteers who work tirelessly within your communities...thank you! It has been a busy time for MNBC's newest Chartered Community, the Vancouver Sea2sky Métis Association establishing relationships with both the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Parks Board...exciting times! Louis Riel Day was more like Louis Riel week attending events in Surrey, Fort Langley and Vancouver, helping to light up the city in blue with a reception at the Creekside Community Centre in the Olympic Village. Congrats to President Pixie Wells and the Fraser Valley Métis Association, breaking ground in Mission for a new daycare and satellite office.



November and December turned out to be an incredibly busy time with Lobby days in Ottawa and Victoria.

MNBC's Health file – A huge thank you to the continued work being done around the province with our Ministry of Health led by Senior Director Tanya Davoren and Stephen Thompson, Director of Health Governance for MNBC. With the development of Ta Saantii Mamawapowuk (Métis Health Gathering), presentations were held all over the province bringing together community and front-line health care employees to learn more about Métis history, culture, and identity. Attendees also learned about MNBC's health and wellness priorities, health resources and programs available to Métis citizens. Kaa-wiichitoyaahk (we take care of each other) continues to be the driving force and focus of the work that we continue to do as we develop what health delivery for Métis in BC looks like. As I mentioned in my last report, the work that we accomplished with 'In Plain Sight' Task Team, has led to the formation of the Indigenous Health Collaborative Council in the Fraser Health Region. A historic cooperative Accord that brings together Fraser Health, Fraser Salish Regional Caucus (Stó:lō Tribal Council, Fraser Salish Communities, Stó:lō Nation Chiefs Council, FNHA Fraser Salish Region) and Métis Nation BC. The purpose and shared commitments are that the parties will act together to achieve progress on the following shared commitments:

\*The partnership has evolved since 2011 and will continue to evolve and develop over time.

\*The Parties have a shared vision and achieving this vision requires the Partners to take action together to achieve shared commitments.

\*The Parties will work together to eliminate disparities, inequities, and anti-Indigenous racism from health care in the Fraser Salish Region by: (a) sharing decision-making with the Fraser Salish Health Caucus and Métis Nation BC to participate fully in the design, delivery, oversight, and evaluation of Fraser Health's Indigenous Health Services; and (b) working together on programs to ensure that general health services provided by Fraser Health are culturally safe and free from anti-Indigenous racism.

\*A defining characteristic of this partnership is reciprocal accountability. This means that the Partners and Parties will work together at all levels of their respective organizations in a collaborative manner to achieve shared goals and commitments. Each Party is accountable to the others for its actions and striving to exceed one another's expectations.

MNBC continues strengthening relationships with Interior Health (MILF), Coastal Health, Vancouver Island Health, Northern Health, and the Provincial Health Services Authority. My priority and commitment to you is to continue to press the Federal and Provincial governments for fair, equitable and consistent funding for our Ministry.

**Economic Development** - I'd like to welcome Robynn Keras, Business Development and Administrative Professional with over 16 years of experience in diverse sectors, including healthcare, green technology manufacturing and marine-related construction. Elizabeth (Liz) Tichelman, who comes to the Economic

Development portfolio from Grants and Development Manager at MNBC and with a background with UNITI, a partnership of 3 non-profit organizations: Semiahmoo House Society, Peninsula Estates Housing Society and the Semiahmoo Foundation and Anthony St. John to MNBC's Economic Development Ministry. Anthony brings 26 years of business knowledge leading negotiations, partnerships, and business agreements as well as experience in finance and asset management. They join Senior Director Stuart Dixon in developing out MNBC's Economic Strategy and MNBC's Business Directory. Tourism – With the launch of the Amelia Douglas Institute (https:// ameliadouglasinstitute.ca/), assuming management of Historic Point Ellice House (https://www.mnbc. ca/news/mnbc-has-been-awarded-contract-operate-point-ellice-house), MNBC's newest Ministry already has its hand full. We are also working towards an MOU with Parks Canada and Historic Fort Langley. The Métis Financial Corp of BC continues to be one of the fastest growing Indigenous Funding Institutions (IFI) in Canada. Our re-capitalization was successful with the Federal Government and a close working relationship continues with the Association of Métis Capital Corporations (AMCC). Work is almost complete for the 2023/24 intake for the First Time Homeowner's Grant program putting Métis citizens in their first homes around the province. The 2024/25 intake is expected to open for applicants in spring. Métis entrepreneurs continue to excel around the Nation. We continue to help Métis businesses expand, pivot and whether your idea is a new start up or working its way to a business plan, we are here to help. Shout out to Darian Kovacs, own of Jelly Marketing for winning the 2023 BC Achievement Indigenous Business, Business of the Year 11+ person enterprise. (https://youtu.be/ xuyvDMUnC2s?si=W7peXSjc1A9nh7mv

As part of my ministry and committee work, I was able to meet recently with the Federal Minister of Health Mark Holland and Provincial Minister of Health Adrian Dix. Federal Minister of Crown Indigenous Affairs Gary Anandasandaree made a visit to our head office in Surrey as well as numerous other MP's, MLA's and City Councillors. These on-going meetings have been the core to the success of building out our Ministries and services to citizens throughout the province.

In closing, I would like to thank you the citizens of Métis Nation BC for giving me this opportunity to use my skills in business and trusting me to help build our Nation. I am honored to be a servant leader. \0/ My monthly reports can be found here: https://www.mnbc.ca/node/465



Louis De Jaeger – Region 2 Director, Minister of Health, Economic Development & Tourism



MNBC's Economic Development Team - Louis De Jaeger, Stuart Dixon, Robynn Keras, Elizabeth (Liz) Tichelman and Anthony St. John.



Vancouver City Council meets Vancouver Sea2Sky Métis Association



Ottawa Lobby Days advocating for Women and Gender Equity with Region 4 Director Fisher and CEO Colette Trudeau



Groundbreaking ceremony at West Heights Community Elementary in Mission

## **Region 3 Director Report**

### **Respectfully Submitted: DEAN GLADUE**

Taanshi Community Kaniikaniit (Leaders), and maarsii for all you do for our Métis Nation and your local MNBC Métis Chartered Community. What makes us a true Métis Nation is your continued personal dedication to help promote and keep our language and culture thriving in today's world. We as a Métis Nation are better known as the Otipemisiwak (People who govern themselves). This term is very important for our success and we must believe in our vision for a better tomorrow for our children and grandchildren. Long live the Métis!

I have many responsibilities as the MNBC Region 3 Director. I also hold the following portfolio for our provincial Métis Government - Minister of Sports and Active Living, Minister of Natural Resources and Associate Minister of Justice. In addition to my MNBC Minister roles I sit on the following Committees - Environmental Committee, ISPARC (Indigenous Sports, Physical Activity & Recreation Council), as a member of the Board of Directors, MNBC Social Infrastructure and Housing Committee, Interior Health Committee, Emergency Preparedness Committee and Environmental Planning Committee. As you can see I have a very busy schedule and responsibilities to our Métis Nation in BC. I should also note in addition to all my duties that I answer many phone calls and emails from our Métis Citizens throughout Region 3 and BC. Each and every phone call and email is important to me, so I make it a priority to connect back to each individual asap. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to connect with me and I will be more than happy to communicate with you in person, on the phone or by email.

Since our last in-person 2023 MNGA so much has occurred within our Métis Nation throughout BC and Canada. Please refer to my last MNBC AGM report for in-depth details of what I have been up to and my opinion on various Métis issues and political concerns. You can review my AGM report on our MNBC website at <a href="https://www.mnbc.ca">www.mnbc.ca</a>

One specific note of extreme importance to mention is Bill C-53. I was very honored to be invited to testify in Ottawa on November 23rd on behalf of Métis Nation. Bill C-53 will determine future Métis selfgovernment for Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. We here in BC continue to be left out and we must continue to advocate even harder for our self-determination. This continues to be an uphill battle, but I truly believe we will get there one day. It is important we at MNBC support our "Métis family" in other parts of

Canada as we are all related in one way or another. Please contact your MNBC Regional Director for more information and why we are being left out of this very important and historical. Bill C-53 has passed the first stage and it will soon be presented to the MP's for their approval and then to the Senate.

As you can see community leaders we are once again at a very important time in our Métis history, as we continue to advocate and explain to all levels of government who are the true Métis. I personally will continue to always advocate for our Rights and ensure our Métis Nation is never forgotten or ignored no matter if I represent our MNBC Government as an elected official or as a Métis Citizen. We ALL have a responsibility to our Métis Nation as leaders to ensure we are no longer the forgotten people of Canada. LONG LIVE THE MÉTIS!!!!









### **Region 4 Director Report**

#### **Respectfully Submitted: DEBRA FISHER**

Happy New Year to everyone, may your 2024 be full of good health, love and laughter.

Thank you for all you are and all you do for our citizens and chartered communities. Thank you does not seem to convey what I truly mean as I know, respect and honour what you do as volunteers! I will continue to advocate for community capacity and always will stress to government that we are the only Indigenous Nation of people who volunteer our services at the community level! They usually look embarrassed and so they should. We are doing what we can to change that. Working with the provincial and federal government takes way too long and after sitting in a few Question Periods I now know why! I had one staff ask if I was ok at the last one in Ottawa as I was squirming...I said, "oh if I could only have 2 minutes of their time to tell them what I thought!"

As this report needed to be sent in so far in advance and so soon after Christmas Closure and our last MNGA there still has been a lot that has happened.

**Métis Nation BC Governing Assembly:** Although I much prefer a face-to-face meeting, being forced through COVID proved we can do business this way. It has been well worth having the extra meetings virtually as it helps move the nation's business along quickly. This was a thorn in my side when I was community president as it took years sometimes to do something simple in concept. Meeting twice a year hindered our collective minds, grassroots expertise, and what our community needs were. Contentious issues were dealt with and due process and most importantly the oath we take as citizens

to Métis Nation BC was followed. However uncomfortable this process is and was it is what we must go through as a growing nation and we must adhere to it to be successful, protect our citizens, chartered communities and the nation, as a whole. We must face these challenges in continued good faith, work together, and hear each other out as we did to rectify or bring needed change to build Métis Nation BC stronger. Instead of looking at these challenges as a negative look at them as an opportunity for us to grow. We can do it!

Ministry of Children & Families: "Our Children...Our Way"

#### MNBC AGM-Kamloops September 2023

I couldn't have been more scared or emotional at the resolution I brought forward with the support of Executive Director, Colleen Hodgson and our Children and Families



#### team that:

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

#### MNC Governing Assembly Ottawa December 2023

I was absolutely shaking physically to second and speak from the bottom of my heart a resolution brought to the assembly supported by our Children and Families team "that Métis Nation Council call on Canada to recognize the MNC Governing Members as Indigenous Governing Bodies for the purpose of Bill C-92 respecting First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and families and the sole entities having jurisdiction over Métis children within their provincial boundaries".

Both historical and immensely important resolutions passed. In Ottawa it passed unanimously! Who in their right mind would vote against it? Elders have been saying all along...we must have our children. Putting our children first is rising ourselves above our self and our own selfish needs as my mom says. Our nation came together and put our children first and that to me is the strongest foundation we can have. Now when the government says who gives you the authority; we can say our citizens, our elders, our presidents, our chartered communities and our provincial nations.

#### Ministry of Education (Early Learning & K-12):

#### **Early Learning**

Our Ministry of Education is rocking it, earning respect across this country. The Ministry of Education team is being highly recognized at the provincial and federal level as leaders across this country. We advocated for additional capital funding to support the cost escalations of our child care projects and were successful in receiving these additional funds for the creation of child care centres.

On January 9<sup>th</sup> we had our first (of many to come) groundbreaking ceremony for a new child care build in Mission! It was opened with a beautiful heartfelt welcome by local Elder Johnny Williams of the Sq'éwlets First Nation and witnessed by many young children and parents. This project was supported with Distinctions Based Space Creation funding from the Government of Canada and Province of BC, in collaboration with Fraser Valley Métis Association, with President Pixie Wells, Mission School District No. 75, and Métis Nation BC. We have a total of 11 child care projects underway that will provide culturally responsive early learning programming for our Métis children and families

#### K-12

Our K-12 team has grown with the recent addition of three Secondary Years Navigators. The specialized Secondary Years Navigators will round out our Métis Family Connections team, ensuring that MNBC can walk alongside our Métis learners and their families as they navigate their final years of the K-12

Education system right up to graduation. As of January 22, there are 139 Metis children enrolled in the Secondary Years program and we anticipate this will continue to grow in popularity.

Many of you have heard and have communicated concerns regarding the Province's recent announcement of Bill 40, which makes amendments to the School Act. Under this bill three changes are made, one of which will make establishing Indigenous Education Councils a requirement in all 60 public school districts. These changes may change how Chartered Communities engage with their district's Indigenous education teams. While MNBC was not consulted on the Bill before it went before the Legislative Assembly, the province has committed to consultation with our communities and

families to ensure that our unique needs are reflected in the provincial Terms of Reference. Our K-12 team has been working hard with our partners in the BC Ministry of Education on this process and looks forward to sharing more about what that process will look like in coming weeks.

Another positive update is that after many months of advocating, Indigenous Services Canada has committed funding for Métis National Council's Métis Education and Training Standing Committee to support capacity building towards the co-development of a Métis Nation federal elementary and secondary education policy.

I would also like a moment to celebrate the work of our K-12 team, Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society, and SD70 Pacific Rim for signing our newest Metis Education Agreement on December 7, 2023. This document was written collaboratively, and will give the Métis people in the Alberni-Clayoquot region not only a voice, a commitment to work together to provide resources and supports that contribute to the success of Métis students. Unfortunately, Executive Director Sharlene Wedel and I were unable to attend in person due to flight





cancellations. Thankfully, Lauren Petersen, K-12 Manager, Region 1 Director Patrick Harriot and President Lissa Smith were able to attend. Kudos to all who worked so hard on this!

In closing I want to thank my regional presidents and team for supporting me and making some days extra special. They along with all presidents are in the trenches and doing the service above self. Thank you!

As always, I am open to discuss anything you want more information about.

"Proud and honored to have been born, raised and serve upon the sacred unceded lands of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc Peoples and the chosen home of the Métis. I commit to walking softly upon your lands."





### **Region 5 Director Report**

#### **Respectfully Submitted: RAYNIE GERVAIS**

Tansi, Bonjour, Kiyyawow, hello everyone:

Here are some of my highlights from my meetings that cover August, September, and October of 2023. This report will also include my 2 portfolios as Minister of Elders and the Associate Minister of History, language, and Culture. I hope you all had an excellent Summer and fall and an awesome Christmas holiday as well

<u>August 8/2023</u>: Attended a Region 5 Leadership meeting with our Region 5 Presidents and the staff 0f Community services.

August 9/2023: Attended A MNBC Strategic Plan discussion with the Board of Directors

<u>August 14/2023</u>: Attended An all- day meeting with the Board of Directors discussing Governance and operation of the nation of MNBC.

<u>August 29/2023</u>: Attended a Culture, History and Language committee meeting with Host Cultural coordinator Mallory Blondeau.

On the same day, I attended a bi-weekly CEO meeting update with the Board of Directors.

September was a busy month for the Board of Directors for cultural events in their own Regions as well as at our annual MNBC AGM held in Kamloops this year.

September 15/2023: Attended an all-day Ta Saantii Mamawapowuk Northern Health Gathering in Prince George. It was a great meeting with many Elders and Youth that attended this event along with Northern Health staff.

September 22-23/2023: The MNBC AGM was a total success for all that attended, and the entertainment and featured the Ivan Flett memorial dancers from Winnipeg as the main attraction on our stage. The event was held at Thompson Rivers University with Day 1 and 2 full Board of Directors meetings that was also held at the Delta Hotel prior to the AGM.

The month of October turned out to be an exceptional warm one for the Métis Nation of BC this year and was blessed with a great Thanksgiving weekend by all.



October 7,8, and 9/2023: Thanksgiving weekend.

October 12/2023: Attended a virtual Phase 1 Launch meeting with MNBC staff. It was one of our first such meetings together and proved to be a great success from all that attended.

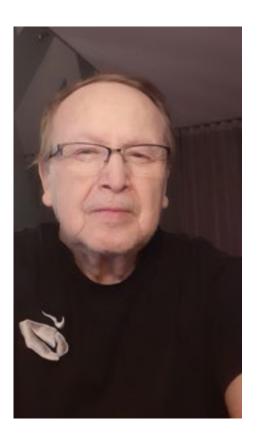
October 23/2023: Attended another Region 5 Regional leadership meeting with the Community services staff.

October 24/2023: attended A Métis National Council Michif language Conference in Calgary, Alberta with delegate that attended from 4 Provinces including BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. The event was held at the Grey Eagle Resort and Casino. This meeting was held for 2 days and was our first big language meeting in many years and turned out a success for everyone present.

October 31/2023: Attended a second Ta Saantii Mamawapowuk Gathering with Northern Health staff and host Interior Health staff as well in Kelowna, BC. This collaboration between the two Health regions turned out to be a great success for both.

This completes my MNGA Report ahead of March 2024 MNGA and wish all of you a safe and prosperous year ahead of you.

Pishshapmishko, take care and see you soon.



### **Region 6 Director Report**

#### **Respectfully Submitted: SUSIE HOOPER**

Hello once again from the Northwest Region!

This is my regional report from September 2024 to January 15, 2024.

My mother always used to say that time goes faster as we get older. Once again mom had it right. This 2024 MNGA report snuck up on me. Fall was beautiful and so far, our winter has been kind to us. It is darn cold this week but nothing we can't handle. The lack of rain/snow has us all concerned.

I would like to start by thanking all the staff for all their hard work and dedication, which is evident in the great things that are happening for the Citizens of MNBC. I am fortunate to work with some of the best.

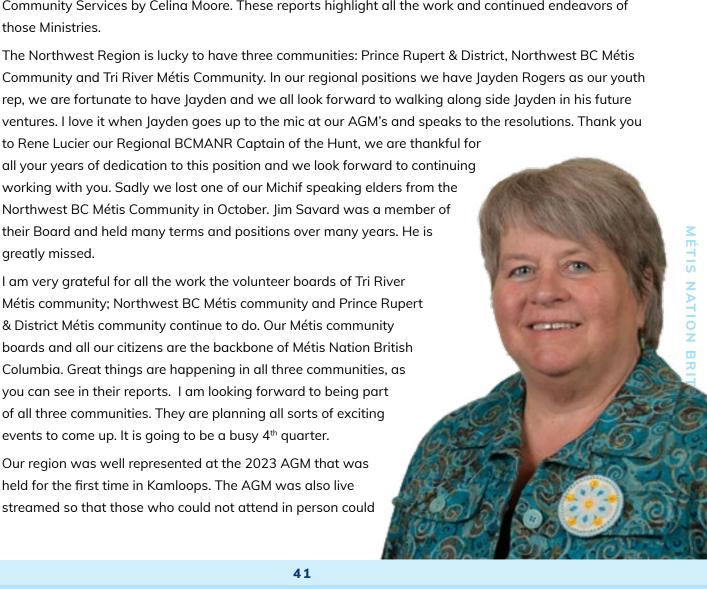
Instead of repeating what is presented in the Ministry staff reports I encourage you to take the time to read the reports on: Environmental Protection by Leona Shaw, Citizenship by Colleen Hodgson, and Community Services by Celina Moore. These reports highlight all the work and continued endeavors of those Ministries.

The Northwest Region is lucky to have three communities: Prince Rupert & District, Northwest BC Métis Community and Tri River Métis Community. In our regional positions we have Jayden Rogers as our youth rep, we are fortunate to have Jayden and we all look forward to walking along side Jayden in his future ventures. I love it when Jayden goes up to the mic at our AGM's and speaks to the resolutions. Thank you

all your years of dedication to this position and we look forward to continuing working with you. Sadly we lost one of our Michif speaking elders from the Northwest BC Métis Community in October. Jim Savard was a member of their Board and held many terms and positions over many years. He is greatly missed.

I am very grateful for all the work the volunteer boards of Tri River Métis community; Northwest BC Métis community and Prince Rupert & District Métis community continue to do. Our Métis community boards and all our citizens are the backbone of Métis Nation British Columbia. Great things are happening in all three communities, as you can see in their reports. I am looking forward to being part of all three communities. They are planning all sorts of exciting events to come up. It is going to be a busy 4<sup>th</sup> guarter.

Our region was well represented at the 2023 AGM that was held for the first time in Kamloops. The AGM was also live streamed so that those who could not attend in person could



connect online. Our region is staying connected through our monthly Regional Leadership meetings, as well as our Regional Governance meetings. Unfortunately, we do have a couple of vacancies in the region that we must work on filling. I would like to thank John Sayers from Region 3 who has agreed to be our interim Senator until we can fill it from the region. John brings his experience from being a former Senator in Region 3 as well his knowledge as a respected elder and years of experience working in the education field. He will be a great asset in helping mentor our next regional senator.

Trish Paulson stepped down from the Regional Women's position in November and we would like to thank Trish for all the work she did while in this position. We are currently working on filling this position. Thank you to Dawn, one of our Tri River board members for stepping up to fill the Reguin 6 vacancy on the MNGA Governance Committee.

In the ministries I have I am kept quite busy, I hold the portfolios of Environmental Protection & Food Sovereignty, Citizenship, and Community Services. I am grateful for all the great staff that I get to work with. As well I sit on many committees along with my fellow board members. Other positions I have in my region are with School District #54 Indigenous Council, the Dze I K'ant Friendship Centre.

Our Board continues to work together, and we are all very busy. We all continue to advocate and network every day for our nation, and still have much work to do. I have and will continue to work with the citizens of region 6 and with their direction be their voice on the board. So much great work is happening. As I've said before it is a very exciting time for Métis in British Columbia.





### **Region 7 Director Report**

#### **Respectfully Submitted: PAULETTE FLAMOND**

Tansi, it's so wonderful to be meeting in person for this MNGA. The past four months have been busy with many meetings and events, some of the highlights of my work are as follows:

#### September 2023

Attended a Northern Health and MNBC leadership two-day event in Prince George, September 14 to 16, 2023. The last gathering of this kind was held 12 years ago. The gathering was a great opportunity to discuss how the health care system can be improved for Métis people in the Northern region. Our Ministry of Health led by Minister De Jaeger is helping lead the mandate for better health care for our citizens province wide. I believe we will see significant changes soon.

I attended an Indigenous welcoming ceremony at the Northwestern Polytechnic College in Grande Prairie, Alberta. They welcomed students, new and old, that were returning to college. They celebrated with feasting and three drum groups, we have Métis students attending this college and it was an honor to see the pride of the students celebrating their return to classes.

I travelled to Kamloops for six days to attend our MNBC board meetings and the AGM. It's always a pleasure connecting with citizens and leaders from across the province while being part of the democratic process.

#### October 2023

Assisting the Métis Financial Corporation of BC with its transition with its new leader Acting GM-Austen Houle. The Board of Directors of the MFCBC have been working tiresly with the new transition of this Corporation.

Travelled to Surrey, BC to attend a two-day Senior leadership gathering with my STEPS Ministry. It was to hear concerns and to take part in a solution driven process to help the Ministry become more effective. I commend our staff at STEPS for all their dedication and hard work. Our Nation is where it's at because of the leadership and the staff who help implement the direction from leadership. STEPS was one of the first ministries in our government and I'm so proud of the support it gives our citizens.

On October 14<sup>th</sup> Senior leadership travelled to Fort St John to meet up with local presidents and to listen to their concerns. It was also an opportunity for community leaders to find out about programs and services from MNBC. I took the



group on a tour to see the Métis House, Crosstown apartments, and the new location for the daycare facility. It is very exciting that the Northeast has the first MNBC Hub here in Fort St John and I am thankful for the support from staff and leadership.

Attended a day long MNBC board meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and as always assisted citizens from across my region.

#### November 2023

Started this month off by attending a two-day Ministry of Agriculture meeting in Vancouver. This is a table of First Nations leaders and agriculture producers. I am the only Métis sitting at this table. This table is to support and advise Minister Pam Alexis, Agriculture and Food. Much discussion is around food sovereignty for Indigenous people in BC. As the Associate Deputy Minister for MNBC's most recent ministry- Agriculture and Food Sovereignty it is a great honor to assist on this advisory council.

Continued to have several meetings this month with the Métis Financial Corporation of BC as it gets settled with its new acting General Manager. Continued to advocate the First Time Homeowners grant as well as the Crosstown Apartments located in Fort St John, which will take in 7 new tenants in early 2024.

Travelled to Dawson Creek on November 16<sup>th</sup> to participate in its Louis Riel celebration. Was entertained by its local youth group with songs and dance followed by a hearty meal of soup and Bannock. Spoke at the local Fort St John Louis Riel gathering on November 17<sup>th</sup> and had such a wonderful time visiting with our local citizens.

Met our new manager of our Region 7 STEPS office Misty Waldorf office along with Senior staff from MNBC-STEPS Ministry. Participated in a lively discussion on ways that we can serve our local members better and to discuss the possibility of new training program's.

November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> I participated in The Restorative Leadership Symposium- Cultivating Caring Leadership & Embracing a Restorative Approach. Hosted by the Ministry of Health, Health Quality BC and the BC Restorative Circle participants gathered to better understand and support restorative approaches at governance, executive and management levels. It was also to learn about the harm and to heal from harm in the health care system.

Continued to advocate for local citizens with various Ministries of MNBC.

#### December 2023

December 2-3<sup>rd</sup> I attended the MNGA by Zoom. I travelled to Kelowna on December 6<sup>th</sup> for a Métis Financial Corporation board meeting and to assist with the new office interior decorating along with my colleague Louis De Jaeger. We were also able to gather for a Christmas party with the staff and other board members of MFCBC.

December 12-15 I was in Ottawa to attend the Métis National Council Annual General Assembly. It was a very busy time and was able to attend its 40 year celebration as well as the Liberal annual Christmas function.

December 18<sup>th,</sup> I attended a MNBC Board meeting, and the 19<sup>th</sup> was the final meeting of the People and Culture Committee which I am the chair of. I am happy with the work that was done on this committee the past year and I thank Minister Louis De Jaeger, Minister Debra Fisher and President Lissa Smith and the staff of this ministry for making MNBC a better workplace in 2023.

December was a short month with my final day of work on the 19th.

### **CEO Report**

#### **Respectfully Submitted: COLETTE TRUDEAU**

I want to welcome everyone to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) of MNBC, a pivotal platform for our Nation's governance and self-determination. Each day, we strive to build a strong, proud, and resilient Nation and reconnect through our kinship ties. This assembly acts as a pathway to celebrate our culture, reconnect with one another, and build our Nation. The MNGAs serve as an important opportunity to hear directly from our community leaders and focus on the heart of our Nation... our communities.

I am incredibly proud to lead our Métis public service. We have wonderful employees who are dedicated to our citizens, communities, and the Nation as a whole. MNBC envisions a future where Métis people, communities, and children thrive. When we are connected to our rich Métis culture, heritage, and languages; we achieve strong socio-economic outcomes; and our Métis rights as an Indigenous people are recognized. I can attest that we are working hard to achieve this vision. Transformation is a bumpy road, but I am committed to ensuring that our culture and communities do not take a backseat to progress.

We have taken MNBC's new Strategic Plan – Our Way Forward and worked with our Ministries and Departments to operationalize the goals of the Nation. We continue to move toward a more comprehensive and values-based approach that prioritizes initiatives

that will best serve our people and forge respectful relations in all we do. We continue to seek pathways to entrench our core culture Métis values within our Métis public service so that we are living them every day – integrity, respect, kindness, teamwork, innovation, humility, and resilience.

We are striving for excellence in governance, operations, programming, and economic development while maintaining a strong cultural grassroots connection. There is so much to be proud of. Our key accomplishments include:

- Over 25,000 registered Métis citizens and growing.
- Successfully won the bid for the caretaker contract for Point Ellice House in Victoria, in partnership with MNGV.



- Acquired properties and buildings across the province to support our Housing, which
  includes the Crosstown Apartments in Fort St. John.
- Launched the Amelia Douglas Institute for Métis culture and language.
- Created partnerships to build new Métis Childcare Spaces across the Province.
- Undertook a phased launch of MNBC's very own 'Hub', which simplifies applying for citizenship, renewals, updating addresses, etc.

We have also built a strong leadership team that works closely with our Board of Directors to support our strategic direction and focus on the priorities of Métis people in BC. We have increased our lobbying effort substantially to ensure that the provincial and federal government knows about Métis Nation British Columbia. We continue building our relationships with governments at a local, provincial, and federal level through various negotiation and priority tables. We are also active contributors to the Métis National Council and ensure the National voices include Métis citizens from BC.

While you review the reports from our various Ministries, you will see the incredible work our staff team has accomplished. I am so proud of the work that we are doing and the kaa-wiichihitoyaahk (we take care of each other) culture we are building that focuses on lateral kindness. We are authentically committed to creating a positive workplace that supports, nurtures, and values the gifts each of our staff brings to our government.

We are on a positive and progressive path at MNBC, but there is still so much work to do. Your active participation this weekend is invaluable in guiding our Métis government forward. Let's come together and continue to build a proud Métis Nation that our future generations can be proud of. I wish all MNGA delegates a productive weekend.

## **Board and Executive Expenditure Report**

### Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia Board and Executive Expenditure Report - For the Period From April 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

			Métis											
		Vice	Women	Métis Youth	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7			
	President	President	Chair	Chair	Director	CEO	General	Total						
Communications	547	569	473	473	611	473	473	528	473	474	360	573	-	\$ 6,027
Director and Officer Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,573	29,573
Professional Development	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,468	-	4,468
Office Expenses	797	525	525	795	976	746	694	620	632	787	744	1,989	1,370	11,200
Meetings & Conference Costs	2,939	467	-	307	2,010	3,312	685	1,039	150	-	-	5,503	6,820	23,232
Per Diems	6,696	7,999	1,254	1,151	6,593	4,006	3,462	3,842	1,560	2,952	3,010	5,061	-	47,586
Salaries and Remuneration	129,259	90,481	56,012	56,012	64,629	64,629	56,012	56,012	56,012	56,012	56,012	184,314	-	925,396
Travel and Accommodations	58,969	40,337	6,414	6,629	23,563	17,977	17,129	28,583	4,402	14,206	20,018	40,475	3,723	282,424
Total Expenditures	\$ 199,207	\$ 140,379	\$ 64,678	\$ 65,366	\$ 98,381	\$ 91,143	\$ 78,456	\$ 90,623	\$ 63,229	\$ 74,432	\$ 80,144	\$ 242,383	\$ 41,485	\$ 1,329,906



# **Ministry Reports**



# Ministry of CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: DEBRA FISHER

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: COLLEEN HODGSON** 

On September 22, 2023, Minister of Children and Families Debra Fisher submitted a resolution to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Kamloops:

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

The Ministry of Children and Families is seeking funding to establish a team of experts in Indigenous child welfare law, jurisdiction, and governance to develop Métis child welfare laws. This initiative will involve Métis Chartered communities and Métis service providers and is one of the ministry's priorities for 2024.

#### **Government Engagement Mechanisms**

The Government Engagement Mechanisms (GEMS) was developed by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to support discussions on the implementation of the Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families. Engagement has taken place in person, virtually and through surveys with Métis families, Métis Chartered communities, Métis service providers and Leadership. The focus of the engagement was to understand what is important for families and how to draft Métis child welfare law that represents them. The final report will be available in April and it will be shared with Métis Chartered communities and Métis service providers.

#### Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)

MNBC Ministry of Children and Families is in negotiations with MCFD to develop and implement a legally binding agreement that establishes our involvement in the care of our Métis children and youth in the child welfare system in British Columbia. This is an important agreement and is a step towards jurisdiction. Having information about who our Métis children and youth are and where they are is critical in being involved in their care. Premier Eby recently appointed a new Minister and a new Deputy Minister of MCFD, and the Ministry of Children and Families is hopeful that these changes will create a willingness from the province to move forward and make Métis children a priority.

#### **Our Children Our Way**

MNBC Ministry of Children and Families played a key role in the national annual Our Children Our Way conference in October. MNBC and Métis National Council contributed to the event and over 1000 people

attended. MNBC was represented in all promotional materials and communications and Minister Fisher shared an inspiring speech that resonated with everyone in the room. Our presence was noted and was a step forward in our determination that Métis children, youth and families be included.CBC reached out to MNBC during the conference and Minister Fisher was interviewed in the Vancouver studio. She explained why we have the right to care for our children and how the province and Canada fail to recognize that it is not their job.

#### Citizenship and Children In Care

Citizenship continues to be a significant part of the Ministry of Children and Families. Métis children and youth in the child welfare system are often disconnected from their culture and their community. Supporting MCFD social workers and the Métis children and families service providers with registering children for citizenship is a priority and connecting Métis families involved in the child welfare system to programs and services is crucial. Between September and December, the Ministry supported 229 children in care Citizenship applications and had over 400 interactions with child welfare workers related to Citizenship. The Ministry of Children and Families has hired a Métis citizen who is a social worker who is dedicated to supporting Métis children and youth with citizenship.

#### Métis Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN)

MCFD is supporting MNBC to develop a Métis-specific service delivery model for Métis children and youth with support needs. Identifying the unique needs of Métis families, Métis Chartered communities and Métis service providers will lead this initiative which is a priority for 2024. Engagement will happen over the next year to determine what the service delivery model should be. The second part of the project will be to implement the service delivery model. The CYSN service delivery model will be part of the Ministry of Children and Families Services Model that is in development.

#### Children and Families Services Model

The resolution passed by Citizens in September states that MNBC will provide Métis children and families services as a step towards jurisdiction. The Ministry of Children and Families has established a Métis Children and Family Service Manager to lead this work. They are responsible for developing a framework for the children and families service model that includes citizenship, foster care, kinship care and adoptions.

#### **Métis National Children and Families**

The MNBC Ministry of Children and Families is a member of the Métis National Council (MNC) team along with Métis Nation Ontario (MNO), Métis Nation Saskatchewan MNS and Métis Nation Alberta (MNA). It is through this collective effort that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been presented to Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) that establishes a 10-year agreement with ISC and the development of a Canada-Métis Nation Child and Family Services Sub-Accord to support:



The Métis Nation in strengthening the well-being of Métis children and families through the implementation of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (FNIMCYFA).

Reduce the number of Métis Nation children and youth in care and improve the situation of Métis Nation families and those at risk to be addressed as a shared goal and responsibility of all orders of government.

A resolution was passed at the recent 2023 MNC Governing Assembly that the MNC call on Canada to recognize the MNC Governing Members as Indigenous Governing Bodies for the purpose of Bill C-92 respecting First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and families and the sole entities having jurisdiction over Métis children within their provincial boundaries. MNBC continues to seek Indigenous Governing Body status with Canada which is the first step to provincial

jurisdiction. We will continue to fight for our children and as Louis Riel said in every meeting and at every gathering during the resistance, "Don't give up, be patient, articulate your rights and pressure the government for an answer."

# Ministry of CITIZENSHIP

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: SUSIE HOOPER

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: COLLEEN HODGSON** 

The Ministry of Citizenship's continued focus is on efficiency, capacity, communication, and increasing autonomy for applicants. All five departments are involved in this work: Operations, Communications, Navigation, Indigenous Research, and Quality Assurance.

Citizenship Operations: The most notable update in the third quarter is the start of our phased launch of the MNBC Hub. These updates are focused on giving autonomy to applicants and citizens while reducing data entry tasks, allowing for more follow-up of incomplete applications and faster processing times. The MNBC Hub focuses on three priorities: applicants, citizens, and Métis Chartered Community Presidents.



#### From the MNBC Hub:

- Presidents can approve community acceptance. Once accepted, applications are automatically sent to card processing eliminating delays for new citizens and reducing manual processing.
- Presidents can request information about their community for events and grant applications from the MNBC Hub and track responses.
- Applicants can apply, check the status of their application, or upload items to complete an application.
- Citizens can renew or replace their citizenship card and update their address, name or gender.
- Citizens can apply for Métis Veterans BC.

**Citizenship Communications**: We continue to grow and implement best practices to improve relationships with applicants, citizens, and other ministries.

• 99% of incoming communications are positive and often include laughter and some happy



November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 - Minister Hooper and Minister Harriott gift the 25,000<sup>th</sup> MNBC Citizen

tears.

- Except for holidays, emails and voicemails are responded to within 3-5 days.
- Citizenship consolidated all incoming inquiries to one email and one phone number
  - Citizenship@mnbc.ca and 1-800-557-1150

**Citizenship Navigation**: The Navigation Department is focused on growth and capacity. Some key highlights are:

- 5 new Citizenship Navigators
- 3 new Navigators are scheduled to join the team in late winter.
- A training module has been developed for new staff and new Citizenship Navigators begin their training by completing renewals and replacements.

#### Indigenous Research Department (Formerly Citizenship Assessment):

- The Indigenous Research team is continuing to process completed citizenship applications received from the Citizenship Navigation department. The team is currently working on 331 applications that were originally received in August 2023.
- The Citizenship Assessment Specialist position has been retitled to Indigenous Researcher
  to more accurately represent the work that is done. Indigenous Researchers are responsible
  for objectively verifying eligibility for citizenship and the work is complex and requires indepth genealogical knowledge.
- The Indigenous Research team will be growing in the next several months to increase the capacity the team has to review applications and increase the number of applicants that are advanced to the Citizenship Authority for final approval before community acceptance.
- The Indigenous Research library has been updated, expanded, and moved to SharePoint to create ease of access to genealogical resources.

**Quality Assurance:** The Quality Assurance (QA) Department had a strong close to 2023, as represented through the following highlights:

- Under the guidance of the QA Manager, the Department has begun developing the
  foundation for Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in the Ministry. These SOPs will be the
  cornerstone of the Ministry of Citizenship, preventing the influence of individual interests
  and bias on operational efforts. These SOPs will be developed throughout 2024.
- While audits will have an ongoing presence within the Ministry to consistently evaluate the health of our Citizenship Registry, the majority share of the Article 6 Audit has been completed. This audit as well as future audits allow the Ministry to have the utmost confidence in the integrity of our Citizen Registry. The QA Department will continue to

- conduct audits throughout 2024.
- The QA Department established a new inter-ministerial process for the verification of citizenship status for programs and services in September 2023. This process allows other ministries to submit virtual citizen-related requests and receive timely, documented, and secure responses. This new channel now provides a consistent timeline for Ministries to receive their verification requests, enabling them to improve their turnaround times. Over 100 requests have been fulfilled since the inception of the process.

# Ministry of COMMUNITY SERVICES

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: SUSIE HOOPER

**DIRECTOR: CELINA MOORE** 

The Ministry of Community Services is the embodiment of an MNBC leadership vision that leads the strategic priority to "Support Métis Chartered Communities." The Métis Chartered Communities are led by determined and dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to serve community members. Their unyielding efforts and passion are seen through the incredible programs, services, and support that they offer. These leaders bring this Nation pride, and the Ministry of Community Services is honoured to work with such *lii soldaa di gayr* "warriors."

Since its inception nineteen months ago, the Ministry of Community Services has worked tirelessly to connect with the Leaders in each of the 39 Communities and listen. It became clear that communication was the number one concern, with many Leaders feeling disconnected from the Senior Leaders at MNBC. To create a space for all our Leaders to connect, the Community Services team members planned and facilitated seven Regional meetings. These meetings generated grassroots conversations that ignited passions, encouraged laughter, and shone a light on the common devotion of the people who lead this Nation. Community Services stayed committed to creating space for Regional Leaders to continue such inspiring conversations and facilitated monthly Regional Leadership Meetings (RLMs).

The Ministry of Community Services recognized the need for partnerships with other MNBC Ministries and Departments to bring foundational support in Governance, Finance, and Information Technology

(IT). Continued collaboration with Governance has resulted in the support of inperson and virtual Regional Governance Council (RGCs) meetings. The Manager of External Financial Services has created a pathway of support through financial expertise and advice on the operational processes of funding distribution, reporting and communication. IT has



worked diligently to ensure that all Métis Chartered Community Leaders have a direct line to technological support to ensure the smooth operation of their societies.

#### Steps Forward

The Ministry of Community Services intends to build upon the relationships already established and develop new partnerships to better serve the Métis Charted Communities. The Ministry is focused on creating a clear, concise, and consistent communication and engagement framework that will ensure all MNBC engagements align with the strategic goals, and inform Community Leaders, providing the opportunity for collaboration. Community Services is committed to creating a portal that connects Métis Charted Communities directly to MNBC to expedite services both internally and externally. External Finance and Community Services will co-create a grant database that highlights funding opportunities that Chartered Communities are eligible for and guides the grant application process. Community Services will continue to support community engagement, governance, finance, and all other strategies that are implemented to meet the six strategic goals that MNBC has outlined.

The Ministry of Community Services continually strives to embody **Kaa-Wiichihitoyaahk**; we take care of each other. Every member of the team enters this work with the community at the center and is committed to the sustainability and capacity building of each Chartered Community. Support in communication, finance, technology, and engagement builds a strong foundation to achieve the goals of this Nation, enabling us to all serve Métis people in BC.

# Ministry of CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND LANGUAGE



Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: PATRICK HARRIOTT

**DIRECTOR: MALLORY BLONDEAU** 

#### **Ministry Highlights**

#### The Amelia Douglas Institute Opening

The Ministry is proud to announce the official opening of the Amelia Douglas Institute (ADI)! The ADI is dedicated to educating Métis people and the public about Métis culture and upholding our Métis artists in BC. The Ministry has been working hard over the past 2 years to develop the Institute, which has included:

renovating the physical space; procuring furniture and infrastructure; acquiring and commissioning material artifacts and cultural pieces for the ADI's permanent collection; developing the ADI's branding,



website and social media; and curating exhibitions for the showroom and website. We are looking forward to supporting the Institute in building its capacity and welcoming its new Board this summer. The Institute is located in the same building as MNBC's HQ and includes a showroom of Métis cultural items and rotating exhibitions of Métis material arts and educational exhibitions. Visit the Institute's website <a href="https://www.ameliadouglasinstitute.ca">www.ameliadouglasinstitute.ca</a> to:

Explore the stunning photograph collection of Métis cultural items in the Material Arts Gallery

View past and current **exhibitions** displayed at the Institute

Find a Métis artists in the Métis in BC Artist Collective

Access Michif language recordings and resources

Book a visit to the location in Surrey!





#### Michif Language Conference

The Ministry was pleased to attend the Métis National Council's Michif Language Conference - Kwaayesh kaa ishpayin--Sa sraw bin kawrèk--Kwayes ta ishpayin – It's Going To Be Alright Reviving Our Metis Languages by Listening, Learning, and Speaking. The Ministry presented on the work that it has completed to date to support Michif revitalization in BC, including: hosting introductory Southern Michif workshops; recording fluent Michif speakers; and creating learning resources and opportunities for citizens. The Ministry continues to participate at the Métis National Council's Michif technical table, where all governing members meet to discuss best practices and opportunities to collaborate and support Michif language initiatives for our citizens.

Aan Michif Piikishkwaytaak (Let's Speak in Michif) - MNBC's 10 Year Michif

#### Language Revitalization Plan

The Ministry has completed our 10 Year Michif Language Revitalization Plan: Aan Michif Piikishkwaytaak (Let's Speak in Michif). The plan will guide the Ministry's Michif language activities for the next 10 years using best practices in Indigenous language revitalization. The plan was created based on feedback and engagement with MNBC citizens, and the expert knowledge of language consultants Dr. Heather Bliss, Merion Hodgson and Rebekah Stevens.

#### Michif Language Recording

The Ministry has been working with Southern Michif and Michif French speakers to record translations and create learning resources. We had the honor of inviting Southern/Heritage Michif speaker Norman Fleury and Michif French speakers Lorraine Coutu and June Bruce to MNBC's head office to conduct this work. All recordings will be available to access on the Amelia Douglas Institute's website.

#### **Southern Michif Language Workshops**

The Ministry hosted two virtual introductory Southern Michif workshop cohorts with Michif educator Samson Lamontagne. The first cohort was open to all MNBC citizens, and the second cohort was specifically for MNBC youth citizens. The workshops ran for 10 weeks and provided participants with an introduction to basic Southern Michif phrases and words.

#### Tobacco Bag – Heritage Arts Workshop Series

The Ministry hosted a tobacco bag workshop taught by Métis artist Lynette LaFontaine. Over the course of 3 months a group of 12 citizens were taught how to make a traditional style Métis tobacco

bag. The tobacco bags were part of the Beading is Medicine exhibition on display at the Amelia Douglas Institute from January – March 2024.

#### Gauntlet Gloves – Heritage Arts Workshop Series

The Ministry hosted a Northern style gauntlet workshop series taught by Métis artist Kaija Heitland. Over the course of 3 months a group of 12 citizens were taught how to make Northern style gauntlet mittens. The gauntlets were part of the Warm in Our Heritage exhibition on display at the Amelia Douglas Institute from January – March 2024.



#### Métis Artist Talks

The Ministry continues to offer monthly workshops for aspiring Métis artists wanting to learn about Métis culture and heritage art practices. Some workshops offered over the past few months include: tea making, tufting, quillwork, storytelling and beading.

# Ministry of DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: PATRICK HARRIOTT

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER: BRENT WEBERG** 

The Ministry of Digital Government continues to make significant strides in its mission to enhance the responsiveness and efficiency of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) through digital transformation. This report provides an overview of the achievements since the last update and outlines key recommendations for further progress in 2024, with a special focus on managing and utilizing data effectively.

#### **Internal Capacity Building:**

- Successfully onboarded an in-house IT team, showcasing a skilled workforce ranging from a Senior Systems Administrator to a Service Desk Analyst.
- Identified and implemented digital systems to centralize citizen data in a unified database, enhancing data management capabilities and ensuring secure, efficient access to information.

#### **Digital Infrastructure Enhancement:**

- Reviewed and addressed foundational dependencies, upgrading outdated in-house IT infrastructure to support new digital tools.
- Deployed a corporate intranet (SharePoint), promoting better internal collaboration and information sharing.

#### Capacity and Knowledge Base Building:

- Strengthened internal capabilities to meet the everyday technology needs of departments and ministries.
- Supported MNBC's transition to a paperless government, aligning with the goal to reduce waste, save costs, increase efficiency, and improve document and records management.

#### Strategic Planning and Consultation:

- Developed a digital transformation strategy through extensive consultation with Ministries, departments, Métis Chartered Communities, Citizens, and stakeholders.
- Established a roadmap and timeline for the implementation of the digital transformation strategy.

#### **Communication and Collaboration:**

• Developed a coordinated communication strategy, fostering collaboration with Ministries and Departments for the streamlined deployment of digital tools.

#### **Cultural Preservation:**

- Ensured the prioritization of Métis Culture, Heritage, and Language in the digital transformation journey.
- Supported the development and completion of the Amelia Douglas Institute online museum and collaborated with external stakeholders to ensure inclusivity of Métis language and dialects in government systems.

# Ministry of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM



Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: LOUIS DE JAEGER

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER: DEAN GLADUE** 

**DIRECTOR: STUART DIXON** 

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) has made significant strides in both economic development, tourism and cultural preservation. One notable achievement is the successful acquisition of the contract to operate the historic Point Ellice House in Victoria, BC. This landmark holds immense historical significance for First Nations and Métis in the region. Point Ellice House represents an opportunity to establish an inclusive cultural hub dedicated to fostering reconciliation through education, cultural understanding, and collaboration.

The vision for Point Ellice House extends beyond a restoration project. MNBC envisions it as a space where visitors can actively engage with both Victoria's history but also focus on efforts to advance economic reconciliation. Through meaningful conversations with the support of Métis Nation Greater Victoria, MNBC aspires to increase awareness, respect, and unity, turning this heritage site into a beacon of understanding and reconciliation. The support from Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sport, highlights the provincial recognition of Point Ellice House's historical significance, particularly its connection to Métis heritage, making it a crucial tourism attraction and asset in the Vancouver Island region.

In tandem with these cultural initiatives, MNBC is strategically advancing its economic development goals. The Ministry is finalizing its external strategy on Economic Development in collaboration with an external consultant, a crucial step towards ensuring a sustainable and resilient economic future for Métis entrepreneurs and businesses. Director Dixon has worked tenfold with the contracted party to advance the strategy. A draft of both the external strategy and the Ministry's integrated strategy was presented on January 16, 2024, to the Board of Directors with a positive reception.

Further, the growth of the Ministry's full-time equivalent staff from one (1) in August 2023 with the potential to be up to ten (10) by the end of March 2024 underscores a robust commitment to advancing opportunities, particularly in procurement for Métis-owned businesses, joint ventures, and other economic partnerships. The additional staff will play a pivotal role in the ministry's ongoing projects, including the revamping of the Business Directory to enhance its database structure, queries, and overall functionality. Staff have been employed in Business Development, Tourism Development, Grants and Capacity Development and Procurement.

Simultaneously, MNBC is overhauling contracts, templates, and structures to broaden the scope of

partnerships, offering majority Nation-owned equity interests in businesses and wholly-owned Nation entities. Looking ahead, the Ministry's goals for 2024 encompass further advancements in procurement, directory improvement, partnership expansion, tourism promotion, and the development of knowledge services within the Ministry. These initiatives collectively contribute to the Nation's growing economic footprints and creative opportunities, reflecting MNBC's commitment to long-term sustainability and prosperity.

Minister De Jaeger and members of the Senior Leadership Team attended the Métis National Council Global Summit on February 21-22, 2024 with Minister De Jaeger offering a panel presentation and speech on advancing economic reconciliation to peer members; the reception was received with great enthusiasm.

The Ministry also has been working in tandem with Métis National Council and recently presented at the Métis Nation Economic Reconciliation Forum (MNTCED) this past week on Feb 28 and 29 with peer governing members to help foster greater



collaboration and opportunities. These include discussions on business investment and trade with other regional Métis Governments and businesses that are involved in International Trade.

Overall, the Ministry is poised very well with aggressive self-imposed internal goals and KPIs to track performance aligned with Central Operations to support peer ministries across the board. The collective leadership of Minister De Jaeger, Minister Gladue and Director Dixon with support from Métis Financial Corporation of BC (MFCBC) Interim GM Austen Houle and MNBC's Senior Leadership and Management Teams; it's a new dawn and day for the Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism.

## Ministry of EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARING | K-12



Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: DEBRA FISHER

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: SHARLENE WEDEL** 

These last six months have provided immense growth and learning opportunities for our Ministry of Education, particularly in terms of deepening understandings of the perspectives

and current and future needs of Métis people in BC with respect to Early Learning and Child Care programs and services. As we continue to expand Métis specific early learning and child care programs and services for our children and families this report highlights some of the considerable progress we have made.

#### **Mobile Community Initiative**

The Mobile Community initiative will further support families in our communities, bringing culture and resources to parks, drop-in programs, events, and other community gatherings. Three Mercedes Sprinters 4x4 2500 Cargo 170 vans have now been delivered and are in the beginning stages of internal outfitting. The vans will be in Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, and in the Thompson Okanagan with the ability to travel to northern communities and the Kootenays during certain times of the year. Supplies and cultural resources are being ordered to complete each mobile community unit, with an estimated completion date for all three vans by March 2024.

#### **Cultural Resource Development Project (CRDP)**

In the last six months, the Ministry of Education has curated and distributed 300 Métis early years cultural resource kits. Included in this kit are 15 unique Métis early learning resources as well as a professional learning guide, which was provided to all Chartered Communities, Métis Service Providers, Strong Starts, Aboriginal Head Starts, Child Development Centers, and Child Care Resource and Referral Centers to support the integration of culturally relevant content into early learning curriculum alongside a six-hour workshop series Aansaamb aen kiskayhtaamaahk - Learning Together geared towards supporting educators in using the guide and the resource kit while highlighting the significant contributions Métis communities in B.C. and the breadth of our culture. An additional 350 educator kits will be distributed and a Learning Guide for families and communities is in development.

#### **Family Gatherings and Events**

Our Métis family gatherings provide Métis families with opportunities to connect with each other while being immersed in their culture; 209 gatherings and events have been attended and supported. These opportunities for collaboration are proving to build strong relationships with our communities.

Virtual kitchen parties have always played a role in the continuation of Métis culture, language, and heritage. Three virtual kitchen parties were provided. The Métis Family Connections (MFC) team hosted families from across the province.

#### **Baby Welcome Kits**

The Baby Welcome Kit is distributed through the Métis Family Connections program for newborns/babies that enroll in the program before their six-month birthday. A total of 29 kits were mailed out to Métis babies from April

- December and were well received.

#### **Imagination Library**

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library through Métis Nation BC provided a total of 3,856 books that were mailed to our Métis early learners, from April to December.

#### **Métis Family Connections Program**

The Métis Family Connection program has grown significantly in the past few years. Currently,



this program has 1664 children in early years and 479 children in middle years. The Secondary Years program enrollment is at 153.

#### Métis Children and Family Service Providers

MNBC partners with Island Métis Family & Community Services Society, Victoria, Métis Family Services, Surrey, Métis Community Services Society of BC, Kelowna, Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services Kamloops, and Niwikowin Métis Family Services Society, Prince George in the delivery of Métis-specific child care.

These service providers provide various programs and services to meet the needs of families and children in their communities. Offering Métis infant development services, Métis supported child care development, inclusion support, breakfast programs, language programs, cultural camps/gatherings, prenatal support, parenting programs, Elders teas, transportation for families, cultural resources, and three child care programs serving the early years.

#### **Recruitment and Retention**

The Métis Early Childhood Education Recruitment and Retention (ECE R&R) team has developed a strategy with a vision of an inclusive and Métis-specific workforce comprised of Métis early learning and child care professionals (ELCC) and acknowledges ELCC as a viable, sustainable, and valued career. ECE R&R specialists provide support in the areas of professional development, recruitment and

retention, and cultural resource sharing.

#### Métis Early Childhood Education Funding

Provides funding to Métis students entering, re-establishing, and graduating from ECE post-secondary programs, 30 students have been funded this fiscal year.

#### The Métis Early Childhood Education Supplement

The Métis Early Childhood Education (ECE) Supplement supported 19 Métis ECEs (Early Childhood Educators) and five ECEAs (Early Childhood Educator Assistants). This compensation supplement



supports retainment of current qualified Métis ECE's and potential recruitment of Early Childhood Education Assistants (ECEA) to become fully qualified educators.

#### **Métis Early Years Conferences**

MNBC's second annual Métis Early Years Conference was held in Victoria, BC on November 3-4, 2023, focusing on self-compassion and ways to reduce burnout for early learning and child care professionals. The conference was a tremendous success with 130 participants

in attendance on November 3 and 108 in attendance on November 4. We look forward to hosting the 2024 Métis Early Years conference in Kelowna BC.

#### **Creation of New Child Care Spaces**

We are currently creating new child care spaces across the province in Terrace, Kamloops, Mission, Saanich, Fort St. John, Campbell River, Port Alberni, Kelowna, Vernon and two projects in Surrey, including a partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University for a child care centre on campus. These spaces will provide culturally responsive early learning programming for our Métis children and families.



#### Métis Child Care Benefit

MNBC continues to offer the Métis Child Care Benefit and Winter/Spring/Summer Supplement Program to provide funding for school aged children. This benefit has been a huge success, with 346 applications. As of December 2023, there are 430 children receiving the MCCB (Métis Child Care Benefit).

#### Miyoopimaatishihk (Wellbeing) Program

The Miyoopimaatishihk program continues to provide support for families that allows for children to successfully participate in early learning and child care programming. As of December 2023, 123 children are accessing the Wellbeing program funding with services ranging from assessments to therapies to assist with successful learning opportunities in the early years.

#### **Métis Education Agreement**

On December 7, 2023, School District 70 Pacific Rim, the Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society, and Métis Nation British Columbia signed the co-developed a new tripartite Métis Education Agreement for Early Learning through Grade 12. The purpose of the agreement is to represent the voice of Métis people in the Alberni-Clayoquot region The signatories commit to working together to provide resources and supports that contribute to the success of Métis students upon entry into the school system, at each grade level, and through to graduation into post- secondary education and training programs.

#### Relationship Building with SD57

In November, our Ministry of Education and Ministry of Mental Health & Harm Reduction worked together to bring Métis performer and keynote speaker, Maddy McCallum, to Prince George, Valemount, and Hixon, where she was able to share her story and her gift of dance with students across 10 schools to promote Métis visibility in the schools.

# Ministry of **ELDERS**

**Respectfully Submitted:** 

MINISTER: RAYNIE GERVAIS

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TANYA DAVOREN** 

**DIRECTOR: MICHELLE FORTIN** 

#### **Independent Special Interlocutor Report:**

In June 2023, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Ministry of Elders hosted two focus groups with Métis Residential School and Intergenerational Survivors (known throughout the rest of the report as Survivors). The purpose of the focus groups was to assist MNBC in a submission to the Independent Special Interlocutor (SI) for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with [Indigenous] Residential Schools.

The focus group discussions centered on five questions. Some questions were in line with the themes being requested by the SI but others were directed to best understand how MNBC can support Survivors. The conversations were semi-structured, allowing participants to steer the conversation in whatever way they preferred.

An MNBC What We Heard report was provided afterwards to participants and an optional feedback session was held with Survivors. MNBC received approval of the report from participants along with additions that are reflected in this submission. Participants were provided with an honorarium for their time. Additionally, MNBC invited and collaborated with a graphic illustrator to create imagery from

what was spoken in each focus

group.

There are several key themes that emerged from the focus group discussions with Métis Survivors, including access of residential school records, listening, and recognizing Métis voices (feeling "Othered"), healing, resiliency, and cost. In the following section, these themes



intertwine with one another and should be understood through a wholistic approach. It weaves existing Métis literature with stories and concludes with recommendations for the Special Interlocutor and federal government.

#### **Residential School Survivors:**

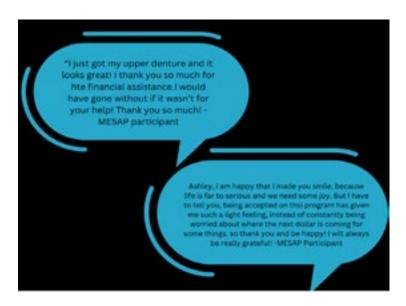
Culture, Care, Connection, and Métis arts and crafting was designed and built from the ground up by the Miyooayaan/Wellness Workers in collaboration with the Métis Community.

The program was built to help fill the gaps in Métis mental health support, and connection to the Métis community, as well as a space to share Métis identity, culture, values, teachings with pride. The goal of the program is to create a safe, welcoming place for Métis individual to gather, learn, connect to each other, culture, and their healing journey. Métis identity, wisdom, teachings, history, values, and culture is woven through every element in the programming.

Elder Virtual Healing Circle: The Ministry of Elders held its first Healing Circle in July of 2021 shortly after finding the unmarked graves in Kamloops. The healing circle brought together Elders and Seniors and was conducted in a culturally safe space where Elders could share their journeys and support each other during each person's personal journey. We have heard and seen the need for Elders' engagement throughout the circle and to collaborate with cultural activities. Planning to set up more regular meetings for 2024.

#### **Elder Programs:**

Elders Temporary Financial Assistance: MNBC supported more than 9 waves of funding to our Elders since the implementation of the funding. In the most recent wave, over \$115,000 has been granted to our Elders with over 150 Elders and Seniors in BC accessing the funds for the first time. The one-time grants are \$500 for single applicants or \$750 for couples. Many Elders and Seniors are experiencing barriers and hardship with inflation driving up the price of fuel and goods hastily increasing in 2023. This program has been in high demand and is currently on a waitlist for those who have accessed the program in the past. Inflation has affected our Elders and Seniors at a disproportionate level due to the fact that many are on fixed incomes, and assistance funding levels not been increased to meet their increased needs.



Métis Elders and Seniors Assistant
Program (MESAP)- Launched in 2021
as a MNBC Board driven initiative,
the program grants \$2,500 to single
household applicants, and \$4,000 to
applicants who are married/commonlawed that are low-income. This is to
support Elders and Seniors that require
any health-related assistance as we
know that is ever a great need in our
Nation. This grant will assist with
the financial burden our Elders and
Seniors are experiencing when seeking

out dental/dentures, hearing aids, eyewear/eye examination, etc. Since launching the program, the MNBC Ministry of Elders has granted over \$750,000 to support low-income Elders and Seniors with over 315 applicants. Currently, there are over 65 individuals on a waitlist to access the program. The program has shown significant needs for Elders and seniors for eyewear, eye exams, wheelchair, scooters, hearing aids, dentures, and many other services and equipment that our Elders and Seniors cannot afford with fixed incomes. We continue to hear the need for accessibility to health benefits and insurance not only for our Elders but for their families and low-income families. We are finalizing the program policies and will be developing an application guide for participants.

## Palliative and Long-Term Care:

In this fiscal, the Ministry of Elders successfully secured funding for Advanced Care and End-of Life Engagement Sessions for Métis Kihtêyak (Elders) to address systemic racism and discrimination and advance health equity for marginalized populations by hosting two regional gatherings for Métis Elders and Seniors to discuss Advanced Care Planning (ACP) by providing information sessions on End-of-Life Care (EOLC) with an optional breakout session for Medical-Assistance in Dying (MAID). The project will bring together all of MNBC's seven regions within the province and their 40 Métis Chartered Communities by hosting 2 engagement sessions. These sessions will be carefully designed with input from the Métis Citizens attending to deliver a successful and meaningful project with clear objectives and outcomes. To encourage a culturally safe environment, input from Citizens will be collected at registration to ensure important cultural elements are included throughout the sessions. Food and beverages will be provided for all in-person attendees and any travel expenses will be 100% covered to ensure participation barriers are addressed, attendees are comfortable and overall increasing accessibility to our Nation.

## **Elders Advisory Council**

The Ministry of Elders is dedicated to supporting the well-being and prosperity of Métis Citizens, and we believe that active participation of our Elders is crucial to achieving this goal at Regional Governance Council meetings. MNBC's Ministry of Elders will be working with Minister Gervais and Regional Directors to identify Regional Elders and alternates to make up this Council in 2024.

## **Provincial Métis Elders Gathering**

Planning has resumed with the working group on rescheduling the Elder's gathering that was canceled due to air quality and increased risk of imminent wildfire. More information to follow.

For more information on the Ministry of Elders, please contact: elders@mnbc.ca

# Ministry of ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY (MOEPAFS)



Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: SUSIE HOOPER

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER: PAULETTE FLAMOND** 

**SENIOR DIRECTOR: LEONA SHAW** 

The Ministry is mandated to promote the conservation and protection of nature in British Columbia through responsible stewardship guided by Métis values and traditional knowledge. The Ministry is responsible for overseeing initiatives related to environmental protection. Current priorities include, but are not limited to, climate change, emergency preparedness and response, harvesting and land use, food security, conservation, and species at risk. This Ministry continues to work closely with the British Columbia Métis of Natural Resources (BCMANR).

This Ministry continued to manage the large COVID-19 special project. The goal is to support Chartered Communities directly and to provide programs that were effective in helping Métis people throughout BC to alleviate some of the pressures and challenges faced during the pandemic. MNBC Senior Staff from each MNBC Ministry were consulted with, and provided feedback, to build this plan. The recommendations and plans were then approved by the Board.

## Some highlights since the September 2023 AGM report:

## **Capacity Building:**

• MOEPAFS welcomed 2 incredible FTE (two Policy Analysts), bringing the team to 10 FTE.

## **Home Garden Program**

- The program is back for 2024 with funding provided by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and will be administered by New Relationship Trust (NRT) and co-delivered by NRT and participating Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFI's) in B.C.
- Approximately 400 Métis households will receive a \$75 online gift card to purchase seeds from BC Eco Seeds and the option to receive a \$200 grant for gardening supplies and materials.
- The program will also feature a large educational component with gardening and preservation courses.

## Cookbook

Creation of a Métis cookbook with family recipes, pictures, and stories. The cookbook is projected to

launch in early March 2024.

## **Emergency Management**

- PERMANENT BILATERAL MECHANISM (PBM) Emergency Management
  - The Crown-Métis Nation Summit agreed to add Emergency Management,
    Preparedness and Response to the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism Standing
    Agenda and to explore the establishment of an Emergency Management,
    Preparedness and Response Sub Accord.
  - MNBC staff met with MNC, other Governing Members, and federal ministries for the first technical meeting (January 2024) in preparation for future Emergency Management PBM talks with Canada.
- Ongoing Emergency Preparedness Collaboration table with Fraser Health, Health
  Emergency Management BC (HEMBC), and First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to plan
  for future emergencies and track Métis citizens through the Fraser Health system during
  future emergency events.
- Successful earthquake preparedness webinar during BC's 'Shake Out' week in October 2023. Citizens learned from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Emergency Management Climate Readiness (EMCR) BC on new resources and tools that will help citizens during seismic events.
- EMCR will collaborate with MNBC on a monthly Emergency Preparedness webinar series throughout 2024.
  - o March Wildfires
  - o April Floods
  - o May Extreme heat
  - o June Mental Health (in partnership with BC Ministry of Health
  - o July Water scarcity / drought
  - o Sept Earthquakes
  - o Oct Cold weather & winter storm
- Staff presented MNBC work in Emergency Management at the Adaptation Futures Conference 2023 in Montreal in October.
- Staff presented MNBC climate work at COP28 in Dubai (November 2023) as part of the Canadian delegation for the annual UN climate change conference.
- MNBC staff are lead writers for the Emergency Management and Health sections of the Métis Nation Climate Strategy which has release date planned for April 2024.

## British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR)

- Created and released winter edition of the BCMANR newsletter "Within Our Sights".
- Worked alongside MNBC staff and the Board to update a new MOU between BCMANR and MNBC.
- Developed an in-house platform for the annual Harvester Survey (alongside IMIT). The
  project gives BCMANR and MNBC more flexibility with the design of the mandatory
  survey, supporting harvesters to complete it during the open period and provide clearer
  insight of the data that is collected.
- Two Captains and two staff members (1 youth) attended a land user gathering in Saskatoon, SK, hosted by MNC. It was meant to discuss high priority areas of concern (e.g., species, ecosystems) and highlight how MNC can support each GM/province at a national and international level.
- Development of a Harvester Hub for BC citizens (alongside IMIT), allowing a more streamlined process for applying and renewing Harvester Cards. The development of the Harvester Hub is part of the overall effort by the MNBC and the Authority of Citizenship to serve citizens better.

## **Youth Pilot Program**

- Began discussions with the Ministry of Youth to create a pilot program to support youth
  with training, leadership, and communication skills through participating in workshops
  and projects relating to environmental protection, climate change, and food security. The
  program will provide an opportunity for youth to create relationships with other Métis
  youth and connect to culture and the land.
  - The virtual program will include 7 monthly workshops and a commitment to 70 volunteer hours.
  - o The program is designed for 10 to 15 youth who are 15-30 years old.

## Data Strategy (Ministry of Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and Food Sovereignty specific):

 As citizen programs, community outreach, and capacity grows, more valuable data is becoming available to us. This data includes provincial, federal and citizen data on the health of the environment and its impacts on Métis citizens. It is a priority to gather, process and store this information in a good way, so we can have an accurate picture of the needs of citizens and communities for many years to come. The exploration of our data strategy includes gathering current datasets, providing ministerial staff with the right platforms and tools to handle data, and to align with best practices across the organization.

## Other:

- In partnership with Carbon Zero, offset 532.05 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2e), matching the greenhouse gases emitted from 2,136,440 km of MNBC's business air travel (including the Board) in 2023. The funds were used to directly support the Great Bear Forest Carbon Project, one of the world's largest temperate rainforests.
- The "Métis Food (In)Security and Food Sovereignty Examining the Societal
  Consequences of the Covid-19 Pandemic" report was not released in August 2023 as
  expected. It is predicted to be launched in early 2024. This was in collaboration with the
  Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC),
  and MNBC (Ministry of Health and MOEPAFS).

## **Committees/Working Groups**

- Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) ongoing
  - o This committee is made up of 4 Board members, a BCMANR representative, and five Citizens.
- Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) ongoing
  - o This committee continues to meet to advocate for Emergency Preparedness Plans and internal capacity to best support Métis communities within B.C.
- Métis National Council Environment Committee -ongoing
  - o The technical members meet biweekly and advocate on a Federal level for Métis specific funding for conservation, climate change, and other environmental related programing.
  - o Two joint tables Goose Moon and Nature Table (Senior Leadership meetings took place in January and February 2024)
  - o MNC National Climate Change Strategy being developed. MNBC staff took part in the writing retreat and process.
- MNBC Staff Level Emergency Preparedness Working Group
  - o The underlying assumption is that emergencies related to climate change will happen at an increasing rate; therefore, it is appropriate to come together as staff, across Ministries, to plan and coordinate actions and resources to help the Nation.

## Ministry of HEALTH



Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: LOUIS DE JAEGER

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TANYA DAVOREN** 

**DIRECTOR: STEPHEN THOMSON** 

## **Ministry Highlights**

MNBC's Ministry of Health's goal is to have Métis self-determine their own health and wellness needs, have equitable access to culturally safe resources and services, embrace lifestyle as medicine, and flourish in their culture and healthy, resilient communities. Our work is to promote lifestyle as medicine, provide wholistic health and cultural wellness programs and resources, and advocate for the removal of all systemic gaps and barriers, ensuring Métis health is driven by the voice of community to influence policy, legislation, and health outcomes.

## **Regional Health Coordinators**

MNBC's Regional Health Coordinators (RHCs) facilitate connections with Métis Citizens, Chartered Communities, and Health Authority staff, to set community and region-specific health priorities and identify educational, health promotion, cancer, and chronic disease prevention opportunities. RHCs supported more than 115 Métis Citizens health requests between October and December 2023. Please email <a href="mailto:healthservicerequest@mnbc.ca">health requests between October and December 2023</a>. Please email <a href="mailto:healthservicerequest@mnbc.ca">healthservicerequest@mnbc.ca</a> or directly connect with any of our amazing Regional Health Coordinator team members!

## Ta Saantii Mamawapowuk (Health Gathering)

Ta Saantii Mamawapowuk (TSM) is MNBC's Métis-specific cultural wellness training and curriculum for health authority partners. MNBC hosted TSM sessions in Abbotsford and Kelowna, bringing together nearly 150 Health Authority staff from across the Interior and Fraser regions, along with Métis Community leaders, MNBC staff, and Métis knowledge carriers to foster Métis allies and champion across the health system, and to support better respect, awareness, and care for Métis accessing the system. MNBC's Ministry of Health is planning additional sessions in 2024 and seeking additional funding to continue the program annually.

## Fraser Health Experiential Learning Event

In partnership with knowledge carrier Lisa Shepherd and Fraser Health, Miyomahcihô: The Person is in Good Health experiential learning, is being delivered to Fraser Health physicians in February, March, and April. Miyomahcihô is a one-day event that will deliver Métis-specific cultural teachings and considerations to physicians to prepare them to deliver safer care to Métis.

## MNBC's CervixCheck Project transitions to HPV provincial Screening Project

MNBC has worked with partners since 2017 to improve access to cervical cancer screening, with the goal of reducing cervical cancer rates in Métis Chartered Communities in northern BC. After nearly four years, MNBC's CervixCheck is closing and transitioning into the Provincial screening program.

Over the 4-year program, MNBC's HPV Project Coordinator and Provincial Health & Wellness Manager have connected with 569 Métis Citizens in Northeast and Northwest BC, finding over 10% of participants have no screening history and over 35% who had not been screened in five or more years. Unfortunately, 3% of participants tested positive with some results still pending.

MNBC, the BC Women's Health Foundation, and TD have partnered to host forums in mid-late 2024 in Northern BC to provide continued education and awareness around HPV screening and the Provincial Screening Program. MNBC is grateful to all the Métis Chartered Community leaders and members for their continued support throughout this project.

For more information on the Provincial Screening Program, you can visit: <u>Changes to Cervix Screening</u> (<u>bccancer.bc.ca</u>)

## Métis Health Experience Program

MNBC's <u>Métis Health Experience Program (MHEP)</u>, assists Métis individuals, families, and communities across BC to navigate the healthcare feedback process. The program provides a safe space for Métis-led conversations around all types of health experiences and advocates for change within the healthcare system through story sharing and ensuring Métis are being represented in health. Please visit our <u>webpage</u> for more program details, to complete the Métis Health Experience Intake Form to share your story, or contact <u>healthexperience@mnbc.ca</u> for more information on how MNBC can help.

The Métis Health and Wellness Experience Circle launched in October 2023. The circle works to raise awareness, to empower Métis individuals, and to drive change in health and wellness services accessed by Métis Communities. The circle is composed of a diverse group of Métis from across BC, who bring important perspectives to this work. By providing a safe space to share truths, experiences, and opportunities to influence best practices for knowledge gathering and the safer care of Métis, the Circle will inform and guide the work of the MHEP.

## Métis Health Equity Team

MNBC's Ministry of Health continues to advocate at the health authority level to ensure Métis are included in health authority health plans and initiatives. The Métis Health Equity Team have been working to develop five-year health and wellness plans in the Fraser, Interior, and Northern health regions, set to be published in early 2024. The Métis Health and Wellness Plans operationalize the commitments outlined in each regional health authority-MNBC Letter of Understanding (LOU) with joint goals and actions for the next five years.

Each plan has been created from the health and wellness priorities identified through previous engagement with Métis Chartered Communities across BC and attach goals, actions, and outcome measures to each priority. A series of community engagement events, including virtual town hall meetings, an online survey, in-person events in each region, and a presence at MNBC's AGM in September have helped inform and validate the Métis Health and Wellness Plans. If you would like more information on this work and how you can get involved, please contact health@mnbc.ca.

MNBC received funding from Island Health to hire a Health Systems Advocate for Region 1. The HSA started with MNBC on January 15, 2024, and will begin the work to engage Region 1 Communities and co-develop Métis health and wellness priorities with Island Health throughout 2024.

## **Health Policy Team**

MNBC's Health policy team has taken a Métis Social Determinants of Health approach, recognizing the long-reaching impacts of Climate Change, Culture, Education, Employment, Housing, and more on the health, mental health, and wellness of Métis across BC, and has begun working collaboratively across MNBC to ensure all these considerations are included in the policy, advocacy, and engagement work of the Ministry of Health. Examples include:

- Working alongside the Métis Health Experience Program and Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction to develop and advance Naomie's Principle;
- Engaging the provincial government in a health-specific working group with the aim of securing long-term, sustainable funding for MNBC programs and services
- Partnering with the Ministry of Sport to produce a Métis Healthy Living Cooking Workshop
- Producing a What We Heard Report for the Attorney General's Office centred on feedback received from the community regarding experiences of racism;
- Delivering two in-depth environmental scans on Medical Assistance in Dying and palliative care from a Métis perspective;
- Reviewing Health Authority publications to ensure Métis considerations are acknowledged and addressed;
- Collaborating with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives around various topics such as Medical Assistance in Dying and the use of IUDs.

To find efficiencies and remove barriers to effectively doing the work, MNBC's Policy Community of Practice has begun discussing the development of a policy evaluation framework from a specifically Métis perspective.

### **Health Research and Evaluation**

MNBC welcomed Tabatha Berggren as the Health Research and Evaluation Manager in the Ministry of Health in August 2023. Primary responsibilities include bringing a Métis lens and perspective

to health authority evaluation, cultural safety measurement, and research frameworks. This role also provides technical support to the Métis Data Governance Committee and supporting an increased understanding of the Métis social determinants of health, participating in research ethics review boards, and creating a Métis-specific data governance framework.

## **Engagement Highlights:**

- Health Information Management Act September 2023
- Anti-Racism Legislation September and October 2023
- Fraser Health Indigenous Cultural Safety Lunch & Learn Series Métis 101, applying a Métis Social Determinants of Health lens to working with Métis – October 2023
- Naomie's Story: Neglected but Not Forgotten Presentation to the National Summit on Indigenous Mental Wellness – October 2023
- Culturally Safe Virtual Care Fort Langley, November 2023
- <u>Interior Voices Podcast</u> November 2023
- Métis women from Métis Nation BC delivered a virtual lunch and learn session for Northern Health staff and physicians and shared about their lives growing up in the Métis culture – November 2023
- Northern Health Lunch & Learn November 2023
- Interior Health's Indigenous Engagement Forum February 2024

For more information on the Ministry of Health, please contact: health@mnbc.ca

















## Ministry of HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: WALTER MINEAULT

**ACTING SENIOR DIRECTOR: CHRIS TUPY** 

The Ministry of Housing and Homelessness works to advance housing stability and the development of social infrastructure for Métis Citizens. The Ministry addresses three core service areas:

- Policy analysis and long-range planning (MNBC Strategic Goal 3: Pursue socio-economic reconciliation)
- Creation and administration of housing support programs (MNBC Strategic Goal 4: Support Métis Chartered Communities)
- Acquisition and development of housing, community facilities, and other infrastructure (MNBC Strategic Goal 5: Generate Core Capacity, Infrastructure, and Economic Development)

## **Reaching Home**

The Reaching Home Program supports low-income Métis citizens and self-identified Métis who are homeless, precariously housed or facing housing instability by providing housing loss prevention and housing stabilization services.

From April 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, Reaching Home has supported **225** vulnerable Métis by helping them maintain or secure their housing. Women and children fleeing violence, elders on fixed incomes with limited social support, single parents, and folks experiencing emergencies from fires, floods, medical issues, or the loss of loved ones have been the primary recipients of **\$462,508.26** in support.

## Ma Nîki Home Seniors Home Renovation Program

The Ma Nîķi Seniors Home Renovation Program supports low-income Métis citizen homeowners with financial assistance in renovating their home to improve the safety and livability and allow them to age in place. This program provides a once-per-lifetime non-repayable grant of up \$20,000.00 per household.

From April 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, Ma Nîķi has completed 73 renovations for MNBC Elders that own their own homes and required assistance with repairs and upgrades. Grants totaling **\$982,655.48** have been provided for renovations to increase safety, address structural issues, provide better mobility solutions, or improve energy efficiency.

## Métis Rent Supplement Program

The Métis Rent Supplement Program (MRSP) supports low-income Métis citizens with rent supplement payments for a temporary period. Individuals and Families spending more than 30% of their household income on rent may qualify for a payment up to a maximum of \$475.00 a month.

From April 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, MNBC has provided **3,092** rent supplement payments totalling **\$1,164,167.48** and assisted **546** MNBC citizens or families with maintaining their housing. The preventative services provided by the Métis Rent Supplement Program have been crucial in keeping many citizens from entering homelessness and have provided enough relief for others to exit the program successfully and find financial stability.

### **Welcome Home Kits**

The Ministry of Housing and Homelessness in partnership with SPARC BC is supporting Métis people with a history of homelessness by providing the essentials required to build a new future in their homes through the Welcome Home Kits Program.

From April 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, **61** Welcome Home Kits have been delivered with a total value of **\$27,450.00**. The kits include crucial items depending on the needs of the applicant such as groceries, baby diapers, kitchenware, toiletries, and basic furnishings.

## Policy Analysis and Long-Range Planning

- MNBC, working with Métis Citizen-owned Big River Data of Squamish, BC, at the end of March 2023 completed the second and final phase of data analysis to understand the cost to reduce "core housing need" among Métis in BC by 50% by the end of 2027/28. This will be reported to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). This multi-year phased project was funded by CIRNAC under the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord.
- MNBC, working with David Nairne & Associates, conducted a Social Infrastructure and Facilities Master Plan process. Social Infrastructure, as defined by MNBC, includes both physical facilities and programs or other resources. The process included meetings with the Board of Directors, senior MNBC staff, Chartered Community leadership, and direct Citizen workshops and outreach. This Plan describes the needs for, and estimates the cost of, social infrastructure among Métis in BC. The projects identified in the Plan will be prioritized by the Board of Directors and funding sought through CIRNAC's Indigenous Communities Infrastructure Fund and other sources. MNBC anticipates updating this Plan every 3-5 years.
- MNBC recently recruited a Policy Analyst to analyze existing housing support programs, propose adjustments to address program equity and sustainability, and propose new programs. The Analyst will also seek out funding opportunities and assist in developing funding applications.

## **Housing Support Programs**

First-Time Home Buyers Program: the Board of Directors announced that this program will be administered by the Métis Financial Corporation of British Columbia (MFCBC), the program is to provide up to \$20,000.00 in down payment assistance, plus up to \$3,000.00 toward closing costs to Métis citizen homebuyers.
 \$1M is allocated to this program for fiscal year 2023-24. To date, of the 83 applications received, 22 have been approved and funded to maximum of \$23,000.00 each, totaling \$506,000.00. An additional 5 applications have been pre-approved, but the purchases have not yet been closed as of December 31, 2023.

## **Acquisition and Development**

MNBC currently receives funding through CIRNAC under the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord and through the Indigenous Communities Infrastructure Fund.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Housing and Homelessness is developing mixed-use centres to include licensed childcare centres, housing, Chartered Community offices, and community spaces on four properties. These projects are currently in the design phase and are expected to begin construction in 2025 or 2026.

- Region 1: 3656 Raymond Street, Saanich / Métis Nation of Greater Victoria.
  Status: Rezoning 2024; applying for construction funding 2024; anticipate 2026 groundbreaking.
- Region 1: 834 South Island Highway, Campbell River / North Island Métis Association.
  Status: Engaged with City of Campbell River on a superior site. Submitting construction funding requests for superior site in April 2024 with a goal of 2025 groundbreaking.
- Region 3: 800 Victoria Street, Kamloops / Two Rivers Métis Society

  Status: MNBC is partnering with Lii Michif Otipemisiwak (LMO) to develop the Otipemisiwak

  Centre, which will include childcare, housing, LMO offices, and community spaces.

  Construction is expected to begin in 2026.
- Region 6: 2812 Tetrault Street, Terrace / Northwest BC Métis Association.

  Status: Finalizing contract to sell. Under contract to purchase a superior site from City of Terrace. Childcare to build in 2024, with mixed-use building groundbreaking to follow in 2025 or 2026.
- Region 7: 9912 and 9904 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort St. John / Fort St. John Métis Society

  Status: 9904 94<sup>th</sup> Street is an existing high-efficiency house now occupied by STEPS. 9912

  94<sup>th</sup> Street is to be developed in 2024 with a childcare facility.
- Region 7: 9304 99 Avenue, Fort St. John / Fort St. John Métis Society

  Status: 40-unit apartment complex purchased by MNBC in late 2023. Units are being offered to Métis families as they come available starting in February 2024.

## **Additional Ongoing Projects:**

Region 2: 11479 125a Street, Surrey

**Status**: Currently being marketed for sale.

Region 4: 1102 13 Street, Invermere / Columbia Valley Métis Association.

**Status**: Rezoning 2024; applying for construction funding 2024; anticipate 2025 groundbreaking.

Region 7: 10002-10008 Stege Street, Hudson's Hope / River of the Peace Métis Society.

**Status**: MNBC will develop four single family lots. Construction is expected to begin in late 2024.

## **Opportunity Searches:**

Searches for opportunities are underway in Region 2 and Region 5.

### **Foundational Work**

In 2023-24, MNBC completed additional foundational capacity-building work:

Conducted a Request for Information process to prequalify modular building suppliers, selecting four out of seventeen respondents.

Developed strategic plans for the Development Division and the Housing Supports Division.

Worked to right-size the Ministry's real property portfolio.

## Ministry of INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: LISSA DAWN SMITH

**DIRECTOR: JEREMY TWIGG** 

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs manages MNBC's relationship with the Crown through the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, and with the Province of British Columbia through the development of a reconciliation agreement underpinned by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. As a central service supporting all MNBC ministries, this department also liaises with municipalities, First Nations and stakeholders.

The inaugural Métis Summit week took place in Victoria from November 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. The core objective was to strengthen the relationship between MNBC and the Province – ultimately to generate the political will to support our bilateral reconciliation work. Our delegation also sounded the alarm about the Distinctions-Based Approach legal primer, which is intended to inform the provincial government's dealings with Indigenous Peoples in the reconciliation process, as commitments in the DRIPA Action Plan are fulfilled. That document was developed without meaningful consultation with MNBC.

The trip included a meeting with David Eby, Premier of British Columbia, and a private reception for MLAs that featured fiddling and jigging by local Métis talent. MNBC's delegation was recognized by the Legislative Assembly during Question Period, and a proclamation ceremony was held in the Legislature's Hall of Honour to commemorate the life, vision, and sacrifices of Louis Riel. Proclamation ceremonies were also arranged with the City of Vancouver and the City of Surrey.

Additional provincial government engagement meetings arranged for the Board Executive included: Michael Lee, Official Opposition Critic for the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; Grace Lore, Minister of State for Child Care; BC United Caucus; Adrian Dix, Minister of Health; Niki Sharma, Attorney General; Adam Olson, BC Green Party MLA; Priscilla Sabbas-Watts, Assistant Deputy Minister, Legislative Transformation and Engagement, Declaration Act Secretariat; Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development; and Ann Marie Sam, Assistant Deputy Minister, Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

The Métis Summit will become an annual event that will be formalized in partnership with the Province.

The department of Intergovernmental Affairs led a federal lobbying trip for the Board Executive in Ottawa from November 27<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>. Primary objectives were to convey support for Bill C-53 and the importance of MNBC being included in self-government legislation, express concerns over the MMF Draft Treaty, advocate for the Métis Nation's Section 35 Rights in B.C., and advance MNBC's relationship with the federal government. The delegation was recognized in Parliament by Randeep

Sarai, MP for Surrey Centre.

Federal government meetings included: Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations; Soraya Ferrada, Minister Tourism and Minister Responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions for Quebec; Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence; Tako Van Popta, MP for Langley—Aldergrove and Shadow Minister for Pacific Economic Development; Martin Reiher, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Treaties and Aboriginal Government, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC); Carla McGrath, Director General at CIRNAC; Rechie Valdez, Minister of Small Business; Office of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth; Jenna Sudds, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development; Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada; BC NDP Caucus; Office of the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development; John Aldag, Member of Parliament for Cloverdale-Langley City; Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada; Bob Zimmer, Critic for Northern Affairs and Arctic Sovereignty/Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency; Jamie Schmale, Critic for Crown-Indigenous Relations, Opposition Leader's Office; Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Canadian Heritage; Lori Idlout, Member of Parliament for Nunavut; Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; Office of the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities of Canada; Kimberly Lavoie, Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada; and Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Intergovernmental Affairs attended MNC Senior Officials meetings for the PBM process in September and the MNC AGA in November. We also traveled to Ottawa to support our President and Vice President at the MNC Leaders Meeting in January and the MNC Global Summit in February of this year, plus numerous political party conventions.

We supported our Ministry of Housing with outreach to the Kitsumkalem and Kitselas First Nations to support our Terrace development, and participated in community events, such as the New Moon Gala at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey and the Songhees Nation South Island Powwow in Victoria.

With the addition of a new team member, Intergovernmental Affairs is well-positioned to play a key role in actioning MNBC's First Nations Relationship Plan.

On the municipal front, Intergovernmental Affairs advocated for housing projects in Campbell River, Prince George and Saanich at the Union of BC Municipalities convention in September. We plan on having an even larger presence at the upcoming UBCM convention this fall to support our developments at the municipal level.

Intergovernmental Affairs has also made substantial progress on our regional engagement program, which ensures our seven regionally-elected directors have strong relationships with their local Members of the Legislative Assembly and Members of Parliament. A total of 30 regional engagement meetings

with elected officials were successfully held last year. We intend to include Chartered Community Presidents in phase two of this province-wide initiative.

Our department has arranged 175 high-level government meetings since our inception two years ago. We remain focused on advancing priorities for improving the quality of life of our people by approaching reconciliation through a positive, partnerships-based lens.

## Ministry of JUSTICE

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: LISSA DAWN SMITH

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER: DEAN GLADUE** 

**DIRECTOR: MELANIE WALKER** 

Throughout 2023, our Ministry of Justice reports continued to showcase changes, updates, and progress in all aspects of the Ministry, including reinvigorating our Justice Council, and beginning to collaborate more actively with our MNBC Senate. With this March 2024 update, we continue to grow and push the boundaries of what this ministry can do.

Since September, we successfully hired a Senior Manager of Justice, Carly Teillet, who has been integral in the successes we have had since our last update. Our work has focused on bringing the Ministry's plans and decisions to better center on MNBC as a self-determined government and Métis law. We "took back" our MNBC Justice Strategy, versus waiting for BC's "approval" of it; we are and will be bringing this work forward with or without other government supports and have started to look for, apply for, and successfully receive relevant funding to either supplement or complement our work with BC and Canada. We have no boundaries to how big this Ministry can be or the work that we want to do. To truly decrease the over-representation of Métis in the justice system, we need a lot of folks coming together to do the hard work.

The biggest challenge of this Ministry is still with our capacity, specifically staffing. We are trying to keep up with organizations or teams that are much larger than us, and yet we must keep up or we will be left behind. We were able to set up a more streamlined process for Métis folks to contact us - <a href="mailto:justice@mnbc.ca">justice@mnbc.ca</a> - and we updated the external resources, links, and descriptions available on our Ministry of Justice webpage for Métis who are in search of much needed supports.

Ministry staff, our Minister of Justice, Associate Minister of Justice, and our Justice Council also focused recently on engaging in as many events and spaces at various levels as possible: Justice Forums, Justice Centre openings, community engagement sessions, presenting at community engagement sessions, and consultation with BC and Canada. In addition, we continue to receive policy for review from BC and Canada, and provide feedback, informing legislation as much as we can.

This is a Ministry that struggled on the sides of desks for years and has truly become something over the past year and a half. It is an interesting Ministry because we are now participating and engaging in so many places that we are on the cusp of greatly expanding, once we receive the substantive funding required to truly build the team needed. This is a Ministry to watch, and we hope that with BC Cabinet approval of our MNBC Justice Strategy, our funding ask of approximately \$21 million will be granted,

after which we will be hiring upwards of 30-60 staff in the coming years.

Below we showcase in more detail some of the work we are doing:

## MNBC Justice Strategy

In our previous update, the MNBC Justice Strategy was awaiting BC Cabinet approval. That process was unfortunately held up due to another BC policy being written: The Distinctions Based Policy. With this shift from BC, MNBC also shifted. Our leadership focused on negotiating with BC on the Distinctions Based Policy at the respective tables, with the goal to make it a policy that MNBC could support.

However, they also specifically asked BC Leadership to not allow this new policy to hold up the Justice work that is so desperately needed. This call to BC was stated to Ministers, the Premier, and the Attorney General of BC during targeted in-person meetings. In parallel, staff pushed hard with the Indigenous Justice Secretariat to get things moving again, while also taking the ownership of our Justice Strategy back so that our own strategy was not embargoed, and we could use the recommendations in other spaces. For example, MNBC wrote an extensive submission to Canada to inform the Canadian Indigenous Justice Strategy. All this hard work at multiple levels at MNBC has had success and we are at the writing table again with BC, preparing a final version that we hope goes to Cabinet early 2024 for approval.

## Justice and Policing Sub-Accord

- MNBC was instrumental in writing the Métis priorities with our working group, Métis
  National Council, governing members, and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak in Canada's
  United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan<sup>1</sup>. One key priority focuses on creating a Justice
  and Policing Sub-Accord:
- "Conclude a Justice and Policing Sub-Accord through the Canada-Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism in order to end over-representation, reduce recidivism rates, ensure preventative and Métis culturally responsive restorative justice, achieve equity within Canada's justice system(s) for Métis citizens and advance Métis inherent rights to selfdetermination and self-government, including, but not limited to:
- federal data sharing agreements
- sustainable funding and capacity for Métis governments to support their citizens
  incarcerated, interacting with, and having lived experience in the justice system, through
  initiatives including but not limited to Métis specific restorative justice, comprehensive
  victims, family, and community services and supports, Gladue services, and other programs
  and services

- Métis law and legal systems
- policing
- other undertakings in relation to advancing the role of Métis governments (Justice Canada and Public Safety Canada)

MNBC is now actively working on writing the accord with our Métis working group and Canada. We meet regularly and held a multi-day workshop in Ottawa in the fall where we came together to get the work done. We are aiming to submit the accord to the Prime Minister's Summit in 2024. The accord will be a guide to the continued discussions and negotiations with Canada around justice and policing, including capacity needs for the coming years.

BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) and BC's Indigenous Justice Secretariat (IJS)

Since our AGM update, due to our increased capacity within the Ministry of Justice, we have been able to continue to deepen our relationship with BC's IJS, and the BCFNJC. The BCFNJC are responsible for the Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC) around BC – some are already open, and more will be opening over the next year. BC has and/or is in the process of also handing over Gladue Services and Indigenous aspects of Legal Aid to the BCFNJC. The MNBC Ministry of Justice has made it a priority to either push to ensure we are partners and included in this work, or where we are not being included, ensure we are advocating hard for all Métis in BC to be able to access these services and feel safe doing so. We are working on a grant that supports us in creating education materials for Justice Professionals to learn about Métis history, culture, and people, and we will be using the Surrey IJC as a pilot program, bringing together multiple partners to collaborate on making it Métis inclusive. We want to ensure that if a Métis person accesses one of the IJC's across BC, they feel understood and accepted, can access appropriate cultural supports, gain legal support from someone who understands Métis law, and overall feel safe entering these spaces.

 $<sup>^{1}\ \ \</sup>text{https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/ap-pa/ah/pdf/unda-action-plan-digital-eng.pdf}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> P. 65; ibid.

## Ministry of MENTAL HEALTH AND HARM REDUCTION



Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: DR. KATE ELLIOTT

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TANYA DAVOREN** 

**DIRECTOR: JILLIAN JONES** 

The Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction is working towards fully realized mental health and wellness for Métis people in BC. Through our Ministry, we advocate for culturally appropriate mental health and harm reduction programs and services at the national, provincial, and regional levels. We continue to highlight and address the gaps in existing services and advocate for changes needed to better foster the health, wellness, and resilience of Métis individuals and communities. Additionally, the mental health and harm



Pictured: staff members of the Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction.

reduction team provides support, education, and advocacy for Métis people and Métis Chartered Communities across BC.

As a growing Ministry, the Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction strives to create whole-life, wraparound mental wellness initiatives, centered in community wisdom, and rooted in the idea of "culture as medicine". We seek to use a whole-life approach to foster mental health and wellness for Métis individuals and Communities across all stages of life, from prenatal to end-of-life. We seek to develop and implement mental wellness programming that is grounded in Métis culture and Métis ways-of-knowing. In understanding and recognizing intersectionality, we honour the diversity of the Métis population across BC; a population that is inclusive of all age groups, gender identities, sexual orientations, and diverse abilities. As such, our work seeks to be inclusive and representative of Métis youth, adult, Elder, GBA+, diverse abilities, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ lenses.





Pictured: members of MNBC's Mental Health Navigation team at various community events.

MINISTRY
HIGHLIGHTS: MENTAL
WELLNESS AND HARM
REDUCTION SUPPORTS

Regional Mental Health Navigators.

MNBC's Regional Mental Health Navigators support Métis individuals to navigate the mental health and substance use system, as well as connect individuals to other resources which may contribute to overall mental wellness. In 2023, the Regional

Mental Health Navigation team supported more than 800 community requests. To connect with your Regional Mental Health Navigator, please contact: <a href="mailto:mentalhealthnavigation@mnbc.ca">mentalhealthnavigation@mnbc.ca</a>.

## Miyooayaan (Wellness) Workers.

MNBC's Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction, in collaboration with MNBC's Ministry of Elders, has been working to increase access to mental wellness supports for Métis individuals that have been impacted by the harms of residential schools and day schools through hiring two Miyooayaan (Wellness) Workers. Thus far, the Miyooayaan Workers have sought to provide: workshops based on needs expressed by survivors (including topics such as self-care, culture, trauma, Métis residential school experiences, intergenerational healing, grief, loss, and more); virtual circles for survivors to gather, share their wisdom, and create a strong sense of community; in-person support (including emotional support at various events and providing follow-up care to those who attended various events); opportunities for connection to culture; one-on-one support for Métis individuals; and, complex-care consultation.

## Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) – Peer Outreach Through a Métis Lens.

Led by MNBC's Harm Reduction team, this project has developed a team of Peer Support Outreach Workers using a harm reduction approach grounded in Métis knowledge and community. This program is Métis-specific, embracing culturally-safe harm reduction services. The outreach team has worked to connect with underserved Métis individuals throughout Surrey and the Downtown Eastside (DTES) in Vancouver; since launching in September 2023, over 200 individuals have been supported.

## Provincial Addictions and Cessation Program.

Evolving from the previously focused tobacco cessation program, this program works one-on-one with Métis community members navigating addictions - with the two most common being smoking

and alcohol use. The program uses a wholistic culture-based approach, looking at the person as a whole and the addiction as a symptom. 60% of community members who were enrolled in the program have reached their goal of harm reduction.

## Métis Counselling Connection.

Métis Counselling Connection provides Métis Citizens with up to ten counselling sessions with counsellors, psychologists or psychiatrists registered through the BC Psychological Association, College of Psychologists of BC, BC Association of Clinical Counsellors,

Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy
Association, or BC Association for Marriage
and Family Therapy. Only limited funding is
available, and as such not everyone who applies
may receive funding. In 2023, nearly 600 Métis
individuals were supported through the Métis
Counselling Connection program.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS: SUPPORTING AND CONNECTING COMMUNITY

## Métis Mental Health & Wellness Gatherings.

In 2023, MNBC's Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction hosted two Métis Mental Health and Wellness Gatherings, taking place in April and October 2023. Each gathering brought together over 100 Métis individuals, representing regions across BC, diverse gender identities, diverse abilities, and ages. Gatherings sought to share knowledge and teachings around mental health and wellness, grounded in Métis ways of knowing and being.

"I loved the togetherness. I feel that the connections were deep within all of us without knowing it." – gathering participant.

## Kaa-wiichitoyaahk (We Take Care of Each Other): Comprehensive Métis Mental Wellness Community Capacity Building Implementation

MNBC's Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction is working in partnership with LivingWorks to build response capacity and



Pictured: the April 2023 Métis Mental Health and Wellness Gathering. Photo by Delaney Cunningham.



Pictured: the October Métis Mental Health and Wellness Gathering. Photo by Froehler Photography.



Pictured: members of MNBC's cohort of Métis safeTALK and ASIST facilitators.

confidence within Métis communities, by providing community members with information and resources on suicide prevention and life promotion. Using the evidence-based suicide prevention programming that LivingWorks has created, we are working implement a province-wide rollout of three suicide prevention courses (START, SafeTALK, ASIST) for Métis individuals and communities across BC. Fifteen Métis facilitators, representing regions throughout BC, have been recruited and trained to deliver both LivingWorks safeTALK and ASIST programming to Métis communities across BC - creating enhanced capacity for Métis individuals and communities to promote mental health in safe, effective, and trauma-informed ways.

### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS: ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

## Adaptation of Existing Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Programming.

As MNBC's Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction is working to rollout START, safeTALK,

and ASIST to Métis communities across BC, we are simultaneously working in collaboration with LivingWorks to develop a Métis adaptation of the safeTALK course. This will be a permanent resource for future deliveries of safeTALK courses, ensuring cultural safety and contexts for future Métis participants.

## Peer Outreach Through a Métis Lens: Framework and Curriculum Development.

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is developing a curriculum to aid in the training of peer support outreach workers, utilizing a Métis-specific and culturally safe harm reduction and wellness framework. The goal of the course is to help train peer support workers in response to the needs of underserved Métis individuals.









Pictured: members of MNBC's Harm Reduction + Peer Support Outreach presenting the plenary presentation at the 2023 National Summit on Indigenous Mental Wellness

In October 2023, MNBC's Provincial Harm Reduction Manager and one of the Peer Support Outreach Workers delivered a keynote plenary presentation at the National Summit on Indigenous Mental Health and Wellness. This opportunity allowed the team to share learnings and teachings around the importance and impact of weaving Métis ways of knowing into traditional harm reduction outreach programming.

## Naomie's Principle.

In October 2022, a young Métis woman lost her life after seeking substance use recovery treatment and experiencing culturally unsafe care. Naomie was just twenty-two when she passed. As shared by her mother, Naomie identified as a daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece, friend, aunt, as Métis, and so much more. Naomie had recently taken the first step in changing her life, in a way that was meaningful for her, when she passed. Naomie was a vibrant, beautiful, fierce protector.

In seeking to honour Naomie's story and legacy, and to ensure this tragic pattern of loss no longer continues, MNBC's Ministry of Mental Health & Harm Reduction and Ministry of Health are working collaboratively to develop Naomie's Principle – a community-driven initiative advocating for and detailing the unequivocable need for Métis-led substance use and recovery services. In addition, Naomie's Principle will focus on ensuring all Métis in British Columbia have equitable access to culturally safe health, wellness and harm reduction supports and services - that are free from discrimination and promote their cultural, mental, emotional, physical, financial, environmental, social, and spiritual wellness; and are available when and where they need them. Through Métis-led sharing of stories, experiences, truths, and knowledge gathering, Naomie's story and many others will contribute to safer care for all Métis people in British Columbia. As Naomie embodied selfless compassion in her life, this work aspires to encompass those values.

For more information on the Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction, please contact: mentalhealth@mnbc.ca

## Ministry of MÉTIS RIGHTS

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: WALTER MINEAULT

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER: PATRICK HARRIOTT** 

**DIRECTOR: MELANIE WALKER** 

Since September 2023 the Ministry of Rights, although slower than we expect, has still been able to find success and progress. The political nature in both BC and Canada and the struggle to be truly recognized as Section 35 rights holders by these western governments, within the BC context has forced us to work even harder to advocate for our citizens, create opportunities, and negotiate change. We are finding new ways to connect with allies, collaborate with our governing members, and seek out areas where we can find support.

Since the AGM in September, we made great strides in our Historical Research Project that will support our negotiations across the Métis government. MNBC also provided Canada with their submission on Bill C-53: An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.<sup>1</sup> We supported the passing of the Bill and thus the recognition of our provincial Métis counterparts, while also strongly stating that MNBC was left out and that Canada must seek to include us in recognition.

We continue to grow our funding in the Ministry of Rights and post new job opportunities that allow us to create new streamlined processes for legislative and policy work that is being sent to us for our expert review and collaboration. Our biggest operational challenge continues to be capacity and finding the right people to fill the new roles we have posted or that are coming up.

The Ministry of Rights continues to act as both an independent ministry as well as a central service ministry. We lead our own tables, which are discussed in detail below, as well, we are often contacted by other MNBC Ministries or leadership to provide review, recommendations and/or support in a variety of areas, such as Métis rights, consultation, legislation/policy, rights-based agreements and strategies, and UNDRIP. We are a well utilized ministry, which keeps us busy, but also motivated that we are doing good work. Our collaborative work continues to include the Ministry of Housing and Homelessness, Ministry of Community Services, Ministry of Children and Families, Ministry of Culture, Heritage, and Language, and Ministry of Environmental Protection, Agriculture and Food Sovereignty. This collaborative work allows us to ensure Métis and MNBC cultural values and Métis law are key to our work.

The Ministry of Rights also continues to be a ministry that works often and closely with our leadership, 1 https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-53/first-reading

being closely guided by not only our Minister of Rights and Associate Minister of Rights, but also our CEO, Chief Strategy Officer, and our entire Board of Directors. We feel privileged to be in this space to do this good work and to continue to fight on behalf of our over 25,000 registered citizens.

Please find below more details on our key tables and projects:

Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self Determination (RIRSD) table with Canada

To build off the amended meeting format from 2023, staff now meet more regularly, including in person, with their technical counterparts in the Government of Canada, and we are working with Canada to kick off an MNBC and Canada quarterly leadership meeting. Our leadership continues to meet regularly with Canada's leadership through our lobbying efforts, while we push for a more formal RIRSD leadership table. This fall, staff continued work on the Terms of Reference that outline the process during which Canada determines their recognition of MNBC rights; we are planning to kick off this negotiation table in the Spring. We also utilize this RIRSD table to finalize our protocol agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and their Compliance and Enforcement team – we are in the final stages of this protocol with Canada. We have also been pushing Canada to work out of the box with us on workplans and budgeting, ensuring the largest benefit for MNBC and the Ministry of Rights.

Our key priority in this work is our Historical Research Project that was launched in Spring 2023 as discussed in our AGM report in September. The research team worked hard on a full-time basis through the rest of 2023, and into the new year to finish approximately 38 interviews with Elders; this includes hundreds of hours of research analysis and thousands of hours of both staff and consultant time – between June and December 2023, if you found yourself in the smaller wing at YVR for BC flights, you might have come across our research team in the Tim Hortons line up!! We were very proud to stay on our timelines for this project to date and to meet and exceed our goals set out in our phase 1 scoping.

Next in this work, with our Rights Committee and our Board of Directors we will scope out phase 2/year 2 of the project. We will receive an initial report in March from our research partner, Kwusen Research Media, after which MNBC and our legal team will begin analysis on the work to date. The work will inform our negotiations and discussions with Canada.

## UNDRIP table with Canada

After sharing our great success in our AGM report of our contribution to the United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA) action plan, the work on the priorities has since begun. We meet regularly with Canada's UNDA team, including making an in-person connection in Ottawa. The work with the UNDA team focuses on choosing key areas of interest for MNBC and making connections to those relevant ministries within Canada. Key areas include Justice, Children and Families, Education, economic partnerships, and other social sector avenues. Internally to find efficiencies in this work, we will be taking stock of all MNBC- Federal tables to seek out tables that are having successes and to learn from

them and to seek out tables that are struggling so that we can bring forward the UNDA action plan priorities approved by Canada to negotiate more movement in the relationship. The work with the UNDA team is directly related to our MNBC specific measure in the action plan.

For the other 111+ shared and Métis priorities, we are seeing opportunities open up. At our collaborative table with MNC and governing members, we have started work on co-development principles with Canada, a justice and policing sub-accord, work tagged to border security and data sharing, and consultation amendments. After a lot of hard work, we have also formally received funding from Canada for this work.

Although we work closely with MNC and governing members on an increasing number of side tables, the Ministry of Rights also suggested last year to the group to restart our UNDA table to share opportunities amongst each other and to find areas of shared support and collaboration; this was successfully kicked off at the end of 2023 and will continue through 2024.

## Legislative and Policy work

Within our Poverty Reduction work with BC, we successfully finished this phase 1 contract with BC, and provided them with our finalized report of findings and recommendations. We conducted interviews and surveys through the fall, reaching our goal of 10 to 15 interviews and 25 to 50 surveys. This data is now informing our discussions and negotiations with BC in their proposed legislative amendments for both Employment Assistance programs and the BC Poverty Reduction Strategy; this work will continue into Spring 2024. We will continue to work with this BC team to also pave the way for our continued and strengthened relationship, finding funding for MNBC to create an MNBC Poverty Reduction Strategy.

## Ministry of SKILLS TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT, AND POST-SECONDARY (STEPS)



Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: PAULETTE FLAMOND

**ACTING SENIOR DIRECTOR: DAWN LINDSAY-BURNS** 

**ACTING DIRECTOR: DEREK LACEY** 

MNBC staff, under the leadership of the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and the Minister of Employment and Skills Training, jointly deliver MNBC's Skills Training, Employment, and Post-Secondary (STEPS) programs, to support Métis learners and those seeking employment residing in BC. We advocate for policy and legislative amendments that lead to favorable outcomes for



Métis in BC, and more resources for Métis skills training, employment, and post-secondary programs, while collaborating with our stakeholders to deliver Métis culturally appropriate programming.

Ministry highlights from September 2023 forward are listed below:

## **Funding**

Our annual operating budget for 2023-2024 was \$13 million, with an additional \$1.6 million federal dollars and \$6.8 million provincial carried forward. Over 1435 students have been funded by STEPS this year. Funding for post-secondary and skills training was fully used and a process for waitlisting clients began in mid-June 2023. Our waitlist was sitting at 250+ students, but in January 2024, STEPS staff were able to allocate and support an additional 60 students with funding. The focus from June 2023 onwards was to offer training cohorts and priority training opportunities to citizens. Our team continues to work hard freeing up funding for students.

In January 2024, we received an additional 7.4 million dollars of provincial funding for 2023/24 to support a wider scope of training, including higher levels of post-secondary education.

## **Program Updates and Successes**

STEPS continues to improve our daily practice and processes, increasing our transparency and

improving citizen access by making updates to our Standards of Practice. The Standards of Practice is available here: <a href="https://www.mnbc.ca/STEPS">https://www.mnbc.ca/STEPS</a>.

To provide more foundational cultural support to STEPS clients and MNBC citizens, the STEPS team has hired a Cultural Coordinator. The Cultural Coordinator provides critical support to citizens participating in skills training cohorts, helping elevate their educational and employment experiences, wrapping them in cultural support through their STEPS journey.

STEPS is committed to expanding the employment support we offer throughout the province. Our Employer Relations team is hard at work building relationships with reputable, labour market relevant, and culturally safe employers, increasing meaningful employment opportunities for Métis citizens. In collaboration with our Employment Team, Employer Relations staff respond to regional and citizen need/interest regarding employment readiness and available employment opportunities.

Complementary work by our Employment Team is seeing huge success, and since bringing on a second Employment Coordinator, has seen an increase in support for citizens of 85%. In the spring of 2024, STEPS will bring a new employment assessment tool in-house. The Employability Skills Assessment Tool (ESAT) will not only enhance support to MNBC citizens but will also come with significant savings by no longer requiring external facilitation for these purposes.

STEPS regional offices are working collaboratively with our Employment/Employer Teams to support increased regional employment connections for Métis citizens. An increase in community engagement efforts with Chartered Communities and Post-Secondary and Skills Training Institutions has been a priority across the regions. Working in alignment with the Ministry of Community Services and with support from STEPS policy and partnerships staff, STEPS regional staff have achieved some of the following: an increased connectivity with colleges and universities; continued advocacy for greater Métis visibility and more inclusive student supports; an increased attendance in Chartered Community events and an increased connectivity with Chartered Communities to support greater collaboration on future activities; developed partnerships with school districts and community organizations; and an increased level of hosting and participating in relevant training opportunities. Some examples of this incredible work include: the successful facilitation of the Artrepreneur program in R6, a program designed by MNBC's Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language; the funding provided for a 51 person FoodSafe cohort that culminated in enabling an 81 year old participant to secure the credential she needed to sell her own produce at the local farmer's market in R3; and the successful completion and retainment of permanent employment for a Nuclear Medicine student in R2.

The STEPS team goes out of its way to provide a high quality of service to Métis citizens across the province. Our regional offices hosted two interns through the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak's Reach for the Sky leadership program. Both interns were MNBC citizens. STEPS commits to continuing to make space for experiences like this in the future.

Our Region 3 office staff out of Kamloops were acknowledged for their efforts in going "above and beyond" for a client and their family. Nashua Kruger successfully completed his apprenticeship training



with special recognition for excellence. Staff in the region worked magic, leveraging a community connection to outfit Nashua in a beautiful suit for his convocation, something he needed.

STEPS client Nashua is pictured here. Nashua was successful in receiving a scholarship from a business owner for his dedication and inspiration during his apprenticeship training. Nashua is only 18 years old and has begun his second year of training.

## MNBC Post-Secondary Institute

The STEPS team successfully hired new staff to help mobilize work on the development of a Métis-led post-secondary institute. Winter/spring 2024 will see much forward movement, concentrating on enhanced development of the project workplan, and development and implementation of an engagement strategy. Through the engagement strategy, the

team aims to create meaningful opportunities for dialogue and wisdom gathering with citizens across the province, assuring that the forward movement of the institute aligns with citizen and chartered community interest and need. Engagements are slated to take place in spring/summer 2024.

Figure 1 highlights the regional spread of STEPS clients funded. Figure 2 shows the regional funding distribution, and Figure 3 demonstrates where client funding is being used.



Figure 1

Region 1: 325
Region 2: 277
Region 3: 334
Region 4: 136
Region 5: 145
Region 6: 77

Region 7: 111 Skills Training: 30 Total Clients: 1435



Figure 2

Region 1: \$2,401,807.00 Region 7: \$764,330.00 Region 2: \$2,834,180.00 Skills Training: \$14,742 Region 3: \$2,196,278.00 Total : \$10,951,710.00

Region 4: \$1,077,375.00 Region 5: \$1,182,135.00 Region 6: \$480,863.00



Figure 3

Region	Academic	Vocational
1	196	129
2	173	104
3	163	171
4	80	56
5	90	55
6	32	45
7	56	55
Skills Training Team		30

## Ministry of SPORT AND ACTIVE LIVING

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: DEAN GLADUE

**DIRECTOR: CELINA MOORE** 

**COORDINATOR: ADAM FITCHETT** 

The Ministry of Sport and Active Living is dedicated to supporting our Métis Citizens by implementing arange of programs and services that ensure accessible and timely opportunities. One of its primary objectives is to establish enduring partnerships with both local and national organizations, thus expanding program availability and addressing gaps through innovative strategies. The Ministry's ultimate goal is to enhance the overall physical and mental well-being of Métis Citizens.

## The Active Living Grant (ALG) Round 2

Round 2 of the ALG grant concluded in late December 2023, providing a one-time payment of up to \$250 per citizen, and aimed to support activities promoting sport and active living. The initiative played a crucial role in offering financial assistance to numerous MNBC citizens, fostering a culture of sports and active lifestyles within the Métis community. The ALG positively impacted over 425 MNBC Citizens,



nearly doubling the first round of this grant, garnering an overwhelmingly positive response from community members. Additionally, modifications were implemented in this round to eliminate barriers. The reimbursement aspect was removed, providing greater flexibility for individuals to access and utilize the grant for their specific athletic needs without worrying about the cost upfront.

## "Sikoc" (unexpected) Athlete Achievement Fund

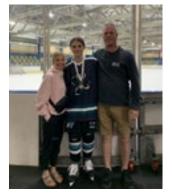
The "Sikoc" (Unexpected) Athlete Achievement Fund, agrant program created to empower higher level Métis athletes by providing financial aid and resources to support the costly demand in competitive sports. This initiative specifically targeted lower-income families or individuals who could demonstrate financial need as the growing cost of competitive sports can be overwhelming to those who participate. Recipients had the flexibility to use the funds for various purposes, such as sports enrollment, training, acquiring sports equipment, covering travel expenses for competitions, and meeting admission fees for competitions. This initiative gained visibility in the sports community, offering financial support to 50 of our higher-level Métis athletes. The funding ranged from \$500 to \$5000, contributing substantially to their athletic pursuits and achievements.



## Terry Fox Run 2023

The Ministry of Sport and Active Living actively participated in the annual Terry Fox Run held at Stanley Park in Vancouver, where hundreds of individuals came together to support the great Terry Fox.

MNBC aims to continue its support for the Fox Foundation and is exploring possibilities for a special collaboration for the upcoming 2024 Terry Fox Run.



### Métis Athlete of the Month

The objective of the Métis Athlete of the Month (set to launch, March 2024) is to showcase and celebrate the achievements of emerging Métis athletes who demonstrate excellence in their respective sports. Each featured athlete will be presented with short descriptions outlining their attributes and accomplishments, providing the MNBC community with ways to follow their athletic endeavours. This initiative not only serves as a platform to recognize the talent within our community but also aims to inspire and motivate others to pursue competitive athletics. By spotlighting these athletes, we strive to foster a sense of pride and unity within the MNBC community.



## **Healthy Cooking Workshop Series**

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Sport is set to launch the Healthy Cooking Workshop Series for citizens in early summer 2024. This recorded series, led by Métis chefs, will showcase instructional sessions on creating Métis-inspired dishes, providing citizens with accessible content on MNBC's website, and social media pages. To complement the series, shorter recipe videos will be featured on TikTok and social media to reach our younger audiences.



Furthermore, a grant initiative will be introduced, enabling MNBC Citizens to acquire ingredients and prepare their own dishes based on the workshop videos.

## What is Ahead?

The Ministry of Sport and Active Living is dedicated to providing accessible sporting opportunities for Metis youth in 2024. Youth camps in popular sports are on the agenda, and partnerships with higher-level sporting

teams will enhance the overall experience. Additionally, the Ministry is committed to organizing cultural and traditional events, bringing forth valuable skills such as trapping, archery, axe-throwing, lacrosse, and various sports to the youth. These events serve as platforms to pass on cherished traditions and

knowledge to the younger generation.

Lastly, the Ministry will have a notable presence at Gathering Our Voices 2024, where sport workshops will be conducted at the largest Indigenous Youth Conference in North America. This engagement aims to further enrich the experience and participation of Indigenous youth in various sporting activities.

## Ministry of VETERANS



Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: LISSA DAWN SMITH

**VETERANS CHARIPERSON: DAVE ARMITT** 

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TANYA DAVOREN** 

**DIRECTOR: MICHELLE FORTIN** 

The Métis Veterans British Columbia (MVBC) Committee have worked tirelessly these past 6 months to promote the needs of and bring awareness to Métis Veterans at the provincial and national levels. MVBC membership has grown steadily, thanks to the efforts of the Regional Representatives on the Committee and collaboration with the Ministry of Citizenship. MVBC now includes 125 Veteran Citizen members, as well as one additional individual who will be added once their service documents have been verified. These members are spread across MNBC's seven regions, with the highest concentration being in the major population centres of regions 1 and 2.

In October 2023, the MVBC Committee attended a retreat held in Osoyoos including President Smith as Minister of Veterans, MNBC's Provincial Youth Chairperson Shaughn Davoren and Métis Youth BC (MYBC) Regional Representatives from regions 1 and 2. This retreat was to facilitate connections between our Veterans and Youth, and to better identify opportunities to collaborate and increase youth engagement in Veteran's events. During their time together there was a focus on connecting Veterans and Youth to cultural activities including drum making, paddle painting and a beading workshop. During the drum making session Elder Earl Henderson, Regional Veterans Representative for Region 5, shared historical teachings on the importance of the drum accompanied by songs in Michif and Cree. With the theme of honouring Veterans in mind, Elder Barbara Hulme, Veteran Womens Representative, guided the group in creating beaded poppies. While the group beaded together Elder Hulme shared the rich culture of the Flower Bead people.

On November 6, 2023, the Métis Veterans British Columbia Committee toured the Legion Veterans Village in Surrey. The facility provides numerous services geared towards Veterans including physical rehabilitation, dental health, low-cost housing opportunities, mental health services and includes an onsite Legion with restaurant for Veterans to gather and socialize.

After the tour, the MVBC Committee attended a meeting with Minister of Veterans President Lissa Smith and were joined virtually by Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defense and MP for Surrey Centre, Randeep Sarai. In the meeting President Smith brought attention to the need to increase funding opportunities for Métis Veterans in BC to MP Sarai's attention, highlighting that all of the duties of the MVBC Committee are carried out on a volunteer basis. A proposal to support the work of MVBC has been submitted as a result of that

meeting to support the development of the Veteran's Portal and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software. Through expanding our database and ability to identify Métis Veterans in BC, we hope to better serve their unique needs. This proposal is currently under review with the federal government.

Veteran's Chairperson, David Armitt, noted we need to strengthen collaboration between Library of Archives Canada, Veterans Affairs Canada, and MVBC/MNBC. This would facilitate easier access to records to help MVBC identify Métis Veterans and their contributions to their country and raise the profile of the Métis Nation. President Smith also drew attention to the dire need to have Métis culture and heritage better represented at commemorative Veterans events, such as D-Day and Remembrance Day, overseas and at home.

In planning for the upcoming Invictus Games President Smith stressed the need for Métis inclusion at every stage, from planning to the event itself. Discussions have been held with representatives from Veteran's Affairs Canada (VAC) for this purpose, which also included representation from Métis National Council and the newly formed National Métis Veteran's Council.

November 7, 2023, the MVBC Committee toured the Fort Langley Historical Site and the committee met with local Métis artist and craftsman Patrick Calihou. Patrick provided them with a teaching on the historical importance of Métis wayfaring and how it relates to the history of British Columbia. The teaching was done next to a built to scale Métis river boat that Patrick crafted. That evening, MVBC Committee hosted a dinner at the Cactus Club in Langley to honour and recognize the service of one of the Committee's former members, Sergeant-At-Arms and Region 2 Veteran's Representative Fraser MacDonald. Fraser was presented with a framed Métis sash and commemorative placard to thank him for his years of dedicated service to his Nation.

November 8, 2023, is National Indigenous Veteran's Day and the MVBC Committee represented MNBC at a wreath laying ceremony and march in downtown Vancouver. The event serves to both highlight and honor the contributions of Indigenous and Chinese-Canadian Veterans, as both groups were historically marginalized and discriminated against. National Indigenous Veterans Day promotes a sense of unity and community between these Veterans groups. At the conclusion of the ceremony the members of the Committee were gifted with blankets created by First Nations artists.

On Remembrance Day Veteran Women's Representative Barbara Hulme along with Region One Director Patrick Harriot, attended a wreath laying ceremony in Victoria as the representation for MNBC. This was the first time in many years that Indigenous Governments were actively acknowledged in the main ceremony held in the capital city. The acknowledgement came because of the tireless promotion for Métis inclusion by the MVBC Committee and relationship building done by Minister Smith. Minister Smith and Veteran Chair Dave Armitt are scheduling a meeting with the new Base Commander at CFB Esquimalt. This meeting will ensure that MNBC is better able to engage in Indigenous based military programs such as RAVEN, which provides Indigenous recruits a paid training opportunity with the Canadian Armed Forces and includes lessons in Métis, First Nations, and Inuit cultures.

MVBC Committee Chairperson David Armitt continues to work on a national level with MNC. His efforts have led to the long-awaited creation of a Métis National Veterans

Council (MNVC), which was ratified by the MNC Board of Governors on September 28th, 2023.

MNVC's key goals are: to promote the Métis Veteran's Legacy Program; identify shared priorities on matters affecting Métis Veterans; advise on strategic direction for addressing concerns affecting Métis Veterans; provide advice, guidance, and recommendations to the Board of Governors and Annual General Assembly; recommend a Veteran to the BOG to serve on a Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) Advisory Committee as it arises; and to work with national bodies, such as VAC, to ensure Métis are represented at national and international commemoration events.

In this reporting period, the Ministry of Veterans celebrated the completion of several of the MVBC Committee's goals. To honour Veterans and connect them with their heritage, a cultural gathering was hosted, and the Committee worked with Etchiboy to design a Veteran's specific sash. The design has been finalized and we are now awaiting a shipment of full-sized sashes to distribute to the MVBC membership and mini-sashes for support staff. In conjunction with the Ministry of Citizenship, the MVBC Committee has created a Veteran's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software and Portal. Through the CRM, we will compile better information on our current MVBC membership as well as identify historical Métis Veterans in BC. Through improved reporting, we can evaluate our members' needs with greater ease and provide them with enhanced access to services and programs. It is imperative that we identify Métis Veterans who are no longer with us, so their legacy is never forgotten, and to raise the profile of the Métis Veterans community. The enhanced Citizenship renewal process enacted in collaboration with the Ministry of Citizenship has identified four additional Veterans out of our Citizen population in the last month alone.

MVBC continues to support our membership through the Veterans' Support Grant, a \$500 grant per MVBC member which can be used to offset the direct and indirect costs of inflation due to COVID-19. As this funding is directly tied to COVID-19 dollars, we will explore new funding opportunities that will continue to support our Métis Veterans.

The Committee recognized that consistent communication would be enhanced with the purchase of digital tablets to distribute to our MVBC Committee members. These tablets will allow the Regional Representatives a greater capacity to collect information on our Veteran population at the events they attend, increasing membership for MVBC. MVBC is also exploring new uniform jackets that will assist in identifying them when they attend MNBC and other events and ceremonies. MVBC is also still working to create a commemorative challenge coin, as a token of recognition for all our MVBC members.

Lastly, MVBC is looking to recruit Veteran Regional Representatives in the Northeast and Northwest regions (6 and 7). If you, or someone you know meets the below criteria, please reach out.

A Veteran is defined as:

being a current member or, a former member of, the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular Forces or

Reserve Forces), that was released with an honourable discharge and, who successfully underwent basic training is considered to be a Métis Veteran. A Métis Veteran shall also include those still serving or retired RCMP members. The "Veterans" shall, upon submission of proof of service and Métis Citizenship and upon application to the MVBC being approved, be the members of the MVBC (hereinafter "Members").

For more information on the Ministry of Veterans, please contact: <a href="mailto:veterans@mnbc.ca">veterans@mnbc.ca</a>

# Ministry of WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY (MOWGE)

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: DR. KATE ELLIOTT

**DIRECTOR: RACHEL PERKINS** 

### Métis Women British Columbia Provincial Governance Council:

Métis Women's Chairperson: Dr. Kate Elliott

Region 1 Vancouver Island & Powell River Women's Representative: Fleurette Borsboom

Region 2 Lower Mainland Women's Representative: Carmen Carriere

Region 3 Thompson Okanagan Women's Representative: Cheryl Dodman

Region 4 Kootenays Women's Representative: Michele Morin

Region 5 North Central Women's Representative: Laurie Todd

Region 6 Northwest Women's Representative: vacant

Region 7 Northeast Women's Representative: Carol Paynter

MWBC and MoWGE are grateful to Trish Paulson for her work as the outgoing MWBC representative for Region 6 and ensuring that Métis Women's voices and political representation are prioritized at the community, regional, provincial and national level.

### **December MNGA Resolutions:**

Resolutions 6 and 8 were approved at the December MNGA. These resolutions allow that if the Provincial Chair of the Métis Women of British Columbia is unable to attend a Governing Assembly, the MWBC Vice-Chair may attend in their place, and that the MWBC Secretary position be replaced with the position of Secretary-Treasurer. The resolutions will move forward for voting at the Annual General Meeting and by citizens.

### **Governance Training:**

MWBC continues its governance excellence capacity-building with governance training sessions for MWBC representatives.

### **Regional Women's Gatherings:**

MWBC representatives are planning regional women's gatherings for each region before the end of March 2024. Gatherings will bring together elected and unelected women within the regions for cultural connection and kinship. In some cases, a region may be doing community events organized instead by the Chartered Communities in the region. The first event was hosted in Region 7 in Dawson Creek

on December 8-10, 2023. Participants enjoyed connecting and cultural activities and teachings. The remainder of the events occur by the end of March.

### **2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Committee:**

Chairperson(s): Minister Louis De Jaeger & Minister Shaughn Davoren Committee Members: Angel Robinson, Jessy Dame, Kaylyn Dunphy, Lorraine Grieves, Lydia Toorenburgh, Richard Marion, and Topher Burke

The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Committee welcomes the following two new members: Kaylyn Dunphy and Richard Marion.

#### **December MNGA Resolutions:**

Resolution 1 at the December MNGA was approved. This historic resolution is to create a 2SLGBTQQIA+ Act with the intention of instating an elected 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, composed of an elected provincial 2SLGBTQQIA+ representative and an elected regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ representative from each Métis Nation of British Columbia region. The full wording of the resolution is available on the MNBC website. The resolution will move forward for voting at the Annual General Meeting and by citizens.

### Ministry of Women and Gender Equity Highlights:

### Gathering to Heal: 2SLGBTQQIA+ Gender Based Violence:

From November 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 MOWGE collaborated with the Ministry of Mental Health & Harm Reduction to host a Gender-Based Violence gathering on the lands of the lakwaŋan Peoples for the Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ community. The gathering was facilitated by Jessy Dame, Lynette LaFontaine, and Angel Robinson. Teachings and ceremony given by Kookum Charlotte Nolin and Kookum Barbara Bruce. A final report will be submitted to the Province of British Columbia to help inform their Gender-Based Violence work from a Métis-specific lens.

### Safe and Supported: British Columbia's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan:

On December 8, 2023, the Government of BC released its action plan to help prevent, address, and respond to gender-based violence. MOWGE participated in discussions with the province leading up to the Action Plan's development and is pleased that the Action Plan reflects the need for Indigenous-led solutions including Métis-specific programs and services and that the Plan recognizes an ongoing partnership with MNBC.

### Gender-based Violence Virtual Gatherings and Colouring Book Project:

In winter 2023-24 participants from Métis Women BC and Métis Youth BC Governance Councils, MNBC's 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Committee, and Métis artists from BC, gathered to co-create a violence prevention colouring book. The virtual gatherings created spaces for knowledge sharing, and to elevate the importance of the contributions of everyone within the community regardless of age, gender, or sexual orientation. The colouring book also provided community members with a resources

list for BC services and resources related to wellness and violence prevention.

### Partnership with TransCareBC:

MNBC is entering into a partnership with TransCareBC on the Information Project to help dispel the increase in myths and misinformation related to gender-affirming care for Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary (TTNB) youth. This partnership was supported by the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Committee and MNBC's Board of Directors. The project will be supported by several ministries/departments within MNBC, including Communications and ministries related to youth, health, education, elders, citizenship, and culture, heritage, and language.

# Ministry of YOUTH

Respectfully Submitted: MINISTER: SHAUGHN DAVOREN

**DIRECTOR: RACHEL PERKINS** 

### **Ministry Mandate:**

To revitalize and strengthen Métis culture and community by providing Métis youth in British Columbia with culturally relevant life skills, programs, and events. Through these initiatives, we aim to foster a deep sense of connection, pride, and engagement among Métis youth while equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to lead fulfilling and empowered lives as Métis citizens.



### **Ministry of Youth Highlights**

### Métis Youth British Columbia (MYBC) Council Updates:

Métis Youth Chairperson/ Minister of Youth: Shaughn Davoren

Region 1 Vancouver Island & Powell River Youth Representative: Brookelyn Chalmers

Region 2 Lower Mainland Youth Representative: Danielle Bergevin

Region 3 Thompson Okanagan Youth Representative: Jamie-Lee Keith

Region 4 Kootenays Youth Representative: Aladina (Allie) Caron

Region 5 North Central Youth Representative: Vacant

Region 6 Northwest Youth Representative: Jayden Rogers

Region 7 Northeast Youth Representative: Vacant

The Regional Youth Representatives of the MYBC Council have been actively engaged in conducting regional youth needs assessments. Designed and piloted by one of the regional youth representatives, the regional youth surveys provide a valuable opportunity to gain insights into the diverse needs and barriers encountered by Métis youth in British Columbia. The survey results will guide strategic planning for 2024, ensuring that youth initiatives align with the actual needs and interests of Métis youth across the regions and inform the work of regional youth representatives in their respective communities.

#### Quick updates:

 MYBC regional youth representatives and the Ministry of Youth staff participated in a training session facilitated by Sk'elep Reconciliation. The session delved into the impacts of the colonial system, highlighting how it has perpetuated lateral violence and created divisions among our communities. The focus was on exploring avenues through which Métis and First Nations youth can collaboratively move towards relationship building.

- MYBC Vice Chair attended MNC's Annual General Assembly in Ottawa
- In January, MYBC council members engaged in Governance Fundamentals Training
- MYBC council members participated in Government Engagement Mechanism Session on the Federal Act (C-92)
- MYBC and the Ministry of Youth continue to actively participate in the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC)
- Youth Outreach and Engagement
- The Ministry of Youth is delighted to announce funding that will facilitate the expansion of our capacity, enabling



the addition of a dedicated program coordinator. This coordinator will play a pivotal role in bolstering our efforts towards youth outreach and engagement initiatives. With this enhancement, our ministry aims to strategically plan and execute a broader spectrum of cultural workshops, gatherings, and engagement sessions tailored for Métis youth aged 15-30 in British Columbia. Moreover, this expansion will empower our MYBC regional youth representatives by providing them with the necessary support to organize and host impactful local youth events. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive environment for Métis youth and promoting connection to culture and community.

- Government Engagement Mechanism Session focused on the Federal Act (C-92)
- In November, the Ministry of Youth collaborated with the Ministry of Children and Families to host a Government Engagement Mechanism Session focused on the Federal Act (C-92). Nine youth, serving as regional youth representatives and community youth representatives, actively participated in the session, and shared valuable perspectives on what Métis children and youth require for their happiness, safety, and well-being. Key topics discussed include:
- How Métis child, youth, and family wellbeing laws could best support a youth's cultural, spiritual, mental, and emotional journey.
- What is needed to promote the principle of substantive equality for Métis youth under Métis law.
- The significance of cultural continuity for Metis Youth.

• Mechanisms for youth in care to have their voices heard and express their rights.

### Métis Youth Career Days

Recognizing the challenges of navigating the job search process in the current labour market,

the Ministry of Youth brought together 6 leading organizations that presented on current career opportunities and answered questions. Métis Youth Career Days is a unique platform for all Indigenous youth in BC to learn about different emerging industries in healthcare, digital marketing, trades, hospitality and more. Each session featured a presentation detailing the organization's purpose and available job opportunities. This event facilitated networking with HR recruiters, offering insights into job vacancies and support services for Indigenous job seekers. Collaborating organizations included Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, Skilled Trades BC, Fairmont Pacific Rim and NPower Canada.



### Métis Youth Career Days Success Story

Within the Ministry of Youth, Métis youth have access to services

like employment counseling and personalized job search support. A participant in Métis Youth Career Days benefited from this support, working with our Youth Employment and Training coordinator, Josh. Josh not only helped her develop a resume but also reviewed her cover letter and conducted a practice interview session. As a result of connections made during Métis Youth Career Days, the youth secured an interview with Vancouver Coastal Health and was offered the position.

#### Youth testimonial:

"After graduating from Vancouver Island University's Community Mental Health Worker program, I was struggling to find employment in my chosen field. Because of this, I began working with Josh Doumani, Youth Employment and Training Coordinator at MNBC. Josh utilized an encouraging, person-centered, and strengths-based approach to helping me work on my resume and cover letter. He also helped me with job searching and doing a mock interview. As well, I attended presentations on local organizations that he facilitated. Via his connection with a recruiter at Vancouver Coastal Health, my application for a role was highlighted among a high volume of other applicants, and I was offered an interview, followed by a position. I am now employed full-time as a Mental Health Rehabilitation Worker. I am grateful for Josh's support throughout this process. He helped me to fill a gap in knowledge and skills that I know Métis folks may disproportionately experience as a result of intergenerational poverty and colonialism. Josh's mentorship has helped me to land a job I have been dreaming of for years. I extend sincere gratitude to him and the rest of the team at MNBC." – L.S., Métis Youth

### Métis Youth Culinary Arts Program & Employment (MY CAPE)

The Ministry of Youth has successfully secured funding to launch a pilot program for Métis youth – the Métis Youth Culinary Arts Program & Employment program. This wrap-around program aims to support 10 Métis youth facing barriers to securing or maintaining employment. The program's main objective is to provide Métis youth individuals in Region 2 with foundational skills in cooking and baking, paving the way for sustainable employment as entry-level cooks. Moreover, it aims



to serve as a steppingstone towards further education in culinary arts or entry-level kitchen positions, aligning with the participants' career goals and interests. Additionally, the program will include connection to Métis Elders and cultural resources. Initially planned to launch in November 2023, the program has been postponed until Summer 2024 to ensure optimal youth participation.

### Ask the Kihtêyak Virtual Well-being Event

Ask the Kihtêyak (Elders) Virtual Wellbeing Event is an opportunity for Métis youth ages 15 to 30 to connect with Métis Elders and knowledge carriers to reclaim and re-connect with their cultural identity, traditional ways of being, and participate in hands-on cultural activities.

In Session 1 of the Ask the Elders Virtual Event, 16 Métis youth, Elders, and knowledge carriers from across British Columbia came together in a virtual circle. This session provided a platform to share stories and explore cultural traditions related to healing and well-being from a Métis perspective and featured Elder interview panel. Regrettably, due to unforeseen circumstances, the event had to be shortened to one day. The Ministry of Youth is exploring options to host a follow-up session in Winter 2024 that will include an Elder and knowledge carrier interview panel, a cultural workshop, and teachings about plant medicines.

#### Fostering Workforce Excellence: Strengthening Staff Capacity

The Ministry of youth team along with MNBC staff as well as several regional youth representatives successfully completed Cultivating Safe Spaces Training facilitated by Elaine Alec. This comprehensive training explored conditions and protocols for cultivating safe space, exploring facets such as identity, trust, team building, and communications styles and perspectives. This training provided a valuable opportunity for staff to explore traditional Indigenous ways of being and how one can incorporate their own stories into a nested system.



## **Senate Report**







### Respectfully Submitted: SENATE CLERK: BILL BRESSER

On behalf of the Senate it is with pleasure that I submit this report for presentation to attendees at the 2024 MNGA.

### Senate Responsibilities:

- The MNBC Constitution states the Senate shall be responsible for the provisions outlined
  in legislation known as the Senate Act. Furthermore, that it shall be comprised of seven
  Senators, and that each of the seven Regions shall appoint one Senator in the manner and
  process as set out in the Senate Act.
- The Senate Act mandates the Senate to act as the judicial arm of MNBC in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. It must also abide by guidelines for protocol, policy, administrative standards and practices.
- The Senate Policies ensures that all Senators are provided with the opportunity to review
  pertinent information concerning the state of the judicial system, including the condition
  of its proceedings; the policies, administrative standards and practices, guidelines, and
  programs of MNBC and Senate that relate to the guiding of the judicial system, and
  legislative requirements.

#### Priorities for the Senate include:

- Education of Métis citizens on role of the Senate, and related legislation;
- Update and refine the Senate Act;
- Educate and establish the power of Senate independence, and authorities; and
- Establish restorative justice system for the Métis.

Previous reports pointed out the Senate had completed a comprehensive review of its Policies, and Administrative Standards and Practices. All elected MNBC officials continue to be encouraged to become familiar with these documents and educate their community citizens on the roles and responsibilities of the Senate, and what services are available to them as outlined in the Senate Act or Senate policy. These are viewable on the Senate website at:

- https://www.mnbc.ca/sites/default/files/2022-08/MNBC-Senate-Policy-Binder-Final.pdf
- https://www.mnbc.ca/sites/default/files/2022-08/Senate-ASP-
- https://www.mnbc.ca/media/2292

One Senate responsibility that is often overlooked is the requirement for Senators to attend regional/

community AGMs, conduct opening and closing prayers and direct swearing in ceremonies, administer oaths (office or otherwise), and present awards and gifts. Regional Directors and Chartered Community Presidents are encouraged to coordinate this role with the Senator for their region. Attendance at these sorts of events provides an excellent opportunity for two-way conversation to take place between Senators and citizens relative to roles, responsibilities and the expectations of all concerned.

In their roles as elders and statespersons Senators contribute in a number of significant ways throughout British Columbia on behalf of the Métis Nation. A list of some of the events and activities that typically consume Senator time are as undernoted. On occasion distance and cost concerns dictate that a Senators engage in a video conference call. This use of available technology is encouraged in event personal attendance is not possible.

- Attendance at numerous community AGMs for the purposes of educating citizens on the role of the Senate as well as delivering opening and closing prayers.
- Focussing attention and awareness to the general public with respect to the violence and impacts that have and continue to be directed at indigenous women, children and families.
- Participation in various Orange Shirt, Remembrance Day and other events.
- Attendance at all grade levels within schools to deliver cultural education and practical exercises related to the Métis people.
- Participation in Louis Riel Day events and flag raising ceremonies.
- Attendance at various regional governance meetings to deliver opening and closing prayers, and use of this opportunity to educate attendees on role of the Senate.
- Continue important role as Elder in Residence at Justice Institute of BC for delivery of Métis cultural training to law enforcement, fire and other first responder trainees.
- Interact with First Nations elders to develop respectful relationships and attend aboriginal justice sessions at the courts for education and exposure to the First Nation restorative justice system with view to development of a similar model for the Métis.
- Participate, and in some instances organize, various Christmas celebrations and meals, and provide support in various forms to those in need, Métis or otherwise.
- Work with the Sports Fishing Advisory Board to advocate for salmon hatcheries, aboriginal allocation of stocks, and fishing rights.
- Respond to numerous calls from Métis citizens providing direction and procedural advice.

### **Senate Appeal Applications:**

The Senate continues to receive several appeal applications. All applications are reviewed in keeping with Senate Policies. Contact with potential appellants can result in a variety of outcomes including withdrawal of an application; proceeding part way with some initial research and dialogue with

an appellant that results in the file being closed without formal resolution but to the satisfaction of the appellant; and processed to conclusion through the entire appeal process.

Your Senators are available and look forward to hearing from all Métis citizens whether it be for elder support, ceremonies or interpretation, feedback, and advice.

- Region 1 Senate Chair Senator Alan Edkins Joined Senate in 2005 Contact: 250 710-9757
- Region 2 Senator Phillip Gladue Joined Senate in 2006 Contact: 778 828-8640
- Region 3 Senator Fern Hinse Joined Senate in 2022
   Contact: 250 852-0553
- Region 4 Senate Secretary Senator Elizabeth Hoogendoorn Joined Senate in 2009
   Contact: 250 344-1216
- Region 5 Senator Arnold Lucier Joined Senate in 2017
   Contact: 778 349-1094
- Region 6 Interim Senator John Sayers Joined Senate 2023
   Contact: 250 463-4431
- Region 7 Administrative Senator Gerald Pope Joined Senate in 2008
   Contact: 250 262-6565

### Senate Clerk Responsibilities:

The Senate Clerk, who reports directly to the Senate Chairperson, is charged with delivery of various clerical duties related to processing requests for Senate documents and preparing a variety of forms and reports as mandated by the Senate Act and Senate Policies, and Administrative Standards and Practices. The Senate Clerk also provides advice on MNBC legislation, guidelines, policy, and works closely with the Senate Chairperson and Administrative Senator on issues important to the Senate.

Individuals continue to contact the Senate Clerk seeking information about Métis Citizenship, their genealogy and requesting review of documentation previously submitted. Through review of their particulars and consultation between the Central Registry and follow-up consultation with the St. Boniface Historical Society it has to date been determined that all individuals who have submitted citizenship appeals to the Senate have been treated fairly by the MNBC Registry.

Metis citizens also seek out information from the Senate Clerk on various matters including guidance on appeal, mediation and dispute resolution processes.

Senate Clerk Bill Bresser may be contacted as follows:

E-mail: senateclerk@mnbc.ca Cellular: 250 488-1509



# **Community Reports**



### **Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society**

### Respectfully Submitted: JUNE GRAHAM, PRESIDENT

The highlights of our community for 2023 are:

- We developed an education agreement with our School District. Huge shout out to our very own Lauren for creating a Métis specific agreement that was graced with Michif all the way through. What a major achievement this was for our Community. Our School District bent over backwards to work with our Community and address our Métis specific needs for our students. I can't begin to express my gratitude of being heard. Thank you to Greater Victoria Métis Nation for allowing us to build off of your template. Thank you Mid Island and Cowichan Valley for attending the ceremony. Thank you MNBC board and staff
- appreciates all of you and your effort and commitment to supporting our students. MNBC WROTE: On December 7, 2023, in Port Alberni, BC, School District 70 - Pacific Rim, the Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society, and Métis Nation British Columbia co-developed a new tripartite Métis Education Agreement for Kindergarten through to Grade 12. The purpose of the agreement, titled "Taanishi aen ishi Nakishkaatooyaahk" (how we connect) (Southern/Heritage Michif, translated by Elder Norman Fleury), represents the voice of Métis

people in the Alberni-Clayoquot region and ensures that culturally relevant education and

early learning services are being provided to Métis children and families.

that attended this historical event. Big shout-out to Fleurette for sitting on the Indigenous Committee for several years, building relationships for our Community. Our Community

- We built a relationship with the Primary Care Network (PCN), creating a seat at the table that defined Métis specific needs in the health care system. Secured funding for a Métis Health Advocate position for our community through the PCN. This funding will continue to roll over each year. This person will support our members in navigating through the health system and advocating where needed. Special shout out to Destinee Barrow for continuing to represent ACMS in a professional efficient manner. Many great things to come for us.
- Held consistent Elders luncheons. It was a great opportunity to engage and establish relationships. We have used these gatherings as well to check in with the elders and see what their needs might be. Special shoutouts to Wendy and Liv for contacting and arranging these events. Special thank you to Judy and Susan for meal preparation. A big shout out to the school district for generously allowing ACMS to use their facilities whenever







we need them, free of charge.

- We celebrated a great National Indigenous Peoples
  Day, the turnout was wonderful. Thanks to the barbecue
  gang outside making them delicious dogs! Special thanks to
  Susan and Judy for meal preparation.
- We had a successful AGM and Louis Riel Day, with great community attendance. Special thanks to the MNBC Board members and staff that attended, the Women's Region One Rep, Youth Region One Rep and School District staff. There was great food and lots of door prizes won. Thank you, Judy and Susan for the meal preparation and all our volunteers. It was not an election year.
- ACMS is in discussions with MNBC, the School District and the First Nations to create a daycare in our community. Things are looking optimistic so far.
- Our office continues to be open two days a week, four hours each day.
- ACMS continues to give out gas and grocery cards. We have helped a few of our members with financial assistance for medical care.
- We have beading/crafting night every second Wednesday, it is an opportunity to start or finish projects. A big thank you to Livvy and Joely for always having the office open and snacks provided!
- ACMS has co-hosted retreats with Mid Island Métis and Cowichan Valley Métis. These
  gatherings have been nothing short of amazing. The profoundness of these gatherings are
  beyond words.
- ACMS participated in laying a wreath on Remembrance Day in memory and respect for all those that served.
- The biggest appreciation goes to my Board of Directors, without you we could not accomplish all that we do. Thank you.

All in all, ACMS is doing well with what we have. Slowly we are community building, developing relationships with the First Nations that own the traditional territories we live, love, and play on.

### **Cowichan Valley Métis Nation**

### Respectfully Submitted: RICHARD LEWIS, PRESIDENT

Taansi,

Reflecting on this last year I have to say,

First and foremost, I cannot say enough and need to acknowledge all the hard work our Board of Directors, volunteer office staff and family members do, committing endless hours of volunteer time to support our Cowichan Valley Michif Speaking People, moving us all forward in a good way.

We are, and I am sure other Métis communities are, looking forward to when Resolution #5 becomes a reality where MNBC provides funding to support communities in the day-to-day administration of Governance.

This year, as every two years, we will be holding our elections in the first quarter. We may see changes to our current serving members, again, we may not. Our current board members have all served their community above and beyond.

This last year our leadership group has brought forward and made many amazing contributions to supporting and enhancing our citizens' health, on all fronts. I cannot list all the work we have done; it would take up too many pages and my typing is too slow.

We made decisions that saw our community purchase sockeye salmon and bison meat which was handed out to our members at three different events.

This year our annual Christmas Gathering was an enormous success and because we have more people attending each year, for next year, we have already rented a larger venue. This is fantastic.



We continue to apply for grants to promote workshops for our young and old people as well as those in-between. We are fortunate to have an upper floor in our one room heritage school where we can hold these cultural workshops. Events such as Drum Making, Moose Hair Tufting and a core course to name but a few.

I would like to raise my hands to Addison Young, our Region 1 Community Service Coordinator. Addison goes above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to his communication, support, and dedication to serving our Region 1 communities and I'm sure the rest

of Region 1 agrees. Thank you, Addison.

I am proud to say that our commitment to the future of our children in school is well represented by







members of our board who sit on the Indigenous Advisory Council and our two school Métis specific teaching assistants, as well as the volunteer members who go into the schools to teach our culture. We look forward to another year working alongside Métis Nation British Columbia, by helping to support our community, Métis children, families, the old ones and all our relations.

We are part of the Primary Care Network for the Cowichan Valley. Destinee Barrow is our representative, and she has been a fearless advocate. We have a member who sits on the Advisory Council for the new Cowichan Hospital to ensure the Métis are included in the planning. Conversations are not always easy.

Maarsi to each Métis person who shows up, speaks for our people and is proud to be Métis.

### **Kelowna Métis Association**

### Respectfully Submitted: CHERYL DODMAN, PRESIDENT

### Our Community - A Year in Review, 2023

Tawnshi Kiya Wow / Hello Everyone,

To start in a good way, we acknowledge that we are blessed to live, work and play on the traditional and unceded territory of the Okanagan Syilx people. We recognize, honour, and respect the presence of Indigenous people, past, present, and future, including Métis people and the Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC).



The Kelowna Métis Association (KMA) continues to work hard on important and impactful initiatives for our community members. This year we saw extensive community engagement in multiple areas, growth in our community partnerships, and a significant expansion in our regular offerings to our community.

We thank Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) for Funding, which has allowed us to provide focused support for:

- Our Elders
- Our Youth
- Mental health
- Emergency supports

The KMA continues to benefit from a full board of directors, along with three additional

Directors-at-Large who support specific technical portfolios. Beyond our regular board positions, we benefit from expertise in education, governance, policy, technical, and mental health supports. The KMA board meets at least every month and has shifted away from the virtual/hybrid model to focus on being together in-person. We know being in-person together remains an important source of inspiration, connection, and is the best way to help move our community forward.

This year also marks another year of leveraging the partnership with other local Métis communities with our shared full-time administrative support position. This valued position has allowed extensive support in a variety of areas, including significant growth in grant application success, extensive community engagement, and direct support for community action.

As the President, and with support of our board members, I am thrilled to share with you some of our successes.

Having a strong diversity of representation and skills on our board, we have been able to leverage this expertise to:

- Expand the use of our redesigned logo for branding purposes.
- Continue to expand our redesigned website (http://kelownametis.ca) and Facebook presence announcing upcoming events and links to Métis focused resources.
- Grow our youth social media connections.
- Provide authentic Orange Shirts for community members.
- Sash over 130 new grads in Central Okanagan School District 23.
- Provide \$500 for the School District 23 "Medicine Wheel Awards" to support Indigenous Student Awards to Central Okanagan School District 23.
- Connected 23 community members high-quality mental health support via a partnership with the Kelowna EMDR Clinic (since April 2022).
- Develop a new "KMA continuing education Student Award" and provide a total of \$7500 to 9 community members to further access to education.
- Create a monthly community newsletter for community members sent to over 1000 people
- monthly via email with a 60% open rate.
- Secure \$39,000.00 in emergency funding for our community members for air filters, air conditioners, heaters, emergency planning, and general support.
- Provide \$500 to support the Lillooet Sundance and engage our community.

The KMA always works to increase community connection by supporting cultural events and encouraging our community members to gather as a form of ceremony. This past year, the KMA has been honoured to engage our community in:

- Monthly youth events cultural and adventure-based.
- Monthly beading/cultural circles to support cultural connections in our community.
- Monthly potlucks with a large monthly group gathering to share a meal.
- "Métis Rendezvous" for National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 2023).
- Supporting 10 Elders, supported by 2 youth community members, to attend the annual Back to Batoche (Elders Retreat).
- Elders' Teas in partnership with Métis Community Services twice weekly cultural tea.

In Spring 2023, the KMA finalized the partnership with UBCO's Sarah Buffet and began the Seven Generations of Food (7GF) Project, a community-based research project. Through this project, we engaged with Community members in critical conversations about our food system as Métis peoples, provided participating Community members with opportunities to share their unique perspectives

and experiences, and supported them in acting on a collective community priority. Project updates continue to be shared with our community through social media, our monthly newsletter, and at the monthly potlucks.

In late summer 2023, the KMA began the process of strategic planning with the local organization Purppl (www.purppl.com). The goal of this exercise is to leverage community engagement towards developing a long-term community strategic plan to guide the KMA's work. This process will begin in Fall 2023 and continue into early 2024.

Lastly, the KMA is excited to have expressed interest and pre-qualified in potential funding from the MNBC for property acquisition. This would allow for a significant investment in our Community, its members, families, elders, children, and the many future generations to come. By ascertaining property in our community, we can not only create a foundation for growth in the future but provide a place for our community to connect in new ways and call home.

In closing, we are happy to have supported our community in strengthening cultural connections and helping those in need. We look forward to continuing this work in 2024 and wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Maarsii / Thank you / Merci,

### **Kootenay South Métis Society**

### Respectfully Submitted: MYRT SERVATIUS, PRESIDENT

First, we would like to thank MNBC for the funding to assist our members to help with groceries and gas. I am an Elder and Knowledge Keeper for both SD 20 and Selkirk College in Trail and Castlegar, I have spent many enjoyable hours with the students teaching our culture and jigging. We had over 25 grade 12 students graduate this year, so proud of our youth, we sashed them all. We have done many cultural activities this year.



**February:** We had a class in mitten making, about 15 attended and completed their mitts, they are so warm.

**March:** We had snowshoe day. We purchased some shoes and borrowed the kids' size from our scout troop here in Trail. We used the golf course in Rossland and they even cleared paths for us to ski on. We had about 20 members attend. We served hotdogs salads, hot chocolate and juice boxes. We had a propane fire so we could roast marshmallows, a great time was had by all. Not everyone snowshoed, but they came to visit and hear stories.

**April:** We held beading classes in our board room where we learned to make a beautiful poppy for Remembrance Day.

**May:** As the weather got warmer, we again cleaned the highway for our adopt a highway initiative, we do it in May as our city enters the Communities in Bloom and Trail always does well.

June: This is our busy month as we have indigenous days celebration in Gyro Park. Thanks to our corporate sponsors, we are able to bring in entertainment: Jingle Dancers, drummers, First Nations dancers, and old-time fiddlers with banjos and guitars. We made about 300 pieces of Bannock to let people try and we had Mark Carlsons with his hunting display and his daughters who made fried bread for people to try. Also, there was many vendors selling Indigenous jewelry and clothing. And of course, we had buffalo burgers for sale.

**July:** 20th to July 23rd I was lucky enough to attend the celebration at Batoche Saskatchewan with Elder Marylynn Taylor. Our youth got to see where relatives are from.

**August:** Was family time.

**September:** Was our AGM; it was nice to see other members face to face.

**September 30th:** National Day of Truth and Reconciliation organized again by the city of Trail and many of the downtown members. It was bigger than last year with a scavenger hunt to learn information we had many people wearing orange shirts and asking questions. We had a booth and

teepee with our Ali Caron telling stories to the children.

**October:** We continued our beading classes taught by Dale Andrews and finished our poppies.

October 15th: We cleaned the highway again for our Adopt a Highway Initiative.

**November 7th:** We attended a Remembrance Day banquet with our Women's Rep, an Elder and myself.

**November 11th:** For the first time we had our Métis flag in the Remembrance Day parade to the cenotaph, I was so proud, Howard Regnier carried the flag for us.

**November 15th:** a group of our members made 300 pieces of Bannock for the flag raising ceremony on November 16th.

November 16th: Flag raising for Louis Riel Day at city hall. Mayor and Council members attended, our corporate sponsors from Teck and Columbia Basin Trust, school students and members flag was up for over one week. We had fiddlers and jigging.

November 18th: This was our Community dinner for Louis Riel Day and Christmas. We had about 130 attending members and guests even representatives from city council. Great dinner

entertainment and prizes.

January: Back to culture, we had our first of three sessions on making moccasins we measured and cut them out of elk hide, can't wait till we start putting them together, we are beading the tops this week. We had 14 members attend and have another eight that want to make moccasins too, so we are having another group of classes.

I have been very busy with teaching and









assisting at the schools and the college but love working with the students. We have had a lot of new members. We had our AGM in December and have a full board and we meet the first Tuesday of the month. And we have many more waiting for renewals and new cards and we hope the times will be a shorter wait.









### **Métis Nation Columbia River Society**

### Respectfully Submitted: TRAVIS JOBIN, PRESIDENT

Our visibility in the local community remains strong and continues to grow. In early 2023, MNCRS in collaboration with the BC Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy, held an After Action Review (AAR) for DGIR 215105 Fuel Spill. MNCRS hired Two Worlds Consulting, an Indigenous owned consulting company to facilitate the review. The day after the AAR MNCRS was told there would be no further collaboration on the plans to move forward during the review. MNCRS was then contacted regarding DGIR 232233 Fuel



spill which occurred on June 15, 2023, and was updated frequently on the excavation, remediation and ground water well monitoring installation. MNCRS has entered an agreement with the BC Ministry of

the Environment and Climate Change Strategy and will hold the Columbia Wetlands Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique Training later this Spring.

#### Events, cultural activities and workshops:

January began with an Evening Snowshoe
Adventure at Dawn Mountain Nordic Centre led
by Tyler Garwood – BSC Fire, Ecology and Forest
Management with dueling Knowledge Keepers
Marcel Cholo and Elder Ed Delisle spaced well
apart. We snowshoed amongst the stars and left



with more knowledge than when we arrived with and our bellies full of Bannock.

MNCRS collaborated with Kicking Horse Mountain Resort to offer our Métis and Indigenous community Métis Ski Days in January and February with discounted lift tickets, rentals and 2hr afternoon lessons. Skiers and snowboarders of all ages hit the slopes. We have some very agile Elders!

In February, our members began a 4 week session of Yoga with Scout Wiebe (MNCRS Youth Rep) for the exploration of movement and relaxation. There was beginner and Elder chair yoga to choose from. Square dancing was enjoyed by all at our Métis Family Kitchen Party featuring The Twin Fiddles. Musical members enjoyed playing fiddle alongside JJ Guy and Gordon Stobbe.

Our first Métis Family Movie night was held in March with popcorn, pop and a viewing of Guitar Lessons. Keeping our members' well-being in mind, MNCRS offered cross country and skate ski lessons at Dawn Mountain Resort.

Maarsii to Métis Nation British Columbia for the Li Pleu Vyeu Wiichehew grant, which made our LPVW Elders' Day possible! Our adventure began with our Elders having to brave a snowstorm to meet the shuttle to the resort at our office. There was a semi on its side being cleared from the road in front of the office and our courthouse was on fire! Merci to MNBC Regional Health Coordinator, Jackie Greenacre, for sharing how MNBC is working to support our Elders navigate healthcare resources and services, Michelle Keefer and Chelsea Palumbo for their Interior Health Home & Community Care presentation, Community Paramedics Shauna Speers (Unit Manager) and Maggie Fields for performing Vital Checks (prediabetic screening,  $0_2$  levels, heart rate & blood pressure) on our Elders. Miigwetch to

Eagles' Eye at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort, the three-course meal was absolutely delicious, Métis love their food! And yes, Elder Ed partook in the event as well as drove one of the two Mount Seven Shuttles it took to get us to the resort!

In April MNCRS members increasing in strength and flexibility began Yoga with Scout – a six week all levels series. Elder Ed Delisle, friend and ally Gary Foyston and Tipi Apprentice Tyson Ricard were out the first reasonably warm day to raise the tipi.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> MNCRS held a Riverwalk Honouring MMIWG2S. Beginning with a smudge, prayer and sharing circle we were then led by Youth drumming the heartbeat of Mother Earth along the river to the Confluence.

Our Métis Family came together once again for a Métis family taco bar catered by Columbia River Catering Co. A performance by Buddy Wackett and the Floorwalkers featuring our President Travis Jobin followed with everyone on their feet dancing. In May the MNCRS office began 6 weeks of Tipi Teachings for Lady Grey and APES community schools. Each week a different class would partake in a smudge and Indigenous teachings.

Although June 21st, National Peoples Indigenous Day began with the Summer Solstice Yoga & Ancestral

Meditation being postponed due to inclement weather it shaped up to be a great success! Our members, community schools and the community showed up in droves for a full day of activities including; Métis Pointelle Art, Jigging and Red River dancing lessons, Tea and Coffee with an Elder, Elder led smudging, hide stretching, genealogy table, musical spoons and bison chili with Bannock served at the concession. MNCRS Board Directors, ED and Elders were invited to join in the celebration of Aboriginal Grad and the





Grade 7 Transition Riverwalk.

July saw the First
Annual MNCRS Métis
Family Camp. A generous ally in
the community offered MNCRS
his private land to use with

use of an adjacent creek and hiking trails. The Youth immediately banded together and were off in the creek, exploring the area and playing cards. Days were spent hiking, walking the creek, and many a Métis meal with songs by the campfire in the evening. White water rafting was the weekend finale.

MNCRS hosted the Blanket Exercise at the Golden Skybridge by Pursuit on National Truth & Reconciliation Day. Members volunteered as narrators, Europeans, planted actors, jiggers, fiddlers, as well as mental wellness support.

In October, Calvin Vollrath and Jeremy Rusu performed and taught a fiddle workshop. MNCRS held a viewing of Bones of Crows for our members.

The MNCRS Louis Riel Flag Raising Ceremony was held in Spirit Square with local dignitaries present. The ceremony was led by the Youth, the flag was smudged with prayer, an action prayer of the 4 directions to keep the school children present, and ended with a community Round/Friendship Dance.

Métis Bev Lambert hosted, performed and taught jigging and square dance lessons throughout the afternoon and into the evening during our Métis Family Christmas Kitchen Party & Potluck.

Closing in to the holiday season Pipon (Winter) Fest was celebrated with a day of outdoor games, signal fire training, Cattail Doll, birch candle, and fir and pinecone wreath workshops. bison chili and Bannock was devoured at the evening bon fire.

#### Workshops and Hikes:

- Knowledge Keeper Frederick Spence (Thunder Bear), a proud Ojibway from Peguis First Nation, Soapstone Carving workshop.
- Medicinal plant and huckleberry foraging, Pickled Beet, Dill Pickles, Raspberry Jam and Crabapple jelly canning workshops.
- Craft Circles included Métis Pointillism, Indigenous Poppy, Beading and HBC snowman and stockings.
- Certainty Mine Hike
- KHMR T2 Hike

### **Métis Nation of Powell River**

### **Respectfully Submitted: SHAWN JAMES, PRESIDENT**

What an eventful busy year we have had, yet another successful year as a continuously growing community. The largest demographic growth we have experienced is families with young children.

Members continue to take advantage of these great opportunities to root themselves in the Métis culture and language and get to know community members better.

Each month of the year is filled with Woman's Gathering, Our Seniors Health and Wellness FIT classes, potluck dinners at the

lower hall at the Legion, Seniors Mentoring our Youth with stories and culture weekly, Community Nature walk/ Frisbee Golf at Sunset Park biweekly, not to mention our Early Years care bags, and Good Food Boxes. We have hosted numerous workshops like moccasin, drum, Bannock,mitten making, beading and porcupine quill work, Jigging, and ribbon skirt making to name a few. Our yearly events and celebrations include: the Every Child Matters and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous

Peoples Marches, Vancouver Island Metis Rendezvous, Truth and Reconciliation, Indigenous day, Louis Riel Day and so much more.

We as a community voted in favor of changing our community's name. At this point, we have met with the Council of Tla'amin and have received their blessing to use the name qathet in our name if that is the name the community votes for. We are also working towards getting some protocol agreements in place as we move forward together in a good way as fellow Indigenous people on the lands of the traditional territory of the Tla'amin people.

We as a board have been feeling the need to find an affordable long-term rental or lease space that includes office and storage space for all of our supplies and equipment, a professional kitchen and space to hold our events all under one roof. At this time, we are waiting to hear from the Stardusters Community board in response to a proposal that we put forward. It sure would be wonderful to have a space to call our own. LETS PUT DOWN ROOTS!









### **North Fraser Métis Association**

### Respectfully Submitted: GREG STANWOOD, PRESIDENT

The North Fraser Métis Association (NFMA) is an Indigenous non-profit MNBC Chartered Community with one of the largest number of members in British Columbia and we are an official registered BC charity. Throughout the year, we offer cultural knowledge and preserve our



history as a nation by hosting various programs and gatherings for Métis people and provide support to our community.

As an organization, we are often the first point of contact for Indigenous people seeking services within our community. To this end, we are working to build a continuum of care for people from birth to end of life and we always seek feedback and guidance from our members.

My Métis family name is "Bruce" from my mother's side. She died at the age of ninety-seven. I found out about our family's ancestry when I was appointed executor of her estate and discovered she had Métis and First Nation heritage. I am a retired businessperson with many years of experience, so I approached NFMA and asked, "How can I help?"

NFMA follows the provincial guidelines for a registered BC Society and a registered charity, and our elected volunteer board is comprised of qualified Métis members from our community.

I have been President for over a year now, and during this time our community has grown stronger. Our growth is partially a result of the changes we were able to make this year:

We have put together a plan for a working Society with goals on a variety of subjects including focussing on Métis culture.

We have transitioned our accounting system to QuickBooks Online Plus, allowing for multiple users and remote access as well as retained an external bookkeeper to ensure transparency and order.

We are the first Métis community to have been awarded the BC Gaming Grant. This grant provided funds for some of our programming and administration. We will be able to reapply for the same grant in 2024 allowing for a maximum of \$250,000 in funding.

As NFMA is a registered BC charity, we are planning our fundraising activities to include 50/50 draws, raffles, and the possibility of casino nights in the future.

We signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Qayqayt First Nation to collaborate on finding a multi-use, multi-cultural community space and affordable housing facility where we can engage, gather, and be active in our community.

We established a relationship with the United Church and signed a letter of intent (LOI) with them and the Qayqayt First Nation to develop an affordable housing complex. The complex is to include a multi-use community gathering space, childcare, ceremonial smudging, and other cultural activities as well as a full-service commercial kitchen. We are discussing a directive towards Reconciliation with a place to gather and call home. This is one of NFMA's long-term visions as we all continue to be impacted by intergenerational trauma from the effects of colonization, disease, residential schools, and systemic racism.

Today, in our community, there are Métis children in BC Foster Care who are removed from their culture, while several other people are rediscovering their Indigenous family history. For these reasons, the Métis are disconnected from their culture and community throughout the Lower Mainland. The ability to create and implement activities that connect and engage our community and reconnect them with culture is one of our community's main requirements. Elders and Knowledge Keepers need financial and administrative support to be able to pass their knowledge on to the next generation so that our people will live strong.

Our Community has heard and recognized the biggest concerns of our Citizens and aims to strengthen the bonds with our Indigenous families. We want to reconnect in a world that is exceedingly disconnected. We believe that we must cherish our heritage and preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The stories, culture, traditions, Michif language, teachings, and our identity should all be taught to the next generation to keep our ancestors' memory alive. These principles have been woven throughout Métis existence, having been documented as ideals of Louis Riel in the early 1800's.

This past year, NFMA has delivered numerous successful cultural programs and participated in events that engage our members in reuniting with their Métis Heritage. We have aggressively and successfully gone after grants that enabled us to celebrate our culture:

- Beaded Vamps and Moccasin Making. Lisa Shepherd, Métis Artist, and knowledge keeper was the facilitator for the workshop which was held over multiple days in three sessions at the Anvil Center in New Westminster. The workshops were very successful with over 42 people on the wait list for this year. We are planning to be able to run this program again.
- Strong Threads Capote Workshop. Facilitated by Deni Paquette, Métis Elder and knowledge keeper, who has a BA in International Indigenous Studies. This was a very successful workshop with a long waiting list for 2023.
   We plan to run this program again.
- Moody Park's Indigenous Peoples Day. NFMA was





present with an outreach to K-12 students from surrounding schools. We displayed local Métis artwork and provided information on programs provided by MNBC. There was tremendous interest in Métis history, and some children applied for the Summer Camp programs that NFMA partnered with the Stream of Dreams Society.

- Louis Riel Day. Our celebration was held at The Burnaby Museum. It was over subscribed, but we made room for everyone who attended. Chief Rhonda Larrabee, of the Qayqayt First Nation, opened the ceremony and Lorelei Lyons said the closing prayer. Our gathering enjoyed a Métis cultural meal with bison stew and Bannock provided by the Bannock Queen. The V'ni Dansi dance group and fiddlers jigged up a storm with a performance and workshop. Our celebration was a memorable Métis cultural experience with great food, awesome dancers, and a wonderful group of people. MP Peter Julian joined our celebration and spoke in support of Louis Riel and Métis.
- Golden Spike Days. This annual event takes place in Port Moody at Rocky Point Park. We had two large booths and gave out many citizenship forms. The event welcomed over 20,000 attendees. Pat Calihou, Métis Artist and woodcraft artisan facilitated a paddle wood carving workshop and Fergus Dalton, a Métis dancer hosted jigging workshops for attendees which was busy for the entire 3-day festival. The event was a great way to share our wonderful culture. Senator Phil Gladue and his wife Betty Gladue were our honoured Elders and knowledge keepers and discussed Métis History and told our story. NFMA thanks go out to Ken Robillard for organizing this successful event.



- Women's Circle. Over seven months, participants met
  with NFMA Knowledge Keeper, Lorelei Lyons, who shared cultural teachings. This program
  brings together Métis women to build and nurture relationships and learn about their
  culture. Participants commented on how strongly this program addressed their connection
  to culture and community.
- NFMA Summer Family Day Barbecue. Our event turned into Pizza in the Park and was a huge success with over 100 people attending. Everyone enjoyed the jigging by Fergus Dalton, fiddling by Kathleen Nisbet and Matt Contois, and guitar playing by Eric. Pat Calihou demonstrated paddle making and Lorelie Lyons



facilitated black stone pin art. People enjoyed games such as bean bag toss, croquet, axe throwing, badminton, and even a catapult. Bannock was served from the Bannock Queen and even an ice cream truck was available. Staff from MBNC advocated available programs for our members and MLA Raj Chouhanwas present at the event. It was a wonderful Family Day.

- Orange Shirt Day Every Child Matters This event was held at New Westminster Quay.
   NFMA was present along with Mayor Patrick Johnstone, MP Peter Julian, and MLA Jennifer Whiteside and others.
- Festival du Bois. This celebration is hosted with the Francophone community in Maillardville. NFMA had a large tent with Métis historical artifacts, Fergus Dalton Métis Jigger held workshops and demonstrated Métis jigging, Elders Phil and Betty Gladue had a booth to share history, Pat Calihou demonstrated carving, and MNBC participated by presenting a variety of support programs for Métis MNBC citizens.
- Veterans Day. NFMA participated in Veterans Day support by laying a wreath down at the New Westminster City Cenotaph in support of all veterans – Benjamin Bruce, proud Métis, my grandfather, died at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1916 fighting for our nation.
- NFMA Holiday Celebration. Our Christmas Party was held at United Church in New Westminster with great food, jigging, beading, storytelling, and colouring, and of course Santa. Chief Rhonda Larrabee of the Qayqayt gave the opening remarks and land acknowledgement.

As President, I attended multiple events representing and supporting NFMA such as the BC Housing conference, Meeting with Premier David Eby, Orange Shirt Day, Douglas College Kitchen Table, Arts Club, and various other Meetings advocating for our community with local politicians and school districts.

NFMA understands that one voice can change a room, then it can change a city, then it can change a province, then it can change our country, and then it can change the world.

NFMA is moving in February 2024 into a large facility at 529 Queens Ave in New Westminster (United Church building.) Our Métis community will have full access to a commercial kitchen, gym,

boardroom, lounge area, and a larger office space. This move will allow us to gather, run cultural and educational programs, host meetings, and schedule drop-in office hours.

Finally, please always remember that our Board members, officers, and program supports are volunteers taking their own time to embrace and serve our community. I thank them all for their valuable contribution.



### **North Island Métis Association**

## Respectfully Submitted: CHARLOTTE LEVER, VICE PRESIDENT JACKIE LEVER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This past year for North Island Métis has been a year of growth for our Chartered Community, as we expanded the services we offer, as well as increased and diversified the supports



for our Métis community. We now have ten staff

working in our office. Feedback from our members has been positive, and we are happy to be serving our many community members of all ages.

We have sponsored many exciting events and courses for our members throughout the year such as:

- Mamawi An ongoing program for NIMA womxn, teaching projects such as sewing, hand beading, red dress earrings, porcupine quill plating, fish scale art, basic embroidery, point-toe moccasins, poppy pins, occasion themed projects and various get-togethers for planning and discussing future topics.
- Piihtikway A monthly drop-in cultural night for our members to finish crafting projects or begin new projects including supplies and teaching with tea and snacks for all
- Lispaas A monthly daytime drop-in group where members can finish projects and have a cup of tea
- Get Jiggy with Us A twice monthly jigging group run in 2023 where participants learned the Red River Jig, Heel Toe Polka, Sash Dance and more...
- Kayhkway Chi Miichihk A quarterly 50+ gathering which includes gentle exercises, a meal, self-care presentation, health discussions and a Métis art/craft project
- Wild Womxn A weekly self-defence series for womxn at Pure Martial Arts & Fitness in Campbell River
- Book Club A monthly Métis-authored book club for NIMA womxn with lively discussion, childcare and meal provided
- Laarb Kawmaekit a 9 session event started in December 2023, with sessions exploring

cultural food sustainability practices with materials, meals and child minding provided

- Physical activity programs for our members which included free swimming, visits to the driving range, geocaching, pickleball and tennis
- Ribbon skirt, gauntlet, capote, pucker toe moccasin, fire bag, and mitasses workshops with all materials and lunch provided
- Traditional medicines were offered to our community, as were Good Earth plant seeds (which they donated to us)
- In October 2023, we introduced NIMA Health Supports, a weekly drop-in medical time with our Health Manager, Eric de Montarnal

We had special occasions and celebrations in 2023 for our members such as:

Sashing Our Warriors Bannock and tea event for NIMA womxn in which attendees created Woman's Warrior sash earrings

- NIMA Annual General Meeting in April with elections, activities, prizes, and dinner
- Sashing Ceremony in June honouring our Métis Grade 12 and post-secondary graduates, included graduation gifts and luncheon for grads and their families
- Hide tanning event with Mara Curr for Métis youth in Campbell River
- Indigenous People's Day at Spirit Square in Campbell River
- Port Hardy Cultural Evenings NIMA provided a meal and brought materials for members to work on projects
- Filomi Days a community celebration in Port Hardy
- Canada Day in Campbell River
- NIMA Cultural Camping Event in Campbell River
- OrcaFest a community celebration in Port McNeill
- North Island Métis Youth Conference
- Métis flag raising in November for Louis Riel celebrations in Campbell River and Port Hardy
- Louis Riel day event in Campbell River introducing our very first Voyageur Games
   Competition, with activities, prizes and dinner



- Louis Riel day activities and dinner in Port Hardy
- Grocery Hamper event grocery hampers given out to our members in Campbell River and North Island
- NIMA Pancake Breakfast family event
- Housing and Childcare engagement event hosted with MNBC to discuss the new development to be built in Campbell River
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation at Spirit Square in Campbell River

We are proud to be continually working to build an inclusive workplace, ally and a safe space for



2SLGBTQQIA+ people. We have been supporting our youth by organizing Métis groups at all Campbell River schools. We have created our own North Island Métis sash. Our website, social media, and merchandise store continue to expand. We are involved in local health and education advisory boards and community coalitions.

### **Northwest BC Métis Association**

### Respectfully Submitted: BERNADETTE CHABOYER, PRESIDENT



### January 2023

The NWBCMA was blessed with a new location. We hosted a three part series of a "Book and Bead" workshop where in-person and online attendees could listen to the



readings from the Kaa-wiichihitoyaahk Métis Perspective on Cultural Wellness Book.

### February 2023

We attended the "She is Somebody" MMIGW walk and paid respects to the friends and families of the Murdered Women Memorial March, paying our respects and showing support with our local First Nations organization, Tears of Hope Society.

We also had a "Soft opening" of our new space where we could enjoy snacks and hand out Hydro topups to offset the recent cold snap we had endured here in the north.

#### March 2023

I attended the MNGA in Richmond, where I, as the newbie, could sit, observe, and make beautiful connections. Patricia Paulson and I attended a two-day workshop by the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS) Supporting Families and Survivors Affected by MMIGW2SLGBTQQIA+. We set up a table with the "Sashing our Warriors" mini-sashes and some support printouts.

We also held a ribbon skirt-making session where we made ten ribbon skirts to hand out to family members at the MMIGW walk we attended in May.

### April 2023

We held a beautiful Elders lunch with a fantastic turnout (Full House!) and plan on making it an annual event. With our own Veteran and former Senator Ron Snider's birthday, we were blessed to celebrate with him and

enjoy Gail Fisher's amazing homemade beef barley soup and cake. We handed out Quilts donated to us by a local group of ladies and some support in the form of gift cards.

I won the lottery draw for the mental health and wellness gathering in Osoyoos. I found it to be fantastic, and it was an amazing time. We learned lots, and there were healing workshops, among other opportunities to learn about our culture and traditions and, most importantly, heal. Hats off to the MNBC staff who held the event!!

#### May 2023

We attended the MMIGW walk on May 5th, where 10 Ribbon skirts that T Paulson and I took the time to make were handed out to the families.

As the chartered community Women's Representative, I attended the gender violence consultation in Nanaimo with all the other MWBC community and regional representatives. Good conversations were had, and seeing what every community wants and needs moving forward was interesting. It will be nice to see the movements and support in the works.

With the help of our incredible Vice President Shelia and her Daughter Bree, we hosted the "Sashing our Warriors Jewelry Making Night." We had a fantastic turnout of 19 ladies in total. We had a Nisga'a Elder Geraldine Trimble speak about safety; everyone got to tell their story. We made bracelets and necklaces and enjoyed each other's company.

#### June 2023

On National Indigenous Peoples Day, we had a Bison Burger sale at George Little Park I could not attend as I had a cold and wanted to keep people safe. We sold 110 burgers and were told by locals they were the best around! Yay us!

#### **July 2023**

I was honored to attend the Prince Rupert and District Métis Society Health and Healing gathering, a fantastic time. We had our own Christina H facilitate a workshop on the importance of storytelling and show us how to weave a mini sash. We also watched a documentary on Healing Nation about stigma within our system, and it hit home for most of us in the room.

#### August 2023

We held our community BBQ, and I am proud to say we had a fantastic turnout and could offer support to families with school-aged kids through a gift card. We worked with K5T, who catered to the food minus the bison burgers, as I felt the need to make them myself. We gave out door prizes, and Alicia Early Years and our beloved Rene B were there to sash the little kids, which brought tears to my eyes.

#### September 2023

Andy and I went to the AGM in Kamloops. It was my first time at an AGM, and I learned a lot and I am looking forward to representing my community in the future. My daughter and I went to Prince George to collaborate with many other representatives and community leaders of the north with the Northern Health Authority to learn about "Métis 101."

#### October 2023

We held our AGM, where we all got elected to remain in our positions. October was sad for us as our beloved Elder Knowledge keeper and language learner, Jim Savard, suddenly passed away. It was a tough time for our community. We came together as a board with the help of our local MNBC staff, made the food for his celebration of life, and supported the family. (He is missed dearly) Jim brought

much laughter and wisdom. The room lit up when he entered. He will always be in our hearts.

#### November & December 2023

Our Director and Education Chair, Melody LaBossiere, laid the wreath for our veterans for the



second year in Kitimat. Our veteran and elder Ron Snider laid one in Terrace for Remembrance Day. Melody then held a craft day and jigging workshop for the kids at our office in Terrace, where she read from the Christmas story Métis Mittens. Our Louis Riel Christmas dinner was packed, and K5T again catered for this event. The food was excellent, and the gathering together as a community was so heartfelt. We could hand our presents to all community members who attended with a fun door prize type of draw. With our new space, we have been able to help with citizen support and hold gatherings. We all do our best, and I look forward to continuing now that I have been through almost a year of involvement.



Miigwetch, All my relations Bernadette Chaboyer President NWBCMA

# **Prince Rupert & District Métis Society**

#### **Respectfully Submitted: JOY SUNDIN, PRESIDENT**

Tansi kiyyawow, bonjour, and hello,

Métis culture and pride are vital to our community's growth as we plan and organize events and activities that enhance experiences as our Métis community explores their Indigenous heritage and look for comfort with their future. And we like to show off a little of our culture to our entire city! Other peoples are



curious to know about the Métis and what role we played in the growth of our country, and we want to educate and encourage this dialogue.

The children are our most valuable asset that we have now and for the future. Our family events are to gather the elders, youth and children to share and enjoy the Métis comradery as we find out that, hey yes, you are my cousin!

2023 was an exciting and fun year with gatherings, sharing foods and stories, and did I say foods...

In March we hosted a Seniors and Elders Dinner with tons of laughter and some shyness, also some senior Métis who had not joined in past events came out to meet and greet. What a great time, with catered meals, rousing games of bingo, coveted prizes, and the distribution of well-appreciated gift cards for fuel and groceries.

April was a time to bolster citizens with some of the COVID funds from MNBC, we offered a Housing and Support Fund and a Personal Relief Fund to relieve some of the economic hardships felt during 2020-2022.

May was a hosted Dessert Night of sweet treats and tasty beverages, much to everyone's delight!

In May, we had a 4-day Women's Retreat, at the renowned Cassiar Cannery, in three of the restored waterfront heritage houses. We had sumptuous, beautiful healthy meals prepared by a Red Seal chef as we relaxed, recharged, and renewed ourselves with yoga for all levels, a big canoe adventure, and a whale watching tour. We were pampered with massage, mud facials, and other treatments. It was a wonderful time had by all and many memories and friendships were made.

June is always a very busy month for our citizens, as we celebrate Seafest with the entire Rupert community. We shared our culture with our parade float with the amazing Andrew Goulet playing fiddle and Tom Rysstad on drums, percussion and every other instrument! True Métis toe-tapping music with a young Métis youth jigging on the float for 15 blocks! Phew. We also hosted our annual bison burger vending booth at the festival that had line-ups down the block as the community savoured the wonderful tastes.

Also, in June, we celebrated National Indigenous People's Day with the V'Ni Dansi dancers travelling to Rupert to perform on stage for the entire community. That was after a week of the dancers having workshops in every school in our community for youth from High School to preschool, and also having a well-attended evening Métis-specific Community Jigging Workshop. The Summer Solstice was celebrated in style!

In July we hosted our annual Ice Cream Treat Night, and the smiles were wonderful with children and adults savouring their cold treats!

Also, two of our Directors planned and organized a 2-day Health and Wellness Gathering in July, with a communications coach teaching us how to "Use our Voices" with Métis story-telling referencing and cultural crafting. We had a second day of a First Nations presenter with her documentary "A Healing Nation" with guidance for healthy relationships and concluding with a Healing Circle. This event enabled Métis citizens and others from our community to learn about and experience Indigenous culture.

October was another great dinner night of the Seniors and Elders Dinner. Attendees enjoyed great catered meals and there was tons of laughter again, this time stealing gifts in our Métis Bingo game. Seniors know how to have fun!

In November Métis gathered at the community cenotaph to commemorate our Canadian veterans, by the laying of a wreath, by our Métis youth as they learn about sacrifice and struggle.

Our annual Louis Riel celebration in November is a dance open to anyone in our community, with fiddler Andrew Goulet and friends playing incredible Métis music, a dance floor that was always full, door prizes and good foods to round out a spectacular night. It is an opportunity to teach about Louis Riel as we share our culture and history.

Our children and their parents enjoyed a "mosaic crafternoon" in December, as they created mosaic masterpieces. I was so fortunate to receive one as a gift from my grandson! Everyone enjoyed this event so much, that an adult mosaic craft time is planned for January 2024.

December is time to celebrate the season with the annual Christmas Dinner, catered this year instead of a potluck, with a visit from Santa with gifts and pictures, and again being blessed with Andrew's and Tom's Métis music







skills. Our Directors took up their pens and we sent a Christmas card to every PRDMS family and included a homemade ribbon skirt pin to acknowledge and celebrate the January 4<sup>th</sup> "Ribbon Skirt Day".

Also, our Métis community extends to Haida Gwaii and as these citizens cannot attend a lot of the in- person events in Prince Rupert, we sent everyone a case of bison burger patties for the festive season celebrations! A tasty treat for those Islanders!

Our Board of Directors are an amazing group of caring people, who plan and offer events to encourage Métis to gather and share a meal and a story or two. As we grow in friendship and family, our Métis culture is celebrated!



# **ROCKY MOUNTAIN MÉTIS ASSOCIATION**

# Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Crozier, President

www.rockymountainmetis.com











#### RMMA HIGHLIGHTS 2023

#### **NEW OFFICE SPACE:**

In August we secured a lease for a 2000 sq.ft. space that catered to our Association's needs and wants. We had many volunteers help move offices and set up the space. Since then we have been able to serve our citizens with better access and floor space. To celebrate the new facilities we hosted an open house in September. The open house welcomed citizens to view our new location and give suggestions for activities and use of space. Door prizes, food and music and most importantly a sense of community filled the office.

#### LAUNCHING OF STRATEGIC PLAN:

The RMMA received a grant from Canadian Red Cross to develop a Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028. The Strategic Plan is being facilitated in partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust. All RMMA Citizens were invited to respond to a survey to provide their input into the Strategic Plan. The number of respondents exceeded expectations and the responses were thoughtful, informative and heartfelt.

#### HIRING SUMMER STUDENTS:

We hired two summer students to support cultural activities at the Rocky Mountain Métis Association. They provided cultural and community activities in our chartered community area including Cranbrook, Creston and Kimberley. They hosted a variety of events and activities including barbecues, a family cultural summer celebration, and engaged the community in beading workshops. dot painting as well as worked with our partnering organization, Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Service Society.



#### FOOD RECOVERY:

2023 saw the beginning of our partnership with Cranbrook Food Recovery Hub. Rocky Mountain Métis Association was welcomed into the Food Recovery Hub in which we receive roughly 100-150 lbs of food each week. Since the beginning of the program we have helped over 500 people with food. In addition to receiving food recovery from the Cranbrook Food Bank, we have created a community pantry that we stock with staples items such as soups, flour, sugar, from various grants. In December in partnership with Cranbrook Minor Hockey we collected food and distributed 50 food hampers to citizens in need.

#### RMMA HIGHLIGHTS 2023

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT #5 AND #6 PARTNERSHIPS:

RMMA continues to work in collaboration and partnership with both School District #5 and #6, to support Métis students in their education and cultural educational journeys. In May the RMMA signed the Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement, with School District #5. This agreement was the culmination of 18 months of unified work between SD #5, and Indigenous partners.

In June in School District #6, Elder Dan Innes and Interim President Jeff Crozier were honoured to attend and sash the Métis Graduating class of 2023. Additionally in June we presented the Grade 6 Métis students at T.M. Roberts with graduation sashes. We are excited to announce that our Elders Suzanne Fiddler and Dan Innes sit on a SD#5 Elders Committee, to support Métis and Indigenous youth in the school district.

#### **INDIGENOUS HOCKEY PROGARM:**

In collaboration with Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society, we hosted weekly hockey sessions, where Indigenous Youth were taught hockey skills to improve their game.

In addition we hosted our 8th Annual RMMA Métis Indigenous Hockey School. The event drew over 75 Indigenous youth participants, making it a dynamic and impactful experience for all involved.

A special acknowledgment and heartfelt "Maarsii" to Interior: Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council for their generous sponsorship, contributing to the success of this program.

#### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN MÉTIS SASH CREATION:**

In collaboration with our citizens we designed a Métis sash to represent the Rocky Mountain Métis Association. We used the colours from local natural elements and infused the central values of Métis culture into the meaning.



#### **MÉTIS KITCHEN PARTIES:**

In 2023, we hosted three immensely successful Métis Kitchen Parties, marking them as the highlight of the year for our citizens. These gatherings serve as vibrant showcases of Métis culture, blending dance, music, food, and joyous camaraderie. The lively atmosphere, filled with conversation and laughter, contributes to the undeniable popularity of this event. During these Kitchen Parties, we took the opportunity to express our gratitude and recognition. In a spirit of appreciation, we honoured our dedicated graduates and volunteers, seizing the occasion to extend heartfelt thanks for their invaluable contributions. These gatherings not only celebrate Métis culture but also serve as a platform to acknowledge and express gratitude to the individuals who play a vital role in our community's success.











#### RMMA HIGHLIGHTS 2023

#### RMMA GARDEN PROJECT:

Thanks to a generous grant from Columbia Basin Trust, our community thrived with diverse garden projects. In the spring, we initiated a seed distribution program, providing citizens with seeds and planting kits to kickstart their own spring gardens. Further fostering community engagement, we established a communal plot in Cranbrook, tended to weekly by citizens and our dedicated gardener, "Carol." As the fall harvesting season approached, we continued our commitment to education and community involvement. Local workshops held at Top Crop became a platform for sharing knowledge on gardening, harvesting, and planting Indigenous plants in our region. These initiatives not only cultivated a sense of communal growth but also empowered individuals with the skills and understanding needed to contribute to the vitality of our local environment.











#### **COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:**

Our community thrived with a rich array of Métis cultural activities, fostering a deeper connection to our heritage. From the art of feather painting to making of la galette (bannock) over an open fire, our events encompassed a diverse range of traditions. We even celebrated the unique practice of Métis dog sledding, engaged in harvesting and trapping workshops, and enjoyed the camaraderie of an ice fishing day. The rhythm of Métis community jigging echoed through our gatherings, creating a lively and spirited atmosphere. Teens in our community not only learned valuable cooking lessons but also embraced their cultural roots. Moreover, our commitment to the arts shone through numerous Métis cultural crafting workshops led by talented Métis artists. Participants had the opportunity to master the creation of gauntlets, moccasins, intricate beadwork, octopus, and medicine bags.

As a direct outcome of our vibrant Métis cultural engagement, we are proud to host a Beading Circle every Monday and Friday. This ongoing gathering serves as a space for participants to come together, fostering a sense of community while actively learning and sharing their cultural craft of beading.

These Métis cultural activities, enriched by the knowledge and skills shared by our talented artists, have significantly enhanced our cultural practices. They stand as a testament to our dedication to preserving, celebrating, and passing down the vibrant traditions of the Métis community for generations to come.

In tandem with our cultural initiatives, we orchestrated a variety of community engagement activities to strengthen bonds and foster connections among citizens. These community engagement activities served as a vital compliment to our cultural endeavours, creating spaces for people to interact, form friendships, and collectively contribute to the vibrancy of our community. Through a diverse range of events, we aimed to build lasting connections that go beyond individual interests and contribute to the overall well-being of our Métis community.

## Salmon Arm Métis Association

#### Respectfully Submitted: DAVID ALLARD, PRESIDENT

Salmon Arm Métis Association is a chartered community in Region 3. We cover the areas including Revelstoke, Malakwa, Sicamous, Chase, Sorrento, Blind Bay, Enderby, Grindrod and Salmon Arm (and points between). We have approximately 600 citizens.

Some of these activities were funded through contributions from MNBC and some from grants which the Board applied for through other programs, ie: Interior Health, etc.



The year 2023 began with SAMA giving away groceries to citizens in need every second week beginning February 2nd.

SAMA held a general meeting on April 15th.

In conjunction with Shuswap Food Action Society, SAMA held an Indigenous Food event at Pierre's Point on April 27th. A catered dinner was provided followed by an Indigenous storyteller and local entertainment.

May found SAMA giving away tomato and pepper plants (from Mayfair Farms, a local Métis owned business) to members. Coupons were given to members to use at local Farmers Markets to purchase food. The food giveaway also continued every second week.



June 27th was the Multicultural Festival held in downtown Salmon Arm. Our member, John Sayers, attended with his Metis artifacts. Two of the Buffalo gal Jiggers made an appearance.

National Indigenous Peoples Day was held at Mayfair Farms in Salmon Arm on June 21st from 10 AM to 4 PM. Our local radio station was on location advertising the event which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Free Bannock and hot dogs were served.

The summer months found many of our citizens evacuated from their homes due to wildfires. Some members were evacuated more than once. Whole communities were lost in the fires, SAMA was there to help.

Another family gathering was held at Mayfair Farms on September 16th. A tour of the greenhouses was provided as well as an introduction to growing your own vegetables. Each child was



given a plant to take home and parents were given a bag of vegetables. Lunch was also provided. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

SAMA held their AGM on October 29th. The Board was re-elected by acclamation and two new Directors were voted in.

On November 28th, SAMA held a Health & Wellness event in conjunction with Louis Riel Day



celebrations. Citizens in attendance were able to get their flu and Covid shots. The Mental Health Navigator for Regions 3 and 4 gave a presentation on Mental Health Resources and explained some of the financial assistance available for members in need. Our member, John Sayers, attended with his amazing display of Métis artifacts as well as being our knowledge keeper of the history of our people. Entertainment and lunch were

also provided.

December 1st was our Christmas dinner, we had 75 people in attendance. There was a catered dinner and door prizes, as well as a 50-50 draw. Everyone received a \$50 gift card. It was a festive event enjoyed by all!

SAMA is looking forward to another successful year of activities and events in 2024, supporting our community, strengthening cultural connections, and helping those in need.

We would like to thank MNBC for their continued assistance and support throughout the year which helps us support our members. SAMA wishes everyone a safe, healthy and happy new year!

SAMA is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwepemc First Nation.

# South-Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association

#### **Respectfully Submitted: JAMIE-LEE KEITH, PRESIDENT**

The South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association (SOSMA) is delighted to present the 2023 annual report, marking a year of unprecedented growth, community engagement, and record- breaking events. Our community is deeply committed to fostering a strong, inclusive, and vibrant Métis community, and we are excited to share the strides we have made this past year.



Current board members include: Jamie-Lee Keith (Leader), Sherri Lund (Vice-President), Jean Jones (Treasurer), Karen Nelson (Secretary), Jason Schafer (Officer of the Hunt), D'Arcie Knoll (Two-Spirit Representative), Natasha Radosztics (Youth Representative), Karyn Heinrick (Director at Large), Tim Thompson (Director at Large), and Bridgette Radosztics (Director at Large). For more information on each board member, please visit our website.

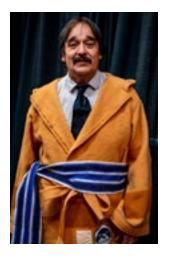
In our pursuit of inclusivity and representation, 2023 marked a historic moment as we nominated our first local Two-Spirit Representative. This nomination underscores our commitment to acknowledging and celebrating diverse identities within our community. We welcome our board member D'Arcie Knoll, who is a proud LGBTQ+ community member, and her insight has been of great value to our community and board.

One of the most significant indicators of our progress is the increased participation in our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGM averaged around 15 attendees. In contrast, this year we had a record turnout of 75 attendees, highlighting the growing dedication and interest in our association's progress.

Our events have seen an exponential increase in participation. Traditionally, our bowling night attracted

approximately 25 participants. This year, we celebrated Louis Riel Day with an unprecedented 250 attendees, making it the largest event in South Okanagan Métis history. At this event, we were proud to present a series of awards, including the Friend of SOSMA Award, the Kaniikaniit Choice Award, SOSMA's MNBC Choice Award, the Vena Foster Métis Youth Award, and SOSMA's MNBC Ally Award. We were especially delighted to honor Vice President Walter Mineault with an award for his unwavering support and dedication to revitalizing our community.

In addition to these milestone events, we conducted several successful community programs. Our popular Métis-101 classes, Back to the Bush



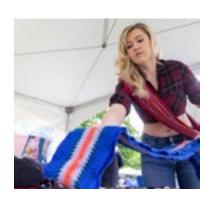


workshop with our local trapper, Elders Day, and several CORE/PAL sessions have all seen enthusiastic participation. The unveiling of our new community- chosen logo, and the distribution of brochures and business cards, have significantly increased public awareness of our association.

Our team has also grown in step with our community. We currently have three contractors working for SOSMA, including Carleen Bedard (Media Manager), Tracy Franklin (Community Liaison Manager), and Alex MacRae (Senior Manager). Additionally, we have expanded our community by approximately 50 people. With increased manpower,

we saw the completion of valuable projects such as the distribution of holiday hampers and the introduction of our newly designed SOSMA sash. Feel free to follow SOSMA on Facebook or Instagram to see our growth continue!

Finally, we have been investing significant time in genealogical support, an area of great importance to our community. This year, we have helped six people apply for citizenship, unraveling their rich and complex family histories. It was an enlightening experience to encounter individuals who strongly believed in their Indigenous roots, only to discover through genealogical research that they did not have



any Indigenous lineage. Yet, even for these individuals, our team was able to provide clarity on their backgrounds and answer questions about their lineage, further emphasizing our commitment to serve our community.

In January 2023, our board embarked on a strategic planning session, which laid the groundwork for our future initiatives. The session was a fruitful one, and we are optimistic and excited about our plans for the year ahead. For example, SOSMA is looking to be the most active voting community in the upcoming 2024 election. As a result, we have

set aside some funding to be able to help citizens travel to the ballot box if needed, as SOSMA covers a large geographical area.

There is much to celebrate with SOSMA's progress, but this year has also brought its fair share of challenges. In the beginning of 2023, the local school district invited SOSMA to draft a Métis Educational Agreement (MEA). However, after a year of consultation paid for by SOSMA, the school decided, in light of Bill C-40, that it would be more appropriate to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) instead. A month later, the school announced that the MOU would be put on hold indefinitely until further instructions were received from the district. Adding to the frustration, the school provides honorariums to volunteers but failed to inform SOSMA of their eligibility to receive such a payment for an entire year. SOSMA remains frustrated and unimpressed with the local school district's

actions and will continue to advocate for an equitable voice for Métis children and families within the South Okanagan.

As we look to the future, we are confident that we will continue to achieve further growth and success. We are immensely proud of what we have accomplished in 2023 and are excited for what lies ahead for our community in 2024.

### **Tri-River Métis Association**

#### Respectfully Submitted: ALICIA FERNANDO, PRESIDENT

Taanishi,

Currently we have almost 330 Tri-River Métis Association (TRMA) members that are MNBC citizens. We are spread out between Burns Lake to Kitwanga BC and within several towns and villages between the over 250km stretch. There has been some growth in numbers but more significantly there has been new engagement



at events and on the board in the last year. We continue to maintain a small, unmanned office in a



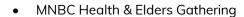
communal office located in Smithers. We have been paying a book keeper connected to our Community as needed. which has been a great help. Our board meets about once a month, mostly virtually due to the distance, but in person when we can.

Thank you to our members for being involved and for all the hard work of the Tri-River Métis Board of Directors: Dawn McConnell (Secretary-Treasurer), Corri Oliarny (Director), Grant Conlon (Director), Joshua Sienen (Director), Lorraine Hnidan-Kendall (Interim Director) and Norma-Jean Adzich (Interim Director). Thank you to Jackie Mauer for her work on the Board in 2022/2023.

It was a pleasure to connect as a Métis community in 2023. We are always looking to expand on opportunities and our ability to facilitate gatherings that celebrate our culture and support each other where possible. The connection

is so important post COVID The supports during these difficult economic times and mill closures in our region was appreciated. Much of our funding came through applying for grants through MNBC, but also through Northern Health grants and events through collaboration with MNBC Ministries. Recently our Secretary-Treasurer was successful with some external funding proposals for cultural workshops and wellness activities. Below are some of the successful events and programs we had in 2023-2024:

- October 2023 TRMA AGM
- Remembrance Day TRMA wreath placement and participation
- Newsletters with gift cards for gas and groceries
- Annual Family Day Sleigh Ride & Campfire 2023 and 2024
- Pool day and gifting groceries Houston



- Providing cultural resources books and beading kits
- Northern Health engagement gathering
- War Canoe and Bison BBQ (photo below of canoe group)
- Hosting BCMNAR captains gathering in Smithers/Babine Lake
- Providing pool passes and wellness activity funding
- Sponsored Métis firewood suppliers to provide for citizens in need this December
- safe TALK: Suicide Prevention Course
- Family Day Annual Sleigh Ride & Camp Fire Meal
- Elders Luncheons in each community surveys and supports
- Louis Riel Day Photo Contest
- Ribbon Skirt Making workshop (photos below)
- White Buffalo gift exchange and appies potluck Christmas gathering





Family Day Sleigh Rides, February 2023, Telkwa War Canoe & Bison BBQ, Sept. 2023, Tyee

Tri-River Métis Association has some exciting community events coming up in 2024 including:

- Workshops for moccasins, drums and beaded poppies as well as drop in crafting
- Hosting our AGM in the spring of 2024 with traditional music and food
- Louis Riel Day celebration 2024
- Fall harvest campfire stone soup
- Harvesting protocols and practice sessions

Pishishkapamishshook (take care all).



Youth members gather at Two Rivers Métis Society Community Holiday Party in December.

# 2023 & Highlights Report Community Activities

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A YEAR WITH UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Two Rivers Métis Society PO Box 35 1800 Tranquille Road Kamloops, BC V2B 8R6 TwoRiversCC@mnbc.ca



As a chartered Métis community in British Columbia, Two Rivers Métis Society currently boasts over 1300 citizens in the Kamloops region and is growing rapidly. Our goal is to develop a proud, Métis community that is knowledgeable about our distinct culture, history and values. We aim to represent a diverse demographic of members respectfully and equally at all of our TRMS events.

In 2023, Two Rivers Métis Society Board of Directors witnessed the devastating effects of BC's economic downturn on membership. Still experiencing hardships following the the height of the Covid 19 pandemic, many of our citizen's homes and livelihoods were threatened by wildfires. Indeed, the 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive in BC's recorded history. With the generous financial support of Métis Nation British Columbia, TRMS was able to directly provide emergency financial relief in the form of Covid and emergency wildfire funding to our most vulnerable members.

Page 1

MAKE IT HAPPEN

New members accepted into our community

Special resolutions passed to increase productivity and keep business moving forward within our executive board

Executive Board members dedicated to serving our TRMS community



# Taapweeyimigho Believe In Yourself

#### **FUTURE HARVEST SEED PROGRAM**

Throughout 2023, Two Rivers Métis Society Board of Directors sought to organize programs and events for our citizens to boost their confidence in learning traditional Métis skills. Specifically, the introduction of the Future Harvest Seed Program launched in April 2023, in partnership with Interior Health, aimed to increase access to food security in our community. Members were provided seeds and seed preservation instructions free of charge.

#### 2023 TRMS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dean Gladue (left), MNBC Region 3 Director, congratulates Marc Dubord (right) pictured holding son Abraham Dubord (front) on his re-election as TRMS President.



Number of verified voting members present at our 2023 AGM held in November



Members participated in the PAL firearms course offered in the fall of 2023



Percent of participants who passed their PAL final examinations



Two Rivers Métis Society saw massive member support for our two summer social gatherings: Fiddle Lessons Event and August Family Gathering. These events encouraging members and their families to take in live music, enjoy a traditional meal and dance the jig with Métis Bev! Children and Elders interacted and learned new, culture based skills with great success and pride.

# PERSONAL ACQUISITIONS LICENSE (PAL) TRAINING COURSE

In late October, TRMS Board of Directors hosted a private event for 12 verified members to receive their firearm safety and acquisition license training. Participants ranged from 13 years old to several Elders. The event was held over the weekend and featured a nutritious, catered lunch each day. We are honoured to share that all 12 of members passed both their written and practical handling examinations! They are now legally able to purchase and use specific firearms and, most importantly, can utilize their historical Metis right of gun possession.







# Maargii

The Two Rivers Métis Society
Board of Directors wishes to
thank our many volunteers for
dedicating their time,
knowledge and resources to
enriching the lives of our Métis
citizens. Without their support,
our community would not be
what it is today.





Together we are stronger. Prior to Métis Nation British Columbia's Métis Nation Governing Assembly in December, Two Rivers Métis Society members were asked to participate in an anonymous online survey pertaining to proposed resolutions put forth by MNBC to be voted on. These responses directly informed our President's vote during the assembly and served to unite the voice of Two Rivers Métis Society to the larger Métis community in BC.



TRMS members gathered in August for a celebration of family



It is solely through generous grant opportunities and funding initiatives within the province of BC that Two Rivers Métis Society is able to offer quality, culturally relevant activities, events and workshops. Métis Nation British Columbia remains our largest financial supporter helping to close the gap between vision and accessibility for all our citizens. With continued diligence and care, Two Rivers Métis Society hopes to successfully receive funding for new, exciting projects that will inspire Métis identity for years to come.

Page 3

## **Vermillion Forks Métis Association**

#### **Respectfully Submitted: NATASHA SMITH, PRESIDENT**

The Vermillion Forks Métis Association has enjoyed an eventful and prosperous 2023, hosting a variety of successful events and programs across the year.

This was the first year we launched our community youth active living grant to support families in our communities that needed



We hosted three family bowling nights throughout the year where we provided lanes, food, and beverages for families that attended. Everyone had fun and it was a great opportunity to connect with other families in the community.

All seven of our Métis graduates received a \$200 bursary from our association.

This summer we put on four different drum camp days, where we provided the drum kits, and instruction from our experienced drum maker from the Fraser Valley, who learned his art from the Gladue family.

We put up the teepee, made Bannock, and stocked up on beverages, hamburgers, and hotdogs, etc.

The first day we had our citizens attend where they enjoyed music, food, and stories while putting together their very own handmade drum.

On the second day, we opened the drum camp to anyone who wanted to attend. During the camp we again provided drum kits, a BBQ lunch, music, and stories. This event aided in community connections that will be forever cherished by all those who attended.

On the third and fourth day, we opened the camp up to any youth in the community who wanted to make their own drum. We provided the drum kits, food, and music, which was performed by one of our elders who is also one of our local







drummers. He not only played, but he taught the children the welcome song that is often played at the schools they attend. His lessons also included the care of their drums and why we need to treat them with love.

Every Wednesday our beautiful volunteers open the doors to the community inviting them for a



hot bowl of soup and freshly made Bannock. Giving them a safe environment, conversation, and community connection.

Our women have also been very busy with various sewing projects with our newly purchased sewing machines; plus, they also spent a day with our Regional Woman's Representative learning to bead poppy pins that were to be worn on Remembrance Day.

We have hosted two craft fairs for the community this year where we provided door prizes, beverages, and snacks.

This fall we purchased equipment and started a weekly yoga class with an instructor. The class is open to those in the community and adaptive to any mobility level.

On Truth and Reconciliation Day our association purchased Orange Shirts and then put a beautiful "Every Child Matters" image onto each shirt. They were then given to those in the community who wanted to wear them at our local Hockey Game on the day of Truth and Reconciliation.

With future plans and ideas for 2024, Vermillion Forks Métis Association, is excited to see what this next year has to offer.



