



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MNGA Reports 2025

MARCH 1-2, 2025

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



Contents

Values	3
Board Reports	5
President's Report	6
Vice-President's Report	10
Region 1 Director Report	13
Region 2 Director Report	16
Region 3 Director Report	18
Region 4 Director Report	22
Region 6 Director Report	29
Region 7 Director Report	31
2SLGBTQIA+ Chair Report	34
Métis Women BC Chair Report	36
Métis Youth BC Chair Report	39
CEO Report	41
Senate Report	43
Ministry Reports	47
Children and Families	48
Citizenship	51
Culture, Heritage, and Language	54
Digital Governance	57
Economic Development and Tourism	60
Education	64
Elders	69
Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security	72
Health	76
Housing and Homelessness	80
Justice	84
Métis Rights	87
Skills Training, Employment, and Post-Secondary	90
Sport and Active Living	94
Veterans	97
Women and Gender Equity	99
Youth	102

Contents

Community Reports	105
Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society	106
Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association	107
Cowichan Valley Métis Association	109
Fort St. John Métis Society	112
Kelowna Métis Association	115
Métis Nation Greater Victoria	119
MIKI'SIW Métis Association	122
North Cariboo Métis Association	125
North Fraser Métis Association	126
North Island Métis Association	129
Prince George Métis Community Association	131
Prince Rupert and District Métis Society	133
Rocky Mountain Métis Association	135
Salmon Arm Métis Association	137
South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association	139
Surrey-Delta Métis Association	141
Tri-River Métis Association	145
Two Rivers Métis Society	147
Vermillion Forks Métis Association	150
Vernon and District Métis Association	152
Waceya Métis Society	154



Vision

Métis Nation British Columbia envisions a future where Métis people, communities, and children thrive. 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.

Mission

As the Métis government in British Columbia, we represent Métis citizens and promote the rights, recognition, priorities and interests of all Métis in BC. We create opportunities for our people, communities, and children to flourish, and work to ensure access to a range of programs and services to bridge socio-economic gaps and increase overall well-being for Métis in BC.

Goals

1. Promote Métis Rights and recognition, and achieve jurisdiction of our children.
2. Promote cultural revitalization and cultural wellness.
3. Pursue socio-economic reconciliation.
4. Support Métis Chartered Communities.
5. Generate core capacity, infrastructure and economic development.
6. Develop and restore respectful relationships and partnerships.

Cultural Values

To achieve our vision and mission, we commit to upholding our Métis cultural values in our work together at MNBC, in our communities, and in all our relationships. We embrace the values of integrity, kindness, innovation, respect, teamwork, humility and resilience.



Kwayes'kwât'sowin - Integrity: We hold integrity as a core value. We are honest with ourselves, our colleagues, our communities and our partners. We are reliable and follow through on our word.



Kisîwât'sowin - Kindness: We show and practice lateral kindness in our organization and to everyone with whom we interact on behalf of MNBC. We practice *kaa-wichihitoyaahk*: we take care of each other.



Ahtisihcikêwin - Innovation: We draw on the spirit of Métis innovation and bring forward our curiosity and creativity to problem solve and develop new solutions for our people.



Manâcihitowin - Respect: we respect ourselves, others, and all Creation.



Atoskâtowin - Teamwork: We work together and actively seek opportunities to share information, collaborate on initiatives, and practice reciprocity for stronger outcomes. We embrace teamwork to achieve greater potential for success.



Tâpahtiyim'sowin - Humility: We show and practice cultural humility and cultural agility. We are open to new ideas and recognize the wisdom that surrounds us from others who carry experiences different than ours.



Sîpihkisôwin - Resilience: We are resilient and do not fear challenges or setbacks but remain courageous and learn from each step of the journey. We channel the courage of our Métis Ancestors who faced adversity and remained resilient.

BOARD REPORTS

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



President's Report

Respectfully Submitted: **WALTER MINEAULT**

It is my honour to submit my first report as President of Métis Nation British Columbia, and to hold the portfolios of Housing & Homelessness and Economic Development.

As President, I am deeply committed to representing the constitutional rights of our more than 28,000 Registered Citizens – a number that I am proud to see grow each year. My priorities include achieving self-government recognition from Canada, signing a reconciliation agreement with the Province of British Columbia, building affordable housing, advancing economic development, pursuing jurisdiction over our children in care, supporting language and cultural initiatives, and addressing the ongoing injustice of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. I am also committed to creating relationships with other Métis governments to strengthen and unify our nation.

Federally, our departure from the Métis National Council – a decision made democratically by our 39 Chartered Communities – presents challenges. But it creates a significant opportunity to establish stronger relationships with the Crown, on our own terms. Our Government and Strategic Relations team has developed a strategy for ramping up engagement with Canada to secure direct, bilateral funding agreements, and sought legal advice on the potential financial implications of leaving the MNC. Our team recently traveled to Ottawa to push for progress at the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination (RIRSD) table following a cabinet shuffle. We also advocated for ministry-specific issues – including exclusion from the federal government's School Food Program, capital funding for the Amelia Douglas Institute, and multi-year support through the Indigenous Health Equity Fund. We are ramping up engagement with the Official Opposition to ensure Métis perspectives are included in the Conservative Party of Canada's upcoming election platform, with a strategic focus on economic development to support self-determination. As a key aspect of our fight for Section 35 rights



recognition, our Tâpwêwin (truth-telling) historical and contemporary research project is expected to wrap up this spring with a presentation to the federal government. Findings are looking promising, especially in the historic northeast region.

Provincially, we continue to strengthen our relationship with the Province of British Columbia. In a significant development, our Métis Justice Strategy was endorsed by cabinet on September 20th. This is a pivotal document that will fundamentally improve our people's experiences in the justice system. In response to the Distinctions-Based Approach Primer released in December 2023 – without consultation with our nation, our GSR team led the development of a draft position paper to assert our socio-economic rights in B.C. The paper's objective is to articulate our rights across a broad range of areas, such as health, housing, education, children and families, justice and economic development. We advocated against Métis exclusion from Bill 40 – School Amendment Act by leveraging the voice of our Registered Citizens in a province-wide campaign that saw hundreds of citizens send letters to Premier Eby, Minister Singh and their local MLA. At the heart of the issue is the lack of consistent representation in the creation of Indigenous Education Councils. We are seeking endorsement by the Premier's Office of the B.C.-Métis Relations Table terms of reference, which will feature an annual Métis Summit attended by the Premier, plus meetings twice a year with key cabinet ministers. We developed a pre-budget submission to keep Métis issues top of mind during the recent provincial election. The costed submission contained financial requests for the ministries of Children & Families, Education, and Mental Health & Addictions. Our leadership also attended political fundraisers to keep Métis issues front and centre during the election period.

Our relationship with our First Nations cousins is key to our government advocacy. MNBC has increased engagement with nations across the province to address shared priorities like childcare, housing, and cultural collaboration. Examples include the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band and Penticton Indian Band in the Okanagan, Tseshah First Nation in Port Alberni, Akisqnuq First Nation in Invermere, Lheidli T'enneh in Prince George, Doig River First Nation in Smithers, Musqueam Indian Band and Tsleil-Waututh Nation in Vancouver, and the Squamish Nation. We continue to be a proud sponsor of the Songhees South Island Powwow in Victoria. I also enjoy a strong personal relationship with the Saulteau First Nation in Chetwynd.

Safe, affordable housing is fundamental to the prosperity of our Métis families. It's a priority that's



Cultural representative Alec Dan of the Musqueam First Nation provides a territorial welcome at MNBC's AGM in September 2024.

close to my heart. We're advancing developments across B.C., focusing on communities that have historically been underserved. We are also creating a comprehensive housing strategy, which will serve as a blueprint for future developments. Here is an update on our housing projects in all seven regions:

- In Region 1 – Vancouver Island, funding has been secured through BC Housing for two projects on Vancouver Island. These projects include a 55-unit building in Saanich and a 45-unit building in Campbell River, each with on-site child care and Chartered Community spaces. Rents will be set at 30 percent of household income, with adjustments made annually.
- In Region 2 – Lower Mainland, MNBC has launched its second-stage Housing Pilot Program, and will soon be providing secure, culturally-safe, temporary housing to Métis women and children fleeing gender-based violence.
- In Region 3, Thompson & Okanagan, MNBC has partnered with Lii Michif Otipemisiwak on a project that will deliver Chartered Community space, child care, and 32 units of housing.
- In Region 4 – Kootenays, MNBC is nearing completion on the rezoning of 1102 13th Street in Invermere to accommodate a 41-unit apartment building.
- In Region 5 – North Central, MNBC conducted a well-attended Métis gathering in Prince George to better understand the housing and social infrastructure needs in this community. Our team has begun the search for a property to accommodate a Métis Community Hub, which will include housing and child care.
- In Region 6 – Northwest, MNBC purchased 4.2 acres in downtown Terrace. A portion of the site is undergoing environmental remediation by the City of Terrace. MNBC will complete the purchase of the third parcel in summer 2025. A standalone child care centre is under construction, with plans to open in summer/fall 2025. The mixed-use building will include community space and 60+ units of rental housing.
- In Region 7 – Northeast, we completed the purchase of properties at 10109 and 10113 Arena Drive in Hudson's Hope. There are 16 housing units, in a mix of one and two-bedroom suites. MNBC has also secured two adjacent lots for future development. We are working closely with the River of the Peace Métis Society to ensure our people have a safe place to call home. MNBC has also completed the purchase of 109 acres in Kelly Lake. These properties will be used for cultural meeting spaces and medicinal and agricultural gardens.

Prosperity is key to a good quality of life. Our Economic Development & Tourism team is developing a comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Report aligned with MNBC's Our Way Forward goals of the nation to guide future economic initiatives. Our growing team has expanded the Métis Business Directory to over 320 registered businesses, and engaged in discussions with over 33 enterprises to strengthen the supply chain and create opportunities for Métis businesses. Working with our Ministry of Skills Training, Employment and Post Secondary (STEPS), we are developing collaboration agreements

with three post-secondary institutions to enhance procurement opportunities and workforce development for Métis youth. Regarding tourism, we successfully transitioned management of Point Ellice House, reopened the site, opened a brick-and-mortar store, and increased visitor traffic by 47 percent – contributing to cultural preservation while driving economic growth. MNBC also secured \$3.3 million in grants, which will be allocated to initiatives in health, justice, tourism and poverty reduction, and developed a procurement hub concept to support Métis businesses.

Engaging at the community level is fundamental to my role. Through October and November, I was privileged to attend the Indigenous Business Awards in Vancouver, Kelly Lake AGM in Grande Prairie, MNBC All-Staff Gathering in Fort Langley, Community Engagement session in Prince George, Remembrance Day commemoration in Vancouver, and Line Wide Gathering in Kelowna.

In partnership with all of our Chartered Community Presidents, I intend to lead Métis Nation British Columbia with integrity, loyalty and determination. Our children and grandchildren are counting on us to advance our rights here in B.C. We are on this journey together, united by a common vision.

Vice-President's Report

Respectfully Submitted: **MELANIE ALLARD**

Taanishi, I am honoured to serve our Nation as Vice-President of Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC). I was elected September 7, 2024, and sworn in at the Annual General meeting that took place September 20-22, 2024.

After the 2024 AGM we had our first Board meeting on September 22, 2024, exciting times for our Métis citizens. There was big news that Saskatchewan had just left the Métis National council. The Métis National Council called for an Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Edmonton AB held between October 29-31, 2024. MNBC attended the AGA with hopes to gain equality votes for our Métis citizens of BC, unfortunately negotiations did not go well for MNBC, and we walked away from the AGA wanting to gather the voices of our 39 Charter Community leaders for our next steps forward as a Nation. We held a special townhall information session for Presidents and leaders regarding our future with MNC on November 25, 2024, giving opportunity for our Charter Community leaders to ask questions and gather information for a future discussion at the Winter 2024 MNGA: should we as a Nation stay with MNC, or stand alone and start negotiating Federally and Provincially only for MNBC and our own citizens in BC. The MNGA voted to leave the MNC. Since that decision was made by our Charter Community leaders this board has come together with the staff of MNBC and has started strategically planning and lobbying at the Federal and Provincial level immediately to ensure that we continue to push all our citizens needs foreword as a stand-alone Nation representing the citizens of British Columbia. We are stronger together; we are on a path to continue to push for our section 35 rights to gain Indigenous Governing Body status for MNBC citizens.

I hold the portfolios of Digital Government and Associate Minister of Elders. I sit on many Committees as Vice President having input in all our nations discussions.

- Executive Committee Weekly
- Board meetings monthly.



- Technical briefings monthly
- Governance and Policy Committee monthly
- Strategic Relations and Initiatives Committee monthly
- Credit Union Exploratory Committee monthly.
- Amelia Douglas Institute Quarterly
- Presidential Task Force on Economic Development Committee monthly
- People and Cultural Committee monthly
- Finance and Audit Committee monthly.
- Awards and Recognition Committee monthly
- Digital Government Ministry meetings monthly
- Elders Ministry meetings monthly

Some events I have attended in the brief time since taking office just 3 months from the time of this report:

- On October 16, 2024 I had the opportunity to speak at the opening of Gathering our Voices Indigenous Language conference sponsored by Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Language.
- Attended Kamloops Two Rivers AGM October 21, 2024.
- I had the honour to chair the Kelowna AGM on October 26, 2024, Congratulations to all the leaders!
- Attended the MNC AGA meeting October 29-31, 2024, in Edmonton
- Attended Tk'emlups Indigenous Veteran's Day November 8, 2024
- 2024 Line Wide Gathering Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee-TMX in Kelowna



November 12-15, 2024

- SOSMA grand opening in Penticton Nov 17,2024
- Board retreat, Board coaching Day 1 with Jocelyne Hamel, Day 2 Lateral Violence, Leading with Kindness with Shannon Beauchamp Day 3 Board meeting. Nov 19-21, 2024
- Virtual Town Hall for Presidents regarding MNC Nov 25,2024
- Virtual MNGA Nov 30 -Dec 1, 2024
- LMO Elders and Kitchen Party LMO December 9,2024.
- HCA Grad Potluck at the STEPS office in -Kamloops BC December 13,2024. Then off to an evening with Two Rivers Métis Christmas Dinner community event December 13,2024.
- Lobby days in Ottawa, tour of the parliament building and opportunity to attend the live questions sessions. December 15-19, 2024.

Upcoming important dates:

- 2024- BC Reconciliation Awards Recognition Awards Ceremony January 23, 2025
- Lobby days in Victoria February 24-28, 2025

I look forward to attending more events in the communities across the province, if you send me an invite, I will do my best to attend. Please reach out to me if you have questions concerns, I will do my absolute best to answer what I can, take forward your concerns and work with every citizen, I look foreword to connecting with you and your community. I would like to thank every citizen, president, community leader, elder, youth, child, staff members and fellow board members, we are stronger together, we must continue move forward united to make change for all Métis people in British Columbia. I am excited, humbled and honoured to be serving on the board as the Vice President of MNBC for the next 4 years and all that we will accomplish for Métis!



Region 1 Director Report

Respectfully Submitted: **PATRICK HARRIOTT**

I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve the MNBC Citizens in Region 1 for a second term! I am optimistic about the work we are setting out to accomplish this year, at the same time as I recognize there are pressing challenges we collectively face. I hope this report will help highlight some of the issues from both of those perspectives.

REGION 1:

Firstly, I must congratulate the Alberni-Clayoquot Métis Community for all the good work they have been doing. Their relationship-building with the Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations, and School District 70, has been nothing short of exceptional. I had the honour of delivering some remarks on behalf of MNBC at the groundbreaking of the new Métis-lead childcare construction. Alberni-Clayoquot leadership has also been working hard in the creation of what will be the first Métis-led health clinic in BC. I hold my hands up to all the volunteers that have helped with the renovations!

I am also pleased to report that both the Campbell River and Saanich housing projects have received confirmed funding! These projects will also include childcare and Métis Community offices. As we continue to build the housing and infrastructure across BC, I am keeping the pressure up by bringing new opportunities for all Region 1 communities to the MNBC Board for consideration. The unfortunate reality is we have limited dollars per year, and a vast province in which to balance the much-needed investments in our Communities. I have also been speaking loudly that good opportunities in Region 1 should be evaluated on their long-term merits for MNBC Citizens and Communities – whether or not they are completely balanced across the province!

It is worth bringing attention to the impact of the Bill 40 School Act amendments. Combined with the so-called 'Distinction-Based Approach' (DBA) to Indigenous peoples, created unilaterally by the BC Government and rejected by MNBC, it has created lack of clarity



across School Districts. While some of our Communities have signed excellent Métis Education Agreements with their School Districts, some of our Communities have even been told that they are no longer welcome at the table. It goes without saying that this is unacceptable. Not only has MNBC been in productive conversations with Premier Eby about the misapplication of the DBA to the social sector, but we have also been specifically engaging with the office of the BC Minister of Education to correct this. This is not about land, air, or water. This is about our Métis students seeing themselves reflected in their learning environment and achieving equitable graduation rates to non-Indigenous students!

Preparations for the 2025 Vancouver Island Métis Rendezvous are underway! This year it will be on August 15th and 16th at the same Cowichan Exhibition Park just North of Duncan. The evening of Friday the 15th will be a Métis Kitchen Party, with Saturday the 16th being a full day of culture, presenters, music, food, vendors, workshops, games and more. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

I am honored to now be entrusted with the MNBC Justice portfolio. Our Métis Justice Strategy (MJS) was passed by the BC Cabinet last year and has been included in the mandate letter from Premier Eby to Attorney General Nikki Sharma. As I write this, I have a meeting scheduled with Minister Sharma at the end of January to discuss the MNBC implementation of the MJS in partnership with BC.

While each of the 12 recommendations are important, I am most eager to see the work start on issues of Missing and Murdered Women and Girls, Youth, Elders, Data, and Restorative Justice.

For the full Métis Justice Strategy please visit <https://www.mnbc.ca/MNBC-Justice-Strategy>.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF MÉTIS RIGHTS:

As our second year of historic research is concluding, I am pleased to say that it is looking very strong. There is no doubt in my mind that our historical presence in the North East of what is now British Columbia is a fact. Many people forget that North East BC, and the Peace River Valley, are part of the Great Plains and East of the Rocky Mountains. The history of that area is strongly tied to the rest of our interrelated kinship network in Lac Ste. Anne and the rest of the Historic North West.

I have also been advocating for an examination and assertion of the non-site-specific collective rights of Métis people. It has been a source of tension with First Nations across British Columbia when we talk about Métis Rights. It is assumed that we are looking to claim land, air, and water rights in their territories across this province, which has created an animosity in our relationship. I can say that their unease is not unfounded. Unfortunately, the perspective of some past MNBC leadership, and some current 'clubs' who say that are advocating for Métis people, is that they have spoken publicly in favour of those assertions.

I am promoting the inclusion of a firm but respectful *Tâpwêwin* (Truth-telling) approach to our rights. There is no doubt that we are one of the three Indigenous Peoples of Canada, with a fiduciary relationship with the Crown. That relationship and responsibility from the Crown includes social-sector

principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. For example: the principles of self-determination, achieving the highest attainable health outcomes, cultural revitalization, keeping our families intact, and being free from racism and discrimination. These are all things that are part of the minimum standard of rights of all Indigenous people no matter where they are located.

MINISTER OF CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND LANGUAGE:

The Culture, Heritage, and Language (CHL) team has been busy! They have been continuing to provide administrative support to the Amelia Douglas Institute, while also continuing to create language resources and support our artist community.

Interviews and documentation of language speakers is continuing in all 3 Michif dialects and Michif Community language grants are again being offered.

The CHL team is creating Métis-specific training to better educate BC government employees on our rich history and culture.

Our workshop series is continuing to provide learning opportunities for our artists across the province with the current one being the creation of 'tuppies' (traditional beaded dog blankets).

I am constantly impressed with how the CHL team is able to provide such culturally enriching opportunities with the small team they have. More to come!

Maarsii!

Region 2 Director Report

Respectfully Submitted: **ALLAN LAVALLEE**

From September to December 2024, I attended the following conferences, meetings, and Citizen Representation events, via zoom and in person

- September 12, 2024 - Election recount in person attendance in Victoria
- September 18-20: Orientation to MNBC
- September 20-22: MNBC Annual General Meeting
- September 13-15: Volunteer at Langley Events Centre for the Stalew Pow Wow representing, Métis Citizens September
- September: Gathering Our Voices
- September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 27, and November 4: Ministry of Family & Children via zoom
- Meeting to resolve access issues October 3
- Meeting to resolve access issues October 3
- Language Gathering October 16
- Elders October 16, November 5, December 4 via zoom
- Surry Delta Veterans Sashing November 8
- Board of Directors Meeting - September 22, 26, October 11, 15, 18, November 8, 12, December 6, 9
- Region 2 Welcome Connect October 17
- AGM Surrey Delta October 19
- Expert Panel Meeting October 25
- Golden Ears Dinner October 26
- MNCAGA October 29-November 1
- Kitchen Party November 4
- Jocelyne Hamel Meeting November 4
- North Fraser NFMA Meeting November 5
- Finance & Audit Committee November 7
- Remembrance Day Fort Langley November 11
- Amelia Douglas AGM November 14



- Senate Hearing November 15 regarding 2024 MNBC Election: This appeal was withdrawn by the Applicant.
- Board Retreat November 19-22
- FVMA Christmas Luncheon December 15
- NFMA Christmas Party December 21

Attended Elder luncheons for Surrey Delta, Waceya and Métis Services in Surrey

Please note: this does not include the many phone calls I receive at all times of the day & night regarding numerous topics. Inquiries included: wait times, required information, who to contact, general Citizenship issues and people looking for assistance with the Citizenship process.

During my ongoing computer learning curve I have spent many days and phone calls with the Board Coordinator and IT at MNBC setting up and working through various computer issues and glitches.

Region 3 Director Report

Respectfully Submitted: **DEAN GLADUE**

Tansi to all attending the Spring 2025 Virtual MNGA.

A lot has happened since our last MNGA. MNBC election 2024 took place and congratulations to all who stepped up to run for a position and were elected. Many positions were very close, and democracy is alive and well at Métis Nation BC. I'm very excited to once again represent Region 3 for the next 4 years. Thank you to all who turned out and voted for all candidates.

This has been a busy few months for our new MNBC Board of Directors. This new MNBC Board of Directors have been tasked with a real challenge, as our Métis Rights (Section 35) are being ignored by both Federal and Provincial Governments. Another major hurdle will be to develop stronger relationships with our First Nations cousins throughout BC. We also withdrew our membership with our national organization, Métis National Council which holds a new set a challenges.

As the MNBC Region 3 Director, I have many responsibilities at the National, Provincial, Regional and Community levels, and these responsibilities come with many sacrifices and time management. I take my role as region 3 Director very seriously, as important decisions are made at the Board-level that impact our Métis Nation at all levels of government and leadership.

These are my current duties and responsibilities with Métis Nation BC.

- Region 3 Director (Thompson/Okanagan): This also includes attending numerous Board of Directors meetings throughout the year and assisting eight local Chartered Communities within my region. I attend various meetings/events when invited to do so if time permits with my schedule. I also take calls and emails from many MNBC citizens throughout Region 3 and ensure they are heard and directed to the proper department for guidance and direction.
- I have the following MNBC Ministry portfolios: Minister of Métis Rights, Minister of Sports and Active Living, Associate



Minister of Justice, and Associate Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

- I currently sit on the following MNBC Committees: Strategic Relations and Initiatives Committee, Métis Business Committee, Credit Union Exploratory Committee and Interior Health Table (MILT).
- Chair of the Region 3 Regional Governance Council.

Here are some highlights and activities I participated in throughout the year from our last MNBC MNGA in Vancouver BC.

September 2024:

- MNBC Board of Directors meeting and orientation with new MNBC Board.
- MNBC AGM - Vancouver BC
- Meeting with MNBC Intergovernmental Department.
- Travel to Abbotsford for the Annual Terry Fox Run for Cancer
- 1st Annual MNBC Gold Tournament in Surrey BC
- Regional Governance Council (RGC) meeting



October 2024:

- Meeting with Ministry of Economic Development Tourism and Partnership Development.
- MNBC Justice Council meeting
- Meeting with MNBC Senior Director of Sports and Active Living.
- MNBC Board meeting.
- Travel to Kelowna and participated in the National Métis Early Years Conference.
- Travel to Vancouver and participated in the Indigenous Business Awards.
- Meeting with Strategic Relations and Initiatives Committee
- Board of Directors Technical Briefing.
- Presented to the Federal Provincial Territorial Justice and Public Safety National Conference held in Yellowknife, NWT via TEAMS.
- Meeting with Nicola Valley Métis President.
- MNGA Special meeting.

- Credit Union Exploratory Committee meeting
- Travel to Edmonton, Alberta to meet with the MNC Governance Assembly.

November 2024:

- MNBC Board meeting
- Meeting with MNBC Senior Director of Community Services
- Travel to Kelowna for the grand opening of The After School Métis Daycare Program
- Meeting with MNBC Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism.
- Meeting with MNBC Ministry of Métis Rights.
- Meeting with MNBC Senior Director and Manager of Sports and Active Living.
- Meeting with MNBC Ministry of Justice Department
- Regional Governance Council (RGC) meeting.
- Special meeting regarding BCMF.
- Board of Directors Technical Briefing
- Participated in the National Aboriginal Veterans Day.
- Travelled to Penticton and witnessed the South Okanagan Grand Opening Métis Center.
- Travelled to Princeton BC for the Louis Riel Dinner celebrations.
- Travelled to Harrison Hot Springs for the MNBC Board of Directors retreat.
- Travelled to Grande Prairie, Alberta for the signing of a new Métis Community. Kelly Lake Métis Settlement.
- Meeting with Moccasin Flats Métis Society in Chetwynd BC in regard to Métis Rights.
- Special MNBC MNGA regarding MNC.

December 2024:

- Meeting with Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism.
- MNBC Board of director meeting
- Two-day MNBC MNGA virtual meeting
- Travel to Vernon for the Vernon Métis Association Christmas Dinner.
- Meeting with Ministry of Sports and Active Living.
- Meeting with MNBC Ministry of Justice
- Meeting with MNBC Ministry of Rights.
- Meeting with MNBC Strategic Relations and Initiative Committee.

- Travelled to Ottawa and met with various Federal Government stakeholders
- Christmas break from December 20th to January 6th., 2025

January 2025:

- Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council meeting regarding the U18 National Male and Female Hockey Championship, in Kamloops BC., May 2025.
- Meeting MNBC CEO
- MNBC Board of Director meeting at MNBC H.Q. in Surrey
- Meeting with Interior Health Leadership Table
- Meeting with MNBC Justice Committee
- Meeting with research project scoping for Métis Rights in BC
- MNBC In-Camera Special Cabinet meeting
- Meeting with MNBC Strategic Relations and Initiative Committee.
- Meeting with new staff members with Ministry of Sports and Active Living
- Travelled to Helsinki, Finland for the U18 Women's World Hockey Championship. Supported MNBC Citizen who played in this prestigious hockey tournament.

I continue to keep very busy year as the MNBC Region 3 Director. It should also be noted that I continue to receive many calls and emails from numerous MNBC Citizens throughout BC. I also committed to several in-person discussions that relate to Métis issues and concerns; also known as "kitchen table talk".

LONG LIVE THE MÉTIS!



Region 4 Director Report

Respectfully Submitted: **DEBRA FISHER**

Minister of Children and Families, Minister of Education (Early Years and K-12)

Appointed: MNBC Executive, Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Children & Family Service Society, Finance and Audit Committee, Awards & Recognition Committee, Social Infrastructure Development Committee (SIDC)

As the Regional Director for Region 4 (Kootenays) my efforts over the past months have been centered as always supporting our Métis citizens and communities. I prioritized advancing housing and childcare projects, such as the Columbia Valley Métis Housing Project in Invermere, and advocating for the Rocky Mountain Métis housing and childcare application in Cranbrook. I attended critical AGMs with Métis Nation Columbia River, Golden, Columbia Valley Métis, Invermere, Rocky Mountain Métis, Cranbrook and West Kootenay Métis, Nelson (Virtual). I attended community events, and ceremonies, including the Louis Riel Flag Raising Ceremony in Trail with Kootenay South Métis, Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Children and Family Service Society, fostering relationships and addressing community needs.

Notable achievements include attending the Early Years Conference in Kelowna and Cranbrook, the grand opening of the Kelowna Métis After School Program, the groundbreaking for a new Child Care Center in Terrace and finally the historic milestone, the first standalone Métis Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in Canada! Much work and collaboration has been happening behind the scenes in Children and Families. Regular discussions are being held with our senior staff and ministry leads. The Minister for Children & Family Development has agreed to meet with our department regularly on a quarterly basis, Minister to Minister, which has never happened before. Our incredible small but mighty team in Children and Families are laying the foundations and laws to bring our children home. All this work is near and dear to my heart, and I am very hopeful for huge achievements this coming year. None of this



would be happening without our super stars, our Métis Nation BC staff working hard to bring our mandates to fruition!

The growing need for support in areas such as housing, medical travel, and food security, especially among our Elders, remains a pressing concern. I am committed to ensuring that our values of Kaa-Wiichitotoyaahk “We take care of each other” continues to guide our actions and bring meaningful solutions to Region 4 and across this province.

I remember a story about my Grampa Joe, going into town to Meadow Lake with his horse and wagon to get supplies. The story goes that he had received an unexpected cheque for serving in WWI. With it, he bought a wagon full of flour, sugar, and other staples. On his way home, he stopped at the homes of friends, neighbors, and family, delivering supplies to each of them. By the time he got home, there was little left. When asked why he gave away so much, he said, “They were there for us when we needed it—it’s only right to repay the favor.”

This act of selflessness by both sides is a profound example of my Métis teaching to “give more than you take.” It’s a lesson that still resonates in today’s world. We all have more than someone else and sharing what we have brings warmth to our heart and brings something money can never buy.



September 2024

- 07 Métis Nation BC Election
- 17 Travel to Vancouver
- 18 Board Orientation
Pre-meeting with Intergovernmental Team
– Minister Sudds, School Food Program
- 19 Board Orientation
Meeting with Minister Sudds
Debrief with Intergovernmental Team
Region 4 Regional Governance Council (in person)



- 20–22 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
MNBC Board of Directors – 1st Official & In-Camera Meetings
Travel to Edmonton
- 23 Travel from Edmonton to Saint Walburg
- 24 Ministry of Education – Executive Director Update (MNC)
Ministry of Children and Families – Executive Director Update (MNC)
- 25 Ministry of Children and Families – Minister Update
- 26 Ministry of Education – Groundbreaking Plan
MNBC Board of Directors Meeting

October 2024

- 1 Travel from Saint Walburg to Calgary
- 2 Ministry of Education – Executive Director Update
Ministry of Children and Families – Executive Director Update
MNBC Executive Committee
- 3 Social Infrastructure Development Committee (SIDC)
Travel from Calgary to Kelowna
- 4–5 Métis Early Years Conference (Kelowna)
- 7 Travel from Kelowna to Terrace
- 8 Groundbreaking for Child Care Center (Terrace)
Travel from Terrace to Vancouver, then to
Calgary
- 9 Ministry of Education – Executive Director
Update
Ministry of Children and Families –
Executive Director Update
Travel from Calgary to Invermere
Columbia Valley Métis Housing Project
Design Meeting
- 11 MNBC Board of Directors – Technical
Briefing
- 14 Travel from Invermere to Cranbrook, then to
Vancouver



- 15 MNBC Board of Directors – Monthly Meeting & In-Camera Session
- 16 Travel from Vancouver to Cranbrook to Invermere
MOHH/MOE Cross-Ministry Update
Children and Families – Executive Director Update
MNBC Executive Committee
MNGA Information Session
- 17 Finance and Audit Committee
- 18 Travel from Invermere to Cranbrook
- 19 “Métis Alive” Early Years Conference (Saint Eugene’s Resort)
Travel from Cranbrook to Invermere
- 20 Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly (Virtual)
- 23 MNBC Executive Committee
Columbia Valley Métis Housing Project Update & Design
- 25 MNBC Ministry of Education and BCCPAC Meeting
AGA Executive Strategy
MNBC Board of Directors and Expert Panel
- 29 Travel from Invermere to Edmonton
- 30 Métis National Council (MNC) – Annual General Assembly (AGA)
- 31 Travel to Métis Crossing

November 2024

- 1 Travel from Edmonton to Invermere
- 4 Travel from Invermere to Kelowna
- 5 Social Infrastructure Development Committee (SIDC)
Grand Opening of MCSSBC Kelowna Métis After School Program & Center



- 6 Travel from Kelowna to Invermere
Ministry of Education – Executive Director Update
Ministry of Children and Families – Executive Director Update
- 7 MNBC Finance and Audit Committee
- 8 Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Children and Families
Board of Directors Meeting
MNBC Board of Directors Technical Briefing
- 11 Columbia Valley Métis Remembrance Day
Procession
- 12 MNBC Board of Directors – Monthly
Meeting & In-Camera Session
- 14 Travel from Invermere to Trail
- 15 Kootenay South, Louis Riel Flag Raising
Ceremony
Travel from Trail to Invermere
- 16 Travel from Invermere to Golden
Attend Métis Nation Columbia River Society
AGM
Travel back to Invermere
- 17 Columbia Valley Métis Association AGM &
Kitchen Party
- 18 Travel Invermere to Harrison Hot Springs
- 19 MNBC BOD Retreat, Planning & Training
- 20 MNBC BOD Retreat, Planning & Training
- 21 MNBC BOD Retreat, Planning & Training
Introductory Call with Minster Beare
(Minister of Education & Child Care)
MNBC Intergovernmental Team Debrief
Region 4 (Kootenay) Regional Governance
Council
- 22 MNBC BOD, Planning & Training
Travel Harrison to Kamloops
- 23 Travel Kamloops to Invermere
- 25 Métis Nation Governing Assembly -Briefing on Métis Nation Council



- 26 Travel Invermere to Cranbrook
Rocky Mountain Métis AGM
Travel Cranbrook to Invermere
- 27 Ministry of Education - Executive Director Update
Ministry of Children and Family- Executive Director Update
BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)- Intro to incoming CEO
MNBC Executive Committee
Regional Director Staff Support
- 28 Ministry of Education- Executive Director Update
- 30 Métis Nation BC General Assembly (Virtual)



December 2024

- 3 Social Infrastructure Development Committee (SIDC)
- 4 Ministry of Education-Executive Director Update: Minister Lore
Travel Invermere to Calgary to Vancouver
- 5 Ceremonial Signing- 1st stand-alone Métis Indigenous Early Learning & Child Care Agreement in Canada
Travel Vancouver to Calgary to Invermere
- 6 School District 67/ MNBC Ministry of Education touch base
MNBC Board of Directors Technical Briefing
- 9 MNBC Board of Directors – Monthly
MNBC Board of Directors- In Camera
- 11 Ministry of Education- Executive Director Update
MNBC Executive Committee
Regional Director-Staff Support
- 12 Ministry of Education- Executive Director Update
MNBC Minister Wickens (Minister of Children & Families)
- 13 Travel Invermere to Cranbrook
Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Children & Family Children's Christmas Party

- 16 Regional Director-Staff Support
Ministry of Children and Family- Executive Director Update
- 18 Ministry of Education- Executive Director Update

January 2025

- 8 MNBC Executive Committee
- 9 Social Infrastructure Development
Committee (SIDC)
Ministry of Children and Family- Executive
Director Briefing
- 14 MNBC Awards Committee
Social Infrastructure Development
Committee (SIDC)
- 15 MOHH/ MOE Cross-Ministry Update
MNBC Executive Committee



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 2025.

Our Métis Nation British Columbia AGM was held in Vancouver September 20-23, 2024. Once the swearing in of the new board and regional Women and Youth positions our 2024-2028 work began/continues.

I am honored and excited to represent the Northwest Region in what will be my 4th term as Regional Director. With your continued support and trust I know that I still have work to do. Our board for this next term has all committed to continue working for you the citizens of Métis Nation British Columbia. I will continue to strive to be your voice for the Northwest. I look forward to continuing to advocate and network every day for our nation, we still have much work to do.

We in the region were very saddened to hear about the passing of Elder Ron Snider. Ron passed away in Terrace on January 13th. Ron and his wife Belva were active community members before health issues prevented them from volunteering as much as they wanted too. Ron was also our Northwest Region senator for 9 years from 2007-2016; he was also the Northwest Métis Association community veteran. Senator emeritus Ron Snider was one of the original senators. He was the Senator originally dedicated to MNBC Veterans being a Korean war vet with the Queens Own Rifles of Canada. The Northwest Métis community hosted a gathering for Ron on January 18th at the community office in Terrace.

The MNBC Bi election was held January 5th and I am happy to announce Jocelyn Foidart as our new Regional Women's representative. Welcome Jocelyn. Our regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ position remains vacant. Louis De Jaeger, our newly elected provincial Chair, has committed to working with us on filling this position.

This term I am happy to have been reassigned to the ministries of Environment and Climate Change, Citizenship and have been given



an Associate Ministry of Health and Wellness. (My health focus will be on the Northern Health Region). The ministry of Community Services is undergoing a few changes. 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, Health & Wellness by Tanya Davoren. I look forward to working with Tanya Davoren and her team once again. (I held the Ministry of Health 2016-2020) These reports highlight all the work and continued endeavors of these Ministries. I am grateful for all the staff that I get to work with and am fortunate to work with some of the best. I would like to thank all the staff of MNBC for their hard work and dedication, which is evident in the great things that are happening for the Citizens of MNBC.

This term I sit on many committees along with my fellow board members. Other positions I have in my region are with School District #54 Indigenous Education Council, the Dze I K'ant Friendship Centre board member. I have the honor on being the Métis advisor for Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and have held this position for the last several years.

I am very grateful for all the work the volunteer boards of Tri River Métis community; Northwest 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. I am looking forward to being part of all three communities. Each community puts in many volunteer hours planning and organizing all sorts of exciting events, with many events yet to come. One of the highlights in community this fall was Tri River's Stone Soup event where we also celebrated Elder Roger Hayden's 90th birthday,

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**

Minister of Skills, Training, Employment and Post-Secondary

SEPTEMBER 2024

First, I want to thank all the citizens of Region 7 for electing me for another four year term. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve MNBC and its citizens. Please feel free to bring ideas and concerns to me so that I can advocate on your behalf. Leadership is all about teamwork and I consider our citizens a part of my team.

The Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) and the Fort St. John Métis Society broke ground on a new childcare facility on Thursday, September 5th. The new facility will sit next door to MNBC offices and their Skills Training Employment and Post Secondary (STEPS) Centre, located at 9409 99th Avenue in Fort St. John. This state-of-the-art facility is a welcome addition to the Fort St John area where childcare is needed. The daycare will be offered for free the first year and then will become a ten dollar a day facility. This facility will offer culturally services and will be a wonderful employment opportunity for Métis citizens.

I attended the AGM as well as the Métis Financial Corporation (MFCBC) meetings in Vancouver from September 18-22nd where we were sworn in and celebrated our successes over the years. The MFCBC continues to inspire me with the First time Homeowners Program and helping Métis entrepreneurs across BC and I value the work that I am doing.

OCTOBER 2024

Started my new board portfolios work this month I have been assigned

- Credit Union Exploratory Committee
- Environment Advisory Committee
- Métis Business Advisory Committee



- People and Culture Committee
- Presidential Task Force on Economic Development
- Strategic Relations and Initiatives Committee

I attended the MNBC board meeting and the MNGA on October 20, as well as meetings with the Financial Corporation and a three-day meeting with ICBC. I also attended a BC Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food meeting where it is planning a huge gathering in March 2025. My work on the council is a joy and it is my desire to help advocate and support more Métis owned food businesses.



NOVEMBER

Met with Northern Health Leadership along with our Minister of Health Carmen Carriere and Region 6 Director Susie Hooper along with MNBC health staff to discuss better services for our Métis people living in Northern BC. The Métis Nation BC-Northern Health Métis Health and Wellness Plan is a document that outlines the work underway as well as work that needs to happen towards a healthcare system that provides a safer and equitable care for Métis people.

I had an advisory meeting for the Credit Union Exploratory committee and my first meeting with STEPS for this new term. Travelled to Kelowna for a two-day meeting for the Métis Financial Corporation.

Attended a three-day board retreat in Harrison Hot springs from November 19-21st where we engaged in lateral kindness and coaching training. We also had a day long discussion on MNC and the path forward for MNBC.

DECEMBER

Was super excited for an in person RGC hosted at the Pomeroy Hotel in Fort St John on December 7th. All chartered communities in the region committed to attending, however a winter ice storm happened



and the community members were unable to travel safely. Since we couldn't cancel the food, we invited board members from the FSJ Charter, Elders and MNBC staff to attend. A lovely meal and visiting were had by all and each person received a medicine bag with the MNBC logo imprinted on it filled with cultural medicines.

Attended a three day from December 10-13th workshop at Cowichan First Nations for the Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food. Then travelled to Kelowna for a Board meeting with the Financial Corporation from December 15th-18th.

On my Ministry of STEPS portfolio, I am pleased to report that 2,198 total citizens were funded this fiscal year between April to December for their post-secondary education and other skills training requests. Between August to December 2024, 462 citizens received \$5,882,336 in funding.

Specifically, there were 411 funded requests for post-secondary education (from certificate to graduate level programs), 44 for trade foundation or apprenticeship training, 169 for short tickets, along with 5 wage subsidies, 4 paid practicums and 14 emergency support requests.



Citizens Served Per Region April to December 2024

Region 1: 427 Region 2: 546 Region 3: 424 Region 4: 217

Region 5: 204 Region 6: 145 Region 7: 205

Christmas holidays from December 20 to January 6.

Please feel free to reach out to me at pflamond@mnbc.ca or by phone 250-793-0069. I wish you all the best for 2025 and let's make our Nation great!

2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson Report

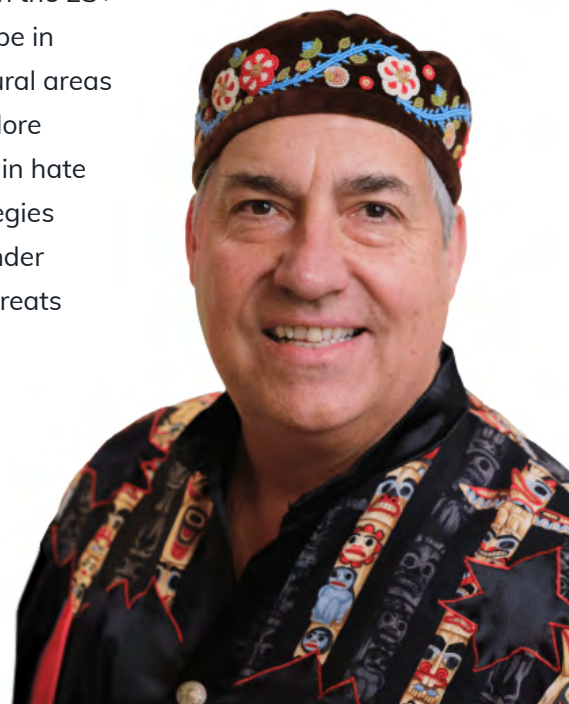
Respectfully Submitted: **LOUIS MAURICE DE JAEGER, MBA**

Minister of Economic Development
Associate Minister of Health

Ey sweyel, Tansi and Bonjour,

It is an honour to be serving the Citizens of Métis Nation BC once again in this new role as 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chair and am grateful to take on the challenges ahead. In the first few days after the election, I met with MNBC's Women's Chair, Carmen Carriere and Youth Chair, Danielle Bergevin. For the past 4 years, the three of us have all worked closely together in Region 2 and have committed to working closely and co-operatively again moving forward as we build and re-build our Ministries. Our first meeting focused on the need to secure funding and setting our sights on future fundraising, planning events and of course networking and launching the Women of BC's social enterprise!

There are several seats on the 2S+ Council that remain vacant so some outreach will have to be done in those areas. That will be an agenda item when the 2S+ Council meets to set out priorities and the work ahead. My focus will be in strengthening partnerships with 2S+ groups already established in rural areas and helping connect them with MNBC communities. We will also explore how best to assist students and their families impacted by the uptick in hate speech. Our K-12 team needs resources for the development of strategies specifically tailored to Métis families. Our Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, K-12 and health need to be working together on those very threats that our children face on a day-to-day basis. Working closely with Trans Care BC will help us with logistics and training. Partnering with the AFN Council for Two-Spirit affairs and making sure our Justice Strategy is inclusive of 2SLGBTQQIA+ supports are all great beginning points for us.



We have asked for your support to include us in MNBC's Governance Council and MNBC's Electoral Committee to further help us integrate and participate on emerging issues.

I have accepted the appointment as Minister of Economic Development and work closely with our Métis Financial Corporation. I have also accepted the appointment of Associate Minister of Health, concentrating mainly on our Fraser Salish Health Accord. I have years of experience on these files and will continue to advocate and advance the concerns of Métis citizens and families as well as building out opportunities for our Métis businesses and entrepreneurs.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve our Nation once again.

MWBC Chairperson Report

Respectfully Submitted: **CARMEN CARRIERE**

Minister of Health and Wellness

Taanishi MNBC citizens,

It has been quite the learning curve since the swearing in of the new board at the September 2024 AGM. It has been an honour to serve the Nation thus far, but in many ways, I am still learning the lay of the land as I read through documents and try to educate myself. What has been clear to me in the few short months on the MNBC board is the passion and dedication that the other board members and staff have for advancing the rights of our people. It is sometimes messy work but good work nonetheless as we learn to focus together and dream of the path forward.

This work has included a board orientation with both governance and technical education. It has been overwhelming at times as there is much to learn but what I am seeing is that there are good structures in place to guide the work of the Nation. The board was also involved in a board retreat where we had an intense session on lateral kindness and lateral violence, which has helped to inform our work as a team and how we move in relationship with our citizens. What has been impressed upon me is my own personal commitment to keep working with these important ways of being and moving forward in a good way.

Since being elected to the board, we found ourselves immediately managing some difficult politics. We attended the Métis National Council (MNC) Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Edmonton in October where we advocated for more equitable representation. With the result not being what we had hoped for from the two remaining governing members, the MNBC board made the tough decision to pull out of the AGA. The subsequent politics around our relationship with the MNC was a challenge, but the decision on our relationship with the MNC was taken to our citizens at the December MNGA. The board supports the will of our Nation and is working hard to continue to build the political and social relationships necessary to support our citizens.

To finish off the year, several board members participated in a lobby trip to Ottawa in mid-December. While some meetings were cancelled due to the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister, we were able to advocate with federal counterparts prior to the House being dismissed for the holiday break.



MWBC

As the newly elected Chair of the MWBC, it has been a time of refocusing and rebuilding. As all the former council members did not return, we have lost some of the history and expertise that was currently at the table. However, the new council members bring equally strong gifts and talents to the table, and I look forward to seeing how we can utilize these skill sets moving forward. Unfortunately, the September election saw several vacant seats, but I am happy to report that we are now only one seat short from having a full council. We are hoping that there will be representation from Region 5 to join in on our work in the weeks ahead. To date, the council has met twice formally and has had several informal conversations regarding the MWBC's wishes for the MNC and the MNGA.

The new council, furthermore, is committed to the MWBC strategic plan and to updating it where necessary. Now that we almost have a full council, we hope to do this by strategizing as a group first, and then consulting with our communities through the regional and community women's representatives. We are, however, quite under-resourced, and this is proving to be a barrier to actualizing our goals. We are looking forward to working with MOWGE staff to see how we can actualize our strategic plan, and to exploring where we might find ways of advocating for the needed supports with both government and in communities.

Looking forward, in the coming weeks and months, the MWBC is hoping to host an online townhall so our citizens can meet their elected representatives and get to know who we are. We would also like to hear from our citizens as to what their priorities and needs are.

The MWBC is also looking forward to updating and building more robust governance structures in cooperation with the MYBC and the new 2S+ council. We intend to work to support and build cooperative working relationships with both councils on our shared intersectional issues, while finding avenues to advocate for and support our citizens.

Ministry of Health of Health and Wellness

The MOHW is a huge and mighty ministry with many priorities on the go, including working with the provincial health authorities. Deputy Minister Susie Hooper and I have met several times with MOHW staff and are learning to better understand the priorities and policies.

Work has continued with Fraser Health since the signing of the Fraser Salish Health Accord. I have attended several meetings with the Feedback and Accountability Committee as well as with the Indigenous Health Collaborative Council. Minister Hooper, Minister Flamond, MOHW staff and I also hosted the Northern Health Authority at the MNBC headquarters in November, where we were able to discuss priorities and provide a tour of the Amelia Douglas Institute.

Given the *Taanishi Kiiya – Métis Public Health and Surveillance Program – Baseline Report, 2021*, outlines many of the health needs of our Métis citizens, I am committed to working with staff and our partner health authorities to see how we can best utilize and actualize the priorities set out in this report published in conjunction with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer.

Committee Work

After being sworn in, I was appointed to the Governance and Policy Committee, the People and Culture Committee and the former 2SLGBTQQIA+ Committee. The committee work has required regular monthly meetings and ongoing work regarding updating the policy and governance work of the Nation. There is now no longer a need for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ committee as the new 2S+ council will soon be sworn in.

While this is just a summary of the work done thus far, please do reach out should you have further questions.

MYBC Chairperson Report

Respectfully Submitted: **DANIELLE BERGEVIN**

Taanishi!

It has been a whirlwind since being elected in September. Over the first few months of this position, I have focused on settling into the role and grounding myself in the responsibilities as MYBC Chair, Minister of Youth, and Minister of Mental Health and Harm Reduction. I have also been appointed to the MNBC Governance and Policy Committee, and the Awards and Recognition Committee.

At the end of October, prior to the MNC AGA, I attended an in-person meeting with the MNC Youth Council. Earlier in October, I was honoured to participate in the Special MNGA, marking my first MNGA as Provincial Youth Chair. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the December MNGA as I was overseas celebrating my wedding. However, I am grateful that Jayden Rogers, the MYBC Vice-Chair, was able to represent MYBC in my absence.

Métis Youth British Columbia - MYBC

Since the election, our council has been focused on filling the vacant MYBC seats, and I am optimistic that we will soon have a full council with Representatives from each Region. While the onboarding process for current members is underway, there is still work to be done as we continue to grow into a full council. Together, we are working towards hosting regular meetings with MYBC and Chartered Community Youth Representatives while developing improved pathways for youth engagement.

In my role as MYBC Chair and Minister of Youth, I attend regular meetings with the Ministry of Youth staff. In October, I had the opportunity to attend the MNBC Ministry of Youth Eco Retreat at Manning Park. Youth at the event were offered the opportunity to learn about invasive species and harvesting, and to spend time on the land together. This event provided a wonderful chance to connect with youth across the province and for youth to build knowledge and community connections.

Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction

The Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction is actively engaged in important work to support the mental health of citizens. I attend regular meetings with MNBC Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction staff. I have also participated in meetings with the BC Provincial Government's Ministry of Health and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, engaging with ministry representatives and leadership and communicating the importance of MNBC programming and services.



I currently serve as the Métis representative on the Fraser Health Recruitment and Retention Committee and have attended the Métis Nation and Interior Health Leadership Table (MILT). I look forward to continuing to do this work and improve the experiences of Métis people in the healthcare sector.

It has been an incredible honour to do this work so far, and I am excited about the growth and good work we can continue to build on together.

Maarsii

Chief Executive Officer Report

Respectfully Submitted: **COLETTE TRUDEAU**

Welcome to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) of MNBC, an essential forum for our Nation's leadership and self-governance. Every day, we strive to forge a proud and resilient Nation while rekindling our kinship bonds. This assembly serves as a conduit to honour our heritage, reconnect, and strengthen our Nation. The MNGAs present invaluable opportunities to engage directly with our community leaders and centre our efforts on the heart of our Nation—our communities.

Leading our Métis public service fills me with immense pride. We have exceptional staff dedicated to our citizens, communities, and the Nation. MNBC envisions a future where Métis individuals, communities, and children flourish. When we connect with our rich Métis culture, heritage, and languages, we achieve significant socio-economic successes, our rights as Indigenous people are acknowledged, and our Métis rights are solidified. I can confirm that we are diligently working towards this vision. While transformation can be challenging, I am committed to ensuring that our culture and communities remain at the forefront of progress.

Recent Milestones

On November 30, 2024, Métis Nation British Columbia made the significant decision to withdraw from the Métis National Council (MNC). While this marks a shift in the landscape of Métis politics across the homeland, MNBC's commitment to resilience and collaboration remains unwavering. We will continue to develop and enhance opportunities for Métis people in B.C., delivering meaningful programs, advocating for Métis rights, and forming important partnerships with other Métis governments, as well as the federal and provincial governments. Our dedication to the well-being and recognition of the Métis Nation here in British Columbia is stronger than ever.

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 are moving toward a more comprehensive and values-based approach that prioritizes initiatives that best serve our people and forge respectful relations in all we do. We continue to seek pathways to entrench core Métis values within our public service so that we live them every day—in integrity, respect, kindness, teamwork, innovation, humility, and resilience.

Commitment to Governance and Cultural Integrity

We are committed to achieving excellence in governance and operations while preserving our deep cultural roots.



Our journey has been marked by numerous accomplishments that we take immense pride in. Some of our key achievements include:

- Over 27,000 registered Métis Citizens and counting.
- Signing the first standalone Métis Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Agreement in Canada.
- Securing funding to support infrastructure and housing developments.
- Successfully conducting the election for our Board of Directors and a by-election for our first 2SLGBTQIA+ committee and chair.
- Establishing partnerships to create new Métis Childcare Spaces across the province.

Strategic Leadership and Partnerships

Our leadership team, in close collaboration with our Board of Directors, is dedicated to supporting our strategic direction and prioritizing the needs of Métis people in British Columbia. We've significantly increased our lobbying efforts to ensure that both provincial and federal governments are well aware of Métis Nation British Columbia. Our relationships with local, provincial, and federal governments continue to grow through various negotiation and priority tables.

As you review the reports from our various Ministries, you'll witness the remarkable achievements of our staff team. I am immensely proud of the work we are doing and the kaa-wiichihitoyaahk (we take care of each other) culture we are fostering, which emphasizes lateral kindness. We are committed to creating a positive workplace that supports, nurtures, and values the unique gifts each of our staff members brings to our government.

While we are on a positive and progressive path at MNBC, there is still significant complexity to our work every day. 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 future generations can be proud of. I wish all MNGA delegates a productive weekend.

SENATE REPORT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



Senate Report

Respectfully Submitted: **BILL BRESSER, SENATE CLERK**

It is with pleasure that the Senate provides this report on its activities.

Responsibilities:

- The MNBC Constitution states the Senate shall be responsible for the provisions outlined in the legislation known as 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.
- The Senate Policies and Administrative Standards and Practices ensure that Senator/Elders are provided with the opportunity to review pertinent information concerning the state of the judicial system, including the condition of its proceedings; the policies, procedures, guidelines, and programs of MNBC and Senate that relate to the guiding of the judicial system; and legislative requirements.



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA
SENATE

Senate priorities include:

- Education of Métis citizens on role of the Senate, and related legislation;
- Update and refine the Senate Act as well as related Policies and Administrative Standards and Practices;
- Define the powers and authorities of Senate as judicial arm of the Métis Nation; and
- Pursue establishment of a restorative justice system for the Métis.

Aside from their judicial roles the senators as elders and statespersons contribute in several significant ways throughout British Columbia on behalf of the Métis Nation some examples of which include:

- Attendance at numerous community AGMs and meetings.
- Focussing attention and awareness with respect to the violence and impacts that have and continue to be directed at indigenous women, children, and families.
- Blanketing and Métis cultural education events in school districts.
- Participation in various events including Orange Shirt, Remembrance Day, Louis Day, School Graduations, Flag Raisings, etc.
- Attendance at all grade levels within schools to deliver education and practical exercises related to the Métis people.

- Attendance at regional governance council meetings to deliver opening and closing prayers and use the opportunity to educate attendees on role of the Senate.
- Continue key 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.
- 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, or referring questions to the Senate Clerk for follow-up attention.

Senate Judicial Role:

During the past year the Senate has accepted several appeals. These appeals have included citizenship, and community matters some requiring significant research, allocation of Senator time and excessive expenditure of Senate financial resources. The Community appeals have also identified a lack of Senate jurisdiction and enforcement authorities.

Other citizens have sought information on a myriad of matters, including Citizenship, their genealogy and requesting review of documentation previously submitted. Through review of their particulars and consultation between the Ministry of Citizenship as well as follow-up research via the St. Boniface Historical Society it has been determined that all individuals were treated fairly by the MNBC of Citizenship. These interactions also provided an opportunity for the Senate Clerk to educate individuals and point them in the right genealogical research direction.

Senate decisions may be found at the following link: <https://www.mnbc.ca/about/senate/>

Other Senate Concerns:

- Succession planning for the Senate;
- Training for incoming senators by shadowing presently sitting Senators;
- Budgetary projections for the future;
- Need to change the face of appeals; and
- The Senate lack of enforcement powers established the Acts of governance.

Your Métis Senators are available and eagerly look forward to hearing from all Métis citizens whether it be for elder support, ceremonies or interpretation, feedback and advice related to MNBC legislation. We are pleased to announce that 2024 Senator Sandra Door was appointed to represent Region 6 and Senator John Sayers was appointed to represent Region 3.

- Region 1 – Senate Chairperson - 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 John Sayers – Re-appointed 2024
Contact: 250 463-4431
- Region 4 – Senate Secretary Kevin Murray – Joined Senate in 2023
Contact: 250 344-1216
- Region 5 – Senator Arnold Lucier – Joined Senate in 2017
Contact: 778 349-1094
- Region 6 – Senator Sandra Sayers – Joined in 2024
Contact: 928 847-6159 (interim)
- Region 7 – Administrative Senator Gerald Pope – Joined Senate in 2008
Contact: 250 262-6565

Senate Clerk Responsibilities:

The Senate Clerk is charged with performance of various clerical and secretariat related duties which includes processing requests for Senate documents and preparing a variety of forms and reports as mandated by the MNBC Senate Act and the Senate Policies and Administrative Standards and Practices. Further, the Senate Clerk provides expert advice on MNBC legislation, guidelines, policies and procedures, and works with the Administrative Senator/Elder in negotiations, on behalf of the Senate, with federal and government partners.

The Senate Clerk may be contacted as follows:

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

MINISTRY REPORTS

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



Ministry of CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: DEBRA FISHER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: COLLEEN HODGSON

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Children and Families exercises inherent jurisdiction over child and family services in British Columbia. It supports the unique needs of Métis children, youth, and families interacting with the child welfare system.

Ministry Goals:

Goal 1: Designation as the legislated representative for Métis children and families in BC

Goal 2: Co-develop a legally binding agreement with MCFD (92.1)

Goal 3: Co-develop an information-sharing agreement with MCFD

Goal 4: Receive Indigenous Governing Body Status

Goal 5: Draft Métis Child Welfare Law

Goal 6: Develop a Métis Child and Family Service System

Ministry Goal 1: Designation as the legislated representative for Métis children and families in BC/Goal 2: Co-develop a legally binding agreement with MCFD (92.1)/ Goal 3: Co-develop an information-sharing agreement with MCFD

Aligned with Goal One of the Nation

MNBC continues to strengthen its relationship with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). The Minister, Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister of Indigenous Child Welfare, and Assistant Deputy Minister of Partnerships and Indigenous Engagement met in person at MNBC. The monumental meeting focused on MNBC's priorities, including designation, information sharing, jurisdiction, and technology and information sharing. Dates were scheduled for the joint MCFD and MNBC working table to advance the work.

Ministry Goal 4: Receive Indigenous Governing Body Status

Aligned with Goal One of the Nation

MNBC continues to advance the North Star Project to support recognition as an Indigenous Governing Body. The Ministry of Children and Families is moving a focused agenda forward with MCFD as a Métis



government recognized in BC by its Citizens. This follows the mandate given at the 2023 Annual General Assembly on jurisdiction.

Ministry Goals 5/6: Draft Métis Child Welfare Law & Develop a Métis Family Service System

Aligned with Goal One of the Nation

Métis Youth Justice: The Ministry of Children and Families engaged with over 90% of youth probation offices across the Lower Mainland, marking a significant achievement in our efforts to support Métis youth within the justice system. Our collaboration with the Ministry of Youth has been a cornerstone of our recent progress. This partnership has provided a platform for shared decision-making and the exchange of expertise.

Métis Child and Family Service Model: Significant progress has been made in developing the Métis Children and Family Services Model (MFSM). Efforts have focused on establishing strong foundations through robust data collection, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and strategic partnerships.

Community engagement was a key focus this quarter, and the Ministry of Children and Families staff participated in many events, including the Northeast Métis Association gathering, the Williams Lake Harm Reduction gathering, the provincial Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering, and information and awareness gatherings with Métis Chartered communities.

Collaborations with the Ministry of Education's Wellbeing Program staff and feedback from online focus groups and interviews provided valuable insights into Métis families' challenges in accessing services, shaping the Métis Child and Family Service Model. One highlight was MNBC's strong presence at the Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering, which raised awareness of Métis issues and strengthened collaborations. Internally, MNBC made strides in fostering cross-sector collaboration, streamlining service integration, and aligning priorities across ministries, enhancing its ability to address the complex needs of Métis children, youth, and families.

Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) Policy: Our engagement with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) focuses on two key areas impacting our Métis Child Welfare Law and Métis Child and Family Service Model.

The Ministry of Children and Families is addressing the ongoing issue of Métis children being removed from their mothers at birth despite MCFD policy ending the practice of birth alerts. Preliminary findings and a draft report on this issue are being reviewed, and MNBC will contribute to the final report, which will be finalized in Spring 2025. This underscores the urgent need for action to prevent unnecessary separations and ensure culturally sensitive support.

The Ministry of Children and Families has contributed to reforming care planning models for children and youth in care. Based on engagement with Métis individuals and professionals, our recent findings highlight the need for a more family-centred, culturally appropriate approach. This feedback will guide our continued work with MCFD to advocate for changes that better support Métis children and families.

The Ministry of Children and Families has entered an exciting and critical phase in forming the provincial Métis Children and Families Advisory. Foundational documents have been developed to engage potential members. The advisory will be vital in shaping policies and practices by providing culturally informed input on the Métis Child Welfare Law and the Métis Child and Family Service Model.

Citizen Relations Data and Information Management System and Métis Children in Care Module:

Developing a comprehensive Children in Care module within MNBC's CRM system is a milestone in how we care for our children. The Children in Care Module is designed to track essential data such as care status and planning, legal guardianship, service interactions, and cultural continuity. By consolidating this information, the module supports a holistic, culturally informed approach to care tailored to the unique needs of all Métis children, youth and families involved in the child welfare system. The customized module enhances coordination, accountability, and service delivery, directly benefiting Métis families to access the needed services.

Data Collection Tools & Promotional Materials: Completing data collection tools and promotional materials, which have guided decision-making and collaboration on drafting the Métis Child and Family Service Model, was also a key milestone. These research tools have been utilized to gather the data and information required to co-develop the Métis Child and Family Service Model through focused engagements.

Partnerships: Developing partnerships with our Métis government and external agencies is critical to creating a system that meets the needs of Métis families.

- Youth Probation Offices and Service Providers in Surrey, Delta, Coquitlam, Port Moody, Burnaby, Mission Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Vancouver.
- Williams Lake Métis Family Services
- Dawson Creek Métis Family Services,
- Métis Community Services Society of BC
- Niwîkôwin Métis Family Services
- Lii Michif Otipemisiwak
- Island Métis Family and Community Services
- Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services
- Cariboo Friendship Centre
- Interior Health
- BC Foster Parent Association
- MCFD

Ministry of CITIZENSHIP

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: SUSIE HOOPER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: COLLEEN HODGSON

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Citizenship promotes Métis citizenship in British Columbia and supports people who self-identify as Métis in the citizenship application process. The ministry also ensures the Métis government's support by collecting data and sharing information across all ministries and with all Métis Chartered communities.

Ministry Goals:

Goal 1: Increase the number of MNBC Citizens

Goal 2: Strengthen Relations with Métis Chartered Communities

Goal 3: Develop and integrate a Métis child welfare case management system

Goal 4: Develop and implement a Ministry of Citizenship Standards of Practice

Goal 5: Develop partnerships with MNBC Ministries, government and external agencies

Ministry Goal 1: Increase the number of MNBC Citizens

Aligned with Goals One, Two, Four and Six of the Nation

The Citizenship Navigation Department increased capacity by six staff members, which has significantly supported our efforts to improve efficiency in Ministry operations; these increases include four new hires, one temporary staff member moving into a permanent position, and one Navigator returning from maternity leave. Adding six permanent Citizenship Navigators to the Ministry has allowed us to process applications more efficiently. The Citizenship Navigation Department is hiring four more positions, enabling us to continue building our nation by reducing the backlog of Citizenship Applications. Increasing capacity is based on metrics that have been developed that indicate the number of staff required to process an acceptable number of citizenship applications each month. One of our goals is to have Citizenship Navigators in the community and MNBC regional offices. One of the new Citizenship Navigators works part-time from the regional office in Fort St John.



Increasing capacity in the Citizenship Navigation Departments means more completed applications will be forwarded to the Indigenous Research Department. Three new Indigenous Researchers will be hired to keep applications moving to final approval. Only Citizenship Navigators with at least one year of experience are eligible to apply for the Indigenous Researcher position, meaning more Citizenship Navigators will need to be hired and trained.

New Citizenship Card: A new Citizenship card has been in development for several months and was approved by Leadership on November 12th. The card has several new features, including the citizen's address and a QR code directly linking to the MétisHub. The Ministry of Citizenship is collaborating with the Communications Department and Community Services to introduce the new card in early 2025. Citizens with pending renewals will be the first to receive the new card. When the new Citizenship card goes live, Citizens with a MétisHub account can see a digital copy of their card online. When their Citizenship card expires, they will be eligible for a new one.

Citizenship Application Lifecycle Forecast: The QA team has developed a comprehensive Citizenship Application Lifecycle using key performance indicators from a full year of Citizenship data. This forecast is vital for addressing the Citizenship Application backlog and will be instrumental in streamlining the process, improving efficiency, and increasing the number of citizens approved annually. This Lifecycle has been utilized to set throughput expectations for reducing the Citizenship Application timeline.

CRM: The Kinship module has been deployed. This module allows us to store and update contact information for non-Métis parents or guardians. It enables non-Métis guardians to create a hub account to manage Citizenship and applications for their Métis children.

The Guardian Subpanel has been deployed. This allows all Ministries with access to the CRM to see the parent or guardian of our Métis children and youth. This safeguard ensures that we are only speaking to the correct parent or guardian, adding extra protection for the confidential information of minors.

The Household subpanel has been deployed. This feature allows the Children and Families team additional insight into household dynamics and allows for reporting based on household programs and services given to families rather than just individuals.

Ministry Goal 2: Strengthen Relations with Métis Chartered Communities

Aligned with Goals One, Two, Three, Four and Five of the Nation

Métis Chartered Community Citizenship Monthly Service: In November, the Quality Assurance Department initiated a monthly reporting service for all Métis Chartered Communities. This service helps communities track details on new Citizens, Citizens who have moved, and personal information changes. The Community Updates reports support each Métis Chartered Community by summarizing the ongoing changes through easy-to-manage Citizenship lists.

MétisHub: The Ministry of Citizenship meets with Métis Chartered Community Leadership on various matters. Through this collaboration, we improved user features on their MétisHub dashboards, including downloading and printing community acceptance letters.

Renewals: This Quarter, the Operations Department has integrated into the QA Department to streamline processes and procedures within the Ministry of Citizenship. A key deliverable from this amalgamation will be the successful re-launch of Citizenship Renewals. A revised process is being developed for a streamlined launch in early 2025 to fulfill all outstanding Citizenship Card renewals.

2025 By-Election Support: The Ministry of Citizenship provided critical support for the upcoming 2025 By-Election, including creating 17 additional lists for the new 2SLGBTQIA+ representatives and other unfilled positions.

Ministry Goal 3: Develop and integrate a Métis child welfare case management system.

A substantial update to the Children and Families module has been deployed, designed to track children in care, out of care or families at risk. Creating a method for recording types of care, court orders, and social worker and caregiver changes gives MNBC the means to track how Métis children and youth move through the system. This allows the Ministry of Citizenship to record the data and generate detailed reports. As information is recorded within the system, it generates a synopsis of events that can be referenced immediately, including changes in social work or guardianship, court order updates, permanency planning, and significant life events that could impact outcomes.

Ministry Goal 4: Develop and implement a Ministry of Citizenship Standards of Practice

The Citizenship Navigation Department staff received professional training on Effective Communication and Email Best Practices. Citizenship Navigators work one-on-one with people who apply for citizenship, and communication is critical in building relationships and establishing trust with potential citizens. This was delivered through a partnership with Douglas College.

Ministry Goal 5: Develop partnerships with MNBC Ministries, government and external agencies.

Regional Office Information Sessions: The Citizenship Relations Department met with all MNBC regional staff throughout the province. Staff from STEPS, education and other ministries were given opportunities to ask questions about Citizenship and how to support people who came into their offices. The Citizenship Relations team walked everyone through the application process and shared information and resources about Citizenship. These information sessions will continue into 2025.

Training: The Ministry of Citizenship has developed partnerships with Douglas College and the University of the Fraser Valley to promote Citizenship and access professional training for staff. Training includes communications and writing and training for managers.

Alberta Family Services: MNBC is developing a partnership with Alberta Family Services and establishing a collaborative process with their Records, Registry, and Connections department to provide direct access to adoption records to assist adoptive parents with citizenship applications for their adopted child.

Ministry of CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANGUAGE

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: PATRICK HARRIOTT

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: RAYNIE GERVAIS

DIRECTOR: MALLORY BLONDEAU

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language promotes Métis culture, heritage, and languages in BC through programs and services. The Ministry develops resources and learning opportunities regarding the contributions of Métis people and the richness of Métis culture, heritage arts and Michif languages. Through training, research and advocacy, the Ministry advances Métis cultural safety, visibility and Michif revitalization. The Ministry provides a central service to all MNBC staff, by providing cultural support and guidance.

Ministry Goals:

- Goal 1: Lead Michif language revitalization in BC through learning opportunities, grant programs, resource development, documentation and engagement.
- Goal 2: Deliver programs and initiatives that promote and share Métis culture and heritage; as well as support and grow Métis heritage artists in BC.
- Goal 3: Promote the transmission of Métis cultural knowledge across MNBC through presentations, resources and cultural review support.
- Goal 4: Provide secretariat support to the Amelia Douglas Institute to ensure its successful operations.
- Goal 5: Develop a Métis cultural safety online learning platform that will be available to the public and professionals in various fields.

Ministry Goal 1: Lead Michif language revitalization in BC through learning opportunities, grant programs, resource development, documentation and engagement.

Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation

The Ministry is excited to share the new Michif language projects and initiatives that have been launched or are underway:



- **New language grants** – In January the team launched its second round of language grants to support community led Michif initiatives. This launch included two new grants: Michif Language in the Arts and the Michif Language Celebration Grant. Both grants are intended to support the visibility and awareness of the Michif languages within communities. The Michif Learning Initiatives grant was also shared and is the second offering of this grant.
- **Michif language recording and documentation** – The team continues to work with fluent Michif speakers to create Michif recordings for Michif learners. In November we hosted Elder Norman Fleury for a series of recordings, one of which included a cooking video! The team is also hosting Michif French speakers June Bruce and Lorraine Coutu in February. All Michif recordings conducted by the Ministry are made available through the Amelia Douglas Institute's website.
- **Michif in the Home project** – the team started a new project that involves the creation of Michif learning resources for families. As part of our engagement with families for resources to include in the kit, a family language game night was held followed by a survey consultation with parents. Our goal is to begin distributing 'Michif in the Home' kits in 2025.
- **Community language kits** – the team has also started developing resources and engaging Chartered Communities on the Michif language resources they would like to see within their communities. Our goal is to have a variety of Michif learning resources available for Chartered Communities to share with their members.
- **Michif workshops and curriculum development** – the team offered an Introduction to Southern Michif workshops series with Samson Lamontagne in the fall of 2024/winter 2025 and is currently developing a standardized Michif learning course curriculum that will support Michif language learners.



Ministry Goal 2: Deliver programs and initiatives that promote and share Métis culture and heritage; as well as support and grow Métis heritage artists in BC.

The Ministry has been working hard to create meaningful cultural learning opportunities for citizens. This has included hosting several cultural workshops, including: Métis spirituality, mitten embroidery, Métis clothing, cultural storytelling, beading, moccasin making, dog blanket making and how to conduct Métis genealogical research. We have also been working on developing new educational print

resources, the first of which includes a historical look at Métis clothing titled *Lii fil di nutr istwayr: Threads of Our History* as well as a guidebook for Métis beadwork designs. The team continues to support Métis artists and knowledge carriers in connecting with grants and opportunities through the Métis artist and knowledge carrier directory.

Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation

Ministry Goal 3: Promote the transmission of Métis cultural knowledge across MNBC through presentations, resources and cultural review support.

The Ministry has been promoting and supporting the transmission of Métis cultural knowledge across MNBC by delivering Métis culture and history presentations to all new and existing staff. The team has been supporting staff to increase the use of Michif in their programs and services by managing Michif translation requests, providing staff Michif learning workshops, and creating Michif learning resources for around the office. The team provides support to other MNBC Ministries and departments by reviewing cultural documents and resources upon request and continues to assist in coordinating and connecting other MNBC Ministries seeking Métis artists and facilitators for their events and programs through the Métis artist and knowledge carrier directory.

Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation

Ministry Goal 4: Provide secretariat support to the Amelia Douglas Institute to ensure its successful operations.

Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation

The Ministry continues to provide secretariat support to the Amelia Douglas Institute, which has included the successful curation and opening of a new exhibition *Lii fil di nutr istwayr: Threads of Our History*, hosting new visitors to the ADI gallery, community outreach, collections care and management, policy development and management of the ADI website and social media.

Ministry Goal 5: Develop a Métis cultural wellness online learning platform that will be available to the public and professionals in various fields.

Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation

The Ministry has been working with contractors to develop an online Métis cultural wellness course. The course is currently under development and is targeted to be completed in the spring of 2025.



Moccasins made by Sandy Slobodian (2024)

Ministry of DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Respectfully Submitted: **MINISTER: MELANIE ALLARD**
DIRECTOR: FELIX IKEM

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Digital Governance is dedicated to delivering innovative and reliable technology solutions that empower our organization. We emphasize cybersecurity, data integrity, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement, ensuring the organization remains adaptive to its strategic goals.

Ministry Goals:

Goal 1: Enhance Data Management Efficiency and Accuracy, Data-Driven Decision Making

Goal 2: Strengthen Cultural Information Access, Digital Identity

Goal 3: Optimize Software Onboarding and Communication, Interoperability between ministries

Goal 4: Promote Core Capacity and Community Development

Goal 5: Cultivate Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

Goal 6: Improve Funding Management

Ministry Goal 1: Enhance Data Management Efficiency and Accuracy, Data-Driven Decision Making

Aligned with Goal 4 of the Nation

The Ministry made substantial progress in enhancing data management efficiency and fostering data-driven decision-making. Key initiatives included implementing a standardized Data Management Framework. The SharePoint rebuild project achieved significant milestones, including a signed Statement of Work (SoW) with Mobia and initial collaboration meetings. Other efforts focused on data centralization projects such as the integration of SharePoint, CRM, and Laserfiche to establish a cohesive digital ecosystem. Regular data quality audits and a defined data retention strategy are improving data governance, despite budget constraints delaying the scanning and destruction of physical files at Iron Mountain. The Ministry also emphasized training programs, launching cybersecurity modules and SharePoint literacy initiatives to equip staff with necessary skills. Collaboration with other ministries was initiated to share best practices, further strengthening data integration strategies.



Ministry Goal 2: Strengthen Cultural Information Access, Digital Identity**Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation**

To enhance cultural information access and strengthen digital identity, the Ministry continued maintaining the MNBC.ca and Amelia Douglas Institute websites. These platforms were updated with new features and content, including improved search engine optimization through partnerships with PathWise. Efforts to distribute cultural newsletters and establish a digital resource library for cultural learning advanced with research defining the structure of the proposed library. Citizen feedback mechanisms were defined to improve access to cultural information. These initiatives align with preserving and promoting Métis culture and identity while leveraging digital tools to increase accessibility and engagement.

Ministry Goal 3: Optimize Software Onboarding and Communication, Interoperability Between Ministries**Aligned with Goal 4 of the Nation**

This year, the Ministry focused on optimizing software onboarding and enhancing inter-ministry communication. A standardized software onboarding policy was implemented, including a 14-day request timeline established in January 2024. Digital Governance meetings are being re-established to improve communication during large system implementations. Significant progress was made in aligning software with existing digital ecosystems, including ongoing SharePoint data architecture improvements and expanded use of Laserfiche for centralized data management. An online form to streamline new software approvals is under development, set for launch in September 2025, and an IT equipment lifecycle management strategy is planned for implementation by January 2025.

Ministry Goal 4: Promote Core Capacity and Community Development**Aligned with Goal 1 of the Nation**

The Ministry's efforts in capacity building included upgrading IT infrastructure and launching advanced security measures. Hardware upgrades at the headquarters improved network performance and reliability. Comprehensive training programs empowered employees with technological proficiency, bolstered by the introduction of remote management tools for efficient support to regional staff. Collaboration with communities also included defining long-term strategies to improve digital infrastructure and IT service delivery.

Ministry Goal 5: Cultivate Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement**Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation**

The Ministry worked to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders, ensuring the effective delivery of services and programs. Collaborative engagements included partnerships for cultural and digital projects, such as website development and optimization. Strategic meetings with vendors

and community partners advanced initiatives for better service integration and program alignment, directly benefiting Métis citizens and communities.

Ministry Goal 6: Improve Funding Management

Aligned with Goal 5 of the Nation

To ensure financial accountability and sustainability, the Ministry developed strategies to optimize funding allocation and management. These efforts included revising budgeting approaches to address constraints in key projects, such as data migration and retention activities. Emphasis on proactive financial planning and resource allocation has laid the groundwork for enhanced fiscal responsibility, ensuring long-term project viability.

Ministry of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS, AND TOURISM

Respectfully Submitted: **MINISTER: WALTER MINEAULT**
ASSOCIATE MINISTER: DEAN GLADUE
DIRECTOR: STUART DIXON

Ministry Mission:

We seek to collaborate with diverse stakeholders to support, promote, and advocate for Métis businesses while advancing economic reconciliation and improving the welfare and vitality of all Métis citizens in British Columbia.

March 2024 - January 2025

The Economic Development, Partnerships, and Tourism Ministry has made significant strides in advancing the economic interests of the Métis Nation British Columbia. During the period of March 2024 to January 2025, the ministry has focused on several key areas.

Economic and Business Development

The Ministry is in the midst of developing regional and tailored economic development strategy that will support the values and needs for businesses and communities on a local level. The aim is to ensure that Métis businesses, partners and communities are supported by their local needs.

The ministry has expanded the Métis Business Directory to more than 335 citizen owned businesses; up from 216 at the start of January 2024. The Ministry has implemented and streamlined new onboarding processes and launched an economic development newsletter this past summer. A new industry classification system has been adopted to align with NAICS standards to make it easier for lookup upon request.

Looking ahead with better data integrity and management, the ministry plans to further enhance the Business Directory by creating a comprehensive online hub that will connect Métis businesses with procurement opportunities, financing options, and mentorship programs within the partner network. An improved directory platform will enhance a user's ability to query a business on traits, geography,



values and distinction. This initiative aligns with the Nation's goal of generating core capacity, infrastructure, and economic development.

Partnerships

The ministry has actively pursued multiple memorandums of understanding, joint venture partnerships, established procurement distribution lists, and worked mutual project agreements with more than 33 enterprises across 17 major projects in British Columbia. The Nation efforts towards harmonizing these relationships within structures that support the development of wholly owned Nation businesses.

The ministry is collaborating with the provincial and federal governments to establish new tables focused on economic development, industry development, entrepreneurial mentorship, and trade and export. These partnerships will create opportunities for Métis businesses to access funding, training, and market development support as a part of MNBC's overall regional economic development strategy.

Tourism Development

The ministry has made significant progress in our first year of operation at Point Ellice House, including an increase in visitors from the past operator (up 47% year over year), more than \$275,000 in grant funding secured, and approximately \$60,000 in total site improvements; a fantastic improvement overall. The ministry has also explored opportunities for tourism development in other regions of British Columbia in conjunction with Destination BC, Parks Canada, the Province of BC and other tourism enterprises.

Moving forward, the ministry plans to expand tourism offerings at Point Ellice House, including developing new programs and events, improving visitor facilities, a dedicated multipurpose space, garden access, stakeholder engagement, research and increasing marketing efforts. The ministry will also work with Métis communities throughout British Columbia to identify and develop tourism opportunities that align with local values and priorities.

Métis Trading Post

The Métis Trading Post transitioned from the Communications Ministry to the Economic Development, Partnerships, and Tourism Ministry in the spring of 2024. A dedicated staff member was hired to manage the operation. A brick-and-mortar trading post was established at Point Ellice House, and pop-up trading posts were set up at the MNBC AGM and the Visitor Centre Conference in Victoria.

To enhance the Trading Post, the ministry has conducted inventory reviews, set up a point-of-sale



system, and engaged with artists and vendors to gather feedback for the business plan. The ministry is also in the process of changing warehouse providers and developing new policies for merchandise recovery and requisition within MNBC.

Future plans for the Trading Post include rebranding, revamping the online store for a more user-friendly experience, and expanding the capacity built during the transition period.

Procurement

In the spring of 2024, the ministry hired a dedicated procurement specialist to support finance and social sector ministries in procurement practices, including scoring, award procedures, writing, and bid types. The ministry's approach to procurement is driven by core values and a commitment to corporate social responsibility, with a focus on supporting Métis businesses.

The ministry has developed new procurement templates, provided training and engagement for Métis chartered communities and businesses, and actively participated in procurement opportunities.

Capacity Development

The ministry has significantly strengthened its capacity development capabilities by hiring two dedicated grant writers and a sponsorship coordinator in the spring of 2024. The team has successfully applied for over \$25 million in grants, securing approximately \$3.5 million to date.

The ministry has also implemented effective sponsorship strategies, securing over \$150,000 in sponsorships for the MNBC AGM in a four-month campaign. The ministry is committed to building strong relationships with sponsors and ensuring that sponsorship activities align with MNBC's social values.

The ministry is actively seeking grant opportunities in the public, private, and philanthropic sectors to support the Nation's economic development goals.

Future Plans

Beyond January 2025, the ministry will continue to focus on the following key areas:

- **Finalizing, Monitoring, and Implementing Regional Economic Development Strategies:** The ministry will work with Métis communities to develop and implement tailored economic development strategies that align with local values and priorities.
- **Revamping the Online Trading Post:** The ministry will enhance the online trading post to provide a platform for Métis artisans and entrepreneurs to sell their products and services.
- **Creating a Procurement Platform:** The ministry will develop a procurement platform to connect Métis businesses with government and private sector procurement opportunities.
- **Strengthening Partnerships:** The ministry will continue to build strong relationships with provincial and federal governments, Indigenous organizations, and private sector partners.

- **Supporting Métis Entrepreneurs:** The ministry will provide mentorship, training, and financing support to Métis entrepreneurs.
- **Promoting Métis Culture and Heritage:** The ministry will continue to promote Métis culture and heritage through tourism, education, and community events.

By focusing on these key areas, the Economic Development, Partnerships, and Tourism Ministry will contribute to the economic prosperity and cultural vitality of the Métis Nation British Columbia.

Ministry of EDUCATION

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: DEBRA FISHER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: SHARLENE WEDEL

Ministry Mission:

Métis Nation British Columbia's Ministry of Education [Early Learning | K-12] will promote the healthy growth and development of children and families through experiences grounded in Métis culture and community ways, while Métis-specific wrap-around services, programs, and policies will support their ongoing well-being.

Ministry Goals:

Goal 1: Establish a robust database that can be effectively integrated into the management and decision-making processes of ELCC (Early Learning and Child Care) and K-12.

Goal 2: Prioritize the development of Métis education agreements with chartered communities and school districts, and the creation of Métis child care spaces in BC.

Goal 3: Create, distribute, and implement Métis cultural resources to integrate Métis culture, languages, and values into the design and delivery of ELCC and K-12 programs and services.

Goal 4: Support ELCC professionals and K-12 professionals, from inside and outside the Métis Nation, to be trained to provide increased opportunities for authentic learning.

Goal 5: Expanding Métis-specific programming and services to support the learning and developmental needs of Métis children aged birth to 18 and their families.

Goal 6: Supporting improved early learning and child care and education, health, and social outcomes for Métis children with a focus on health promotion, nutrition, education, Métis culture, parental involvement, and social support.

Ministry/Department Goal 1: Establish a robust database that can be effectively integrated into the management and decision-making processes of ELCC (Early Learning and Child Care) and K-12.

Aligned with Goal One of the Nation

Using existing software, the Ministry of Education (MoE) is building a robust Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. Enabling Métis families to enroll in the Métis Family Connections program.



MOE achieved a major milestone with the successful implementation of the CRM system for live use by the Métis Family Connections team. The next phase will be for the development and implementation of the Métis Child Care Benefit program.

Ministry/Department Goal 2: Prioritize the development of Métis education agreements with chartered communities and school districts, and the creation of Métis child care spaces in BC.

Aligned with Goal Two of the Nation

MoE is creating 578 licensed child care spaces for Métis children (birth to 12) across BC. Projects are being created in Port Alberni, Campbell River, Surrey, Kamloops, Mission, Kelowna, Terrace, Vernon, Saanich, Prince George, and Cranbrook through various provincial and federal funding supports. These projects address child care demand, offering low- or no-cost, Métis-specific, culturally relevant ELCC programming.

On November 5, 2024, MNBC held a successful groundbreaking ceremony for Mamawapowin After School Care in Kelowna, which opened on September 16, 2024. Growing Roots Child Care Centre in Mission is set to open in January 2025, with a grand opening planned for February 14, 2025.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for a 44-space centre in Terrace on October 5, 2024, a 49-space centre in Fort St. John on September 4, 2024, a 34-space centre in Port Alberni on January 8, 2025.

MoE is drafting a Métis Education Agreement with Mission Public School District 75 and Fraser Valley Métis Association. We are also finalizing agreements with SD 52 Prince Rupert, SD 58 Nicola-Similkameen, and SD 82 Coast Mountains. These agreements aim to support Métis self-identification and academic success by providing equitable and culturally relevant support and services for K-12 learners, enhancing their educational experiences and outcomes.

MNBC launched a citizen advocacy campaign to address the deficiencies in meaningful engagement on Bill 40. The School Amendment Act, known as Bill 40, was passed into law in November 2023, with a mandate to establish Indigenous Education Councils (IECs) in each School District to advise school boards relating to the provision of comprehensive and equitable educational programs/services to Indigenous students.

As part of the campaign, MNBC Citizens and self-identifying Métis signed a total of 5530 letters, addressed to Premier Eby, and forwarded to the Minister of Education and Child Care, and each Citizen's local MLA. This initiative called upon the government to improve by engaging directly with the Minister to ensure Métis children are not overlooked. A key result of the campaign was the facilitation of



a province-wide conversation to enhance Métis representation on IECs and the public school system.

We greatly value the long-standing relationships we have with our communities and want to ensure that ongoing progress is made for our children. To maximize the effectiveness of our collective efforts on behalf of Métis students and their families, we asked Community Leaders for their participation in a poll. Community insights are crucial for guiding our shared priorities and actions. MNBC's Ministry of Education Team is committed to working collaboratively with our communities, ensuring our work aligns with the needs of Métis students and their families.



Ministry/Department Goal 3: Create, distribute, and implement Métis cultural resources to integrate Métis culture, languages, and values into the design and delivery of ELCC and K-12 programs and services.

Aligned with Goal Three of the Nation

The three Community Mobile Vans are in use, allowing staff to strengthen MNBC's community presence and outreach, such as attending Chartered Community AGMs and the 2024 Métis Early Years Conference.

The Ministry continues to develop and implement Métis-specific resources to increase access to culturally relevant resources, reduce cultural isolation, and to support cultural connectedness and community wellness. Including a Michif language poster series, wooden Red River Cart model kit, Métis sensory stamps, digital resources, games and stories, and the launch of the Early Years Videography Project. As of December 2024, the Ministry's resource development activities also include the following:

- 94 Métis Family Connections cultural enrollment kits sent to Métis children (birth - 8 years)
- 18 Métis Family Connections cultural enrollment kits sent to Métis children and youth (9 -18 years)
- 14 baby welcome kits sent to Métis babies (birth - 6 months)
- 1,412 Imagination Library books sent to Métis children (birth - 4 years)

Ministry Goal 4: The Ministry aims to support Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) professionals and K-12 educators by providing training that enhances their ability to offer increased opportunities for authentic learning experiences.

Aligned with Goal Four of the Nation

MoE hosted the 3rd annual Métis Early Years Conference on October 4-5, 2024. 250 early learning and child care professionals were in attendance. A key focus of the conference was on creating strong roots for the future of our children through language, literacy, and storytelling. Samson LaMontagne and Leah Dorion were keynote speakers.



MoE continues to improve ELCC recruitment by strengthening cultural competency and providing funding. Support includes funding for post-secondary education for 52 ECE students, with 38 receiving wraparound supports to date. Additionally, 29 ECEs/ECEAs received the Métis ECE supplement.

Ministry Goal 5: Expand Métis-specific programming and services to comprehensively support the learning and development needs of Métis children from birth to 18 years old and their families.

Aligned with Goal Five of the Nation

On October 25, 2024, MNBC established the first Stand-Alone Métis Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Agreement in Canada, in partnership with Employment and Social Development Canada. This came shortly after MNBC's successful capacity reassessment towards optimal capacity status. The Stand-Alone Agreement enables horizontal coordination of federal investments in IELCC to advance shared priorities in supporting capacity-building, empowerment, and Métis self-determination. A ceremonial signing took place on December 5, 2024, to commemorate this historical milestone.

The MFC Early Years Navigators have been instrumental in increasing MoE's outreach to Métis families, ensuring access to culturally safe early years programs. As of December 2024, 556 children are receiving the Métis Child Care Benefit (MCCB), offering up to \$500 per child per month. The Miyoopimaatishihk (Wellbeing) Program provides families with financial support to assist with the costs of a wide range of services. Since late September 2024, a total of 48 requests have been approved, with Speech-Language Pathology being the most common, followed by Specialized Equipment and Respite Care.

Ministry Goal 6: The Ministry aims to support improved early learning and child care as well as enhance education, health, and social outcomes for Métis children.

Aligned with Goal Six of the Nation

29 Chartered Communities each received \$3000 in the second round of Family Gathering funding, issued in December 2024, to support early years events within their communities. The Ministry of Education supported various Family Gatherings, including Métis Early Years Holiday Gatherings, Christmas Gatherings, New Years Family Dinners, bringing together families with children aged 0-8 for a series of cultural learning, gift-giving, and creative workshops to design Métis-inspired crafts, beading, holiday ornaments, and traditional art.



Ministry of ELDERS

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: RAYNIE GERVAIS

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: ALLAN LAVALLEE

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: MELANIE ALLARD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TANYA DAVOREN

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Elders' mission is to ensure that Elders and seniors are centered and valued across all MNBC programs and services. We are committed to uplifting Elders as traditional knowledge keepers and work to improve their quality of life across all the Métis Social Determinants of Health.

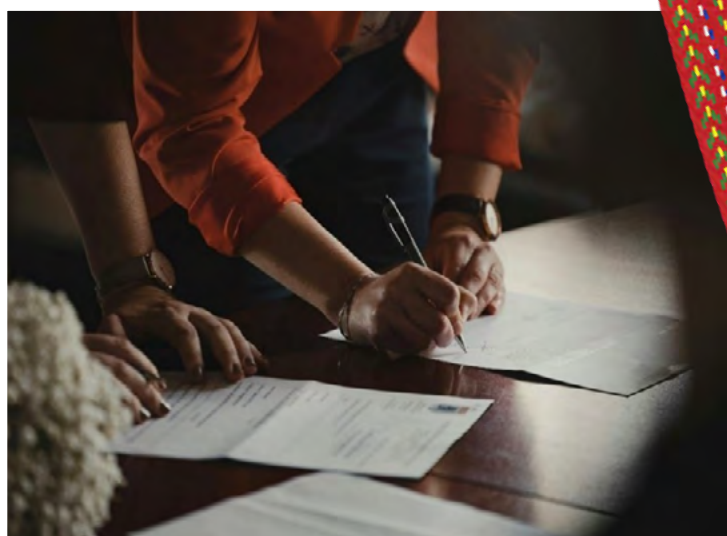
**To be finalized in consultation with the Elders Advisory Council.*

Ministry Goals:

Ministry Goal 1: Develop and support an Elders Advisory Council (EAC) to promote cultural revitalization and cultural wellness and privilege Elders voice and wisdom in regional and provincial gatherings.

Aligned with Goal #2 of the Nation: Promote Cultural Revitalization

Shortly after the AGM and the swearing in of the new board, Minister Gervais, Associate Ministers Lavallee and VP Allard reached out to identify that the development of the Elders Advisory Council was a priority. Using the Terms of Reference approved by the board in July, the team reached out to Regional Directors to identify an Elder to participate on the Elders Steering Committee which is required to create the criteria for the Elders Advisory Committee. The new change to the structure of the EAC will be the addition of two 2SLGBTQIA+ Elders, raising the number to 16 (which includes 8 alternates). We are awaiting confirmation of the Steering Committee membership from all of the regions to move the process forward, with three Elders selected to date in Regions One (Vancouver Island), Five (North Central), and Six (Northwest).



Ministry Goal 2: Work to ensure that Residential School and Intergenerational Survivors are supported on their healing journey towards reconciliation; pursue funding proposals / opportunities to support socio-economic reconciliation for Elders and seniors through MNBC delivered programs and services (I.E Métis Elders and Seniors Assistance Program (MESAP) and Métis Counselling Connection (MCC) program).

Aligned with Goal #3 of the Nation: Pursue Socio-Economic Reconciliation

The Métis Elders and Senior Assistance Program has been in place since 2021 supporting Elders and Seniors. From September 2024 to December 2024 the program accepted 18 new people which represents 25% of the total supported this fiscal year (73). There were 8 couples and 10 singles who applied which means that \$57,000 has been allocated for them to spend on health-related items not covered by MSP.

In total MESAP has spent over \$100,000 to date. Applicants have used the funds for hearing aids, glasses, dentures, and health equipment most frequently. The age range of applicants is from 65 all the way up to 95 years of age, with the highest concentration of individuals in the 70-85 range. We have applicants who have accessed the program in almost every Region across the Province. For all that the program covers the most utilized health-related expense not covered by MSP is Dental and glasses. Individuals accepted into the program receive up to \$2500 and couple applicants up to \$4,000. Multiple program applicants have been accepted to the program since March and already exhausted their funds due to a singular need for either hearing aids or dentures. *It is important to know that Elders have indicated that there are other essential health-related items that they must go without due to MESAP being a one-time only program with limited funding.*

The Métis Counselling Connection program has been in place since 2022 and while it provides care to Elders it is available to all Registered Citizens. As of January 1, 2025 we have enrolled 185 Citizens into



the program with 16% or 30 finding counsellors in these last 4 months. Of the 30 recent folks added, 15 identify as women, 14 are men and 1 preferred not to say. All but regions 4 and 7 are represented and 66% were between 30-64 years of age.

Feedback is always welcome, and this was provided to our Social Programs Coordinator recently: *"This program and funding provided me with the opportunity to receive essential counselling sessions with my established counsellor that I otherwise would not have been able to afford as I am a student. This allowed me to continue seeing my trusted counsellor of five years instead of resorting to free counselling services where a new relationship would have to be established. This program is essential to the well-being and success of Métis students and individuals in my opinion, thank you"*

Ministry Goal 3: Promote Elders engagement at all levels of Métis governance at the Chartered Community level as traditional knowledge keepers and at Regional Governance Council, to ensure Elders are active participants and are consulted regarding supportive care, long-term care, and end of life continuum initiatives.

Aligned with Goal #4 of the Nation: Support Métis Chartered Communities

During this time, we worked with our partners at Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to increase our ability to engage Métis Elders and Citizens in continued Dialogues about Dignity in Death and Dying. In late December we learned we were successful in achieving funds to engage Regions 3&4 in sessions about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and the funding to develop an Advanced Care Planning tool that is culturally informed, with the assistance of Citizens and subject matter experts.

Ministry Goal 4: Support the development of inter-organizational agreements that reflect Elder insights and promote the restoration of respectful relationship building with local First Nation Elders.

Aligned with Goal #6 of the Nation: Develop and restore respectful relationships and partnerships

This work will be a high priority for the Elders Advisory Council once it is in place. The technicians in the Ministry of Elders have reached out to the new Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors and Long-term Care, and a meeting has been requested through MNBC Government Relations.

Ministry of ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY

Respectfully Submitted: **MINISTER: SUSIE HOOPER**
ASSOCIATE MINISTER: PAULETTE FLAMOND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: LEONA SHAW

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry advances research, advocacy, and programs to help connect Métis Citizens to the natural environment in British Columbia. This is done through centering and empowering Métis voices and values in matters related to climate change, conservation, and food security. These efforts honour the connections between Métis Citizens and all our relations so we may strive for a healthy and thriving planet for current and future generations.

Ministry Goals:

Goal One – Ministry Review and Evolution

Redefine the Ministry's vision, mandate, legislation, and goals to ensure we are effective, efficient, and aligned with the MNBC strategic plan.

Ministry Goal Two – Capacity Enhancement and Development (People focused)

This Ministry has seen rapid growth, and we will focus on fostering talent, leveraging our skills and knowledge, developing new skills, and assigning accountability to show quick, iterative progress on delivering commitments.

Ministry Goal Three- Research and Data Excellence

Driving operational excellence and continuous improvement in research, information sharing, and transforming and streamlining delivery models.

Ministry Goal Four – British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR) Growth and Development

BCMANR support and succession planning to ensure BCMANR can contribute to their purpose and priorities in a sustainable and meaningful way (conservation, training, knowledge sharing, and harvesting advocacy).



Ministry Goal 1: Ministry Review and Evolution**Aligned with Goal 2, 4, and 5 of the Nation**

Our team has worked collaboratively to develop a new Ministry mandate to guide our work. This Ministry has seen a lot of change over the past few years and this new mandate better reflects the work we do and helps to guide us. We have been able to clearly define the main priorities that this Ministry focuses on (climate change, conservation, and food security) and create supportive teams to take on this work. This restructuring and delegation of tasks/responsibilities better leverages our existing skills and knowledge, supports the development of new skills, and assigns accountability to show quick, iterative progress on delivering commitments. This work would not be possible without a thriving team, and we have focused on enabling our team to grow in a healthy and sustainable way.

The evolution of this Ministry enables us to strengthen ties with communities, share information, document traditional knowledge, secure more funds to support the work we do, and helps us upkeep cultural preservation.

We have begun writing a strategic priority paper for each of the three above-mentioned priorities (climate change, conservation, and food security).

Some highlights after the 2024 AGM include:

- Launched the 2025 Home Garden program in December 2024, continuing in its fifth year. Over 500 applications were received.
- One staff member along with the Ministry of Youth staff supported the Youth Eco Retreat at Manning Park (2 captains, an elder, a counsellor, 10 youth and 2 chaperones attended); conducted backcountry safety training and invasive species training
- Release of the “What We Heard Report” from the March 2024 Environment workshop.
- Right to a Health Environment workshop, December 2024. This is a partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), to engage with Métis in British Columbia to understand Métis perspectives and priorities for a healthy, clean, sustainable environment.
- Submission of Métis Nation Climate Leadership (MNCL) Agenda as a Memorandum to Cabinet in the fall of 2024 in preparation for Budget 2025.
- Two BCMANR Captains will present ‘Case Stories’ in Canada’s Changing Climate Report (2nd Ed.), ensuring that Métis Traditional Knowledge is represented.
- Signed agreement giving MNBC representation on British Columbia Regional Energy and Resource Table, along with Canada, BC, and the First Nations Leadership Council
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Canada’s National Tree Seed Centre’s Indigenous Seed Collection Program.

Ministry Goal 2: Capacity Enhancement and Development (People focused)**Aligned with Goal 2, 5, & 6 of the Nation**

Our ministry has seen growth in team capacity over the last year, with the team expanding from 9 members to 15. We continue to expand our core capacity to deliver the programs, research, and support that Citizens are requesting. Some highlights include:

- Two more FTE/members joined the team in the fall of 2024:
- Low Carbon Energy Manager to implement and deliver a low carbon/energy efficiency program for Citizens.
- Emergency and Climate Change Resiliency Manager to lead in the development, implementation, and enhancement of emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery programs.
- Four team members attended and completed Shakamohta: Indigenous Clean Energy's (ICE) first ever Métis-specific clean energy capacity-building program, September 2024.
- Two team members have completed the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) program, and one is currently enrolled. This will ensure we can develop and create strong conservation related opportunities for the Nation.
- Increased integration and coordination with federal, provincial, First Nation, and Health Authority partners regarding Emergency Management
- Nine staff members completed training on Métis Research Practices, offered by Lydia Toorenburgh (MNBC Citizen)
- MNBC representation on BC Health Effects of Anomalous Temperatures (BC HEAT) Coordinating Committee to support planning and response efforts related to public health impacts of significant heat events in BC.
- Two staff attended 2024 Indigenous Public Safety Conference in Richmond, BC.

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security Goal 3: Research and Data Excellence**Aligned with Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 of the Nation**

Some highlights include:

- The Ministry recently received responsibility for the Harvester Card-Processing department, which was previously housed by the Citizenship and Registry Authority. The whole process includes receiving applications to mailing out cards and everything in between.
- To extend support to applicants and harvesters, the following channels are now closely monitored:

Harvester hotline: Extension 7103 OR (604) 557-5851 - open every Monday and Thursday. Voicemails and Text messages are welcome too!

Email: harvesters@mnbc.ca.

- Completed the Emergency Preparedness Webinar Series. Over the past year, we have partnered with 13 different federal, provincial and regional ministries and districts to deliver knowledge and resources to over 650 registrants
- Nearing completion of Year 1 engagement for **Sîpihkisôwin** (see-pihk-so-win), the Northern Michif word meaning Resilience, a project to support the implementation of low carbon energy projects such as solar panel installations, heat pump installations, and weatherization assistance.

Ministry Security Goal 4: BCMANR Growth and Development

Aligned with Goal 2 & 4 of the Nation

We continue to work with the BCMANR Captains. Their relationship with MNBC is in a healthy and good place, which was reinforced with the recent signing of a new MOU between BCMANR and MNBC in the spring. We continue to support the Captains in developing their own priority papers and succession plans. This will ensure BCMANR's priorities and vision are well understood, and they are actively working with MNBC on conservation, land use, and harvesting initiatives. We are also collaborating with the Ministry of Rights & Justice to include BCMANR's voices, knowledge, and stories in Phase 2 of the rights research project.

Ministry of HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Respectfully Submitted: **MINISTER: CARMEN CARRIERE**
ASSOCIATE MINISTER: SUSIE HOOPER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TANYA DAVOREN

Ministry Mission:

We 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 governance is driven by the community voice to influence policy, legislation, and health outcomes.

Ministry Goals:

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. We serve all Métis in BC, supporting system navigation, providing advocacy supports, and breaking down barriers faced by our Nation. 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.



Ministry Goal 1: Build and improve Métis health and mental health governance within federal, provincial, health authorities, and local jurisdictions to support the Nation’s health, mental health, and wellbeing.

Aligned with Goal One of the Nation

Métis Health and Wellness Plans (MHWP): Partnering with two regional health authorities ([Interior Health](#) and [Northern Health](#)) these plans, published in fall 2024, are a strategic roadmap that builds on the existing partnership between MNBC, the regional health authority and local Métis Chartered Communities.

Regional Health Authority – Ongoing Partnerships

Fraser Health: The Fraser Health Čhi:ya:ȷəstəl’ (Working Together) Indigenous Cultural Safety course created in partnership with First Nations Health Authority and MNBC was launched in August 2024, and as of November 29th, 2024, the course has 17,000 enrollments, 2,000 more than the goal for year end.

Northern Health: Northern Health's Virtual Health Clinic in Prince George partnered with the Prince George Métis Community Association (PGMCA) to display a Métis sash and paintings in its new space. The PGMCA also named a room "Otipemisiwak" ("we who govern ourselves") to reflect Métis self-governance.

Island Health: A "What We Heard" report is being developed following a two-day engagement in June 2024 in Nanaimo which brought leaders from Regions 1 Métis Chartered Communities, MNBC board members, Island Health board members and leaders to help share perspectives, opinions, and goal setting for our relationship over the next few years. The report will be shared with Region 1 leaders in 2025.

BC Provincial Government: Collaboration with the Province, specifically the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), Ministry of Health (MoH), and MNBC continues to progress, with the development of Terms of Reference and a shared work plan actively underway.

Ministry Goal 2: Lead healthcare practitioners toward the adoption of a humble, self-reflective clinical practice that enables the delivery of culturally safe care with practices of Métis Cultural Wellness.

Aligned with Goal Two of the Nation

Ta Saantii Mamawapowuk (TSM) - In November 2024, MNBC offered its second TSM for Fraser Health staff in Burnaby which was a resounding success with nearly 80 Health Authority staff in attendance. The day was guided by culture, creativity and staff left excited about future opportunities to engage with the Métis Nation.

Miyomahcihô: The Person is in Good Health: Experiential Learning with Lisa Shepherd in Partnership with Fraser Health - To date, over 50 Fraser Health staff and Physicians have participated in this experiential training. We've held five sessions, two of which took place in November 2024. After every session, the content is revised based on feedback from participants and the audience.

Regional Health Coordinators (RHC) - RHCs play a vital role in advancing the Cultural Wellness Plan by facilitating communication between MNBC, Métis Chartered Communities and Regional Health Authorities. They ensure that Métis cultural practices are respected and integrated into healthcare services through ongoing quarterly discussions and meetings with Indigenous Liaisons and informing teams on new programs and services offered at MNBC.

HPV Project Coordinator - In September 2024, the final wrap-up of the CervixCheck study was in Smithers, BC. The final report which was reviewed and approved in December 2024, and it will be released on January 29, 2025.

Indigenous Provincial Liaison Conference - In November 2024, this event convened hundreds of frontline Indigenous workers from across the province. MNBC presented a condensed version of Ta Saantii Mamawapowuk. Attendees frequently commented on the significance of MNBC's presence, noting that it was the first time they had learned of MNBC's programs.

Ministry Goal 3: Enhance Métis quality of life through the development and delivery of culturally relevant programs and services designed to address the health, mental health, and wellness barriers resulting from colonial policy.

Aligned with Goal Three of the Nation

Métis Health Experience Program

MNBC's [Métis Health Experience Program \(MHEP\)](#) supported 15 additional clients from September-December 2024. The program has assisted clients in filing formal healthcare concerns and connection to culturally appropriate resources and support. A second advocate was hired for the program in September 2024 to serve Métis people in Fraser Health.

MNBC Health and Wellness Resource Postcards - The postcard can be found on our [website](#).

Health Promotion Team Initiatives

Regional Health Coordinators (RHC)

- *Health Service Requests:* From September to December 2024, MNBC RHCs supported 186 Health Service Requests. There has been a 52.46% increase in the number of requests the RHC team has supported this quarter compared to the same quarter last year (2023)
- *Immunization Clinics:* From September to December 2024 delivered in 17 communities.
- *Foot Care Clinics:* MNBC, in partnership with four Northern Métis Chartered Communities, has successfully organized Foot Care Clinics aimed at promoting wellness and preventative health care.

HPV Project Coordinator Initiatives

Engagement around the Design of MNBC's Health Promotion Program: From September 2024 to December 2024, planning and implementation for "Hope and Healing: Métis Experiences with Cancer" Gathering in February 2025. More info can be found [here](#).

Storytelling for Métis Cancer Journey: MNBC has partnered with Jelly Marketing to develop content that features storytelling of the Métis cancer journey. Interviews are currently underway and will continue throughout early 2025.

Métis End of Life Guide Curriculum and Course Outline: We have a partnership with Douglas College to have a Métis specific curriculum for End-of-Life Guides to be completed by March 2025.

Ministry Goal 4: Identify, develop, and secure financial resources for Métis Chartered Community led health and mental health programs and initiatives to meet the needs of their citizens at all life stages and abilities.

Aligned with Goal Four of the Nation

Essential Medical Travel Assistance Program (EMTAP): Launched in September 2024 the focus has been on staff orientation, documenting lessons learned, and creating pathways for program improvements and communicating with Citizens and partners. Visit the EMTAP website.

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC): This project was approved in December of 2024 and will build upon the previous Partnership funded initiative focused on creation of a Métis health and wellness plan and data sharing agreements.

Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC): Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC), have focused on advancing data-sharing initiatives, integrating Métis-specific health priorities, and exploring funding opportunities for healthcare innovation.

Indigenous Food Action Grant: Engagement in funding discussions for the Rural, Remote, and Indigenous Food Action Grant demonstrate continued commitment to addressing critical health and wellness needs for Métis citizens.

Emergency Communications Pathway: This internal process map for communication during climate emergency events has been developed with the Ministries of Health and Wellness and Environment, Climate Change and Food Security was approved in November 2024.

Ministry/Department Goal 5: Advance the creation of a sustainable, flexible fiscal framework that empowers MNBC to respond to the health, mental health, and wellness needs of Métis Citizens and Communities.

Aligned with Goal Five of the Nation

Systems change collaboration continues with the advancement of Métis-specific data governance initiatives such as the bi-monthly Evaluation Working Group meetings with Interior Health.

Ministry/Department Goal 7: Strengthen MNBC's role as the stewards of our Citizens' data, and truth tell about the health and mental health and wellness of the Métis in BC.

Aligned with Goal Seven of the Nation

Committed to ensuring Métis Citizen data is used effectively and represented appropriately we continue to participate in the following processes and projects:

- Social Determinants of Health Surveys.
- BC Cancer Data Linkage
- Health Research BC
- Taanishi Kiiya Interim Report with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer
- Information Sharing Agreements (ISA)/Data Linkages
- Métis Data Governance Committee

Ministry of HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Respectfully Submitted: **MINISTER OF HOUSING: WALTER MINEAULT**
MINISTER OF POVERTY REDUCTION
AND UNHOUSED: PATRICK HARRIOTT
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER: BRENT WEBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING STRATEGY &
OPERATIONAL INTEGRATION: CHRIS TUPY

Ministry Mission:

We create housing and social infrastructure through compassionate and effective policies, programs, and partnerships. We provide safe, affordable, dignified housing through innovation, collaboration, and commitment to secure Métis people in BC a place to call home.

Support Programs Division Goals - Highlights:

1. Launch and operationalize the 2nd Stage Housing Program.
2. Launch and operationalize the Tenant Advocacy Program.
3. Provide services to 240 individual Métis citizens or self-identified Métis through Reaching Home in FY 2024-25.
4. Provide 65 non-repayable grants through the Ma Nîkî Home Renovation Program in FY 2024-25.
5. Gain access to Métis specific data from BC Housing and local point-in-time (POT) homeless counts by the end of FY 2024-25.



Ministry Goal 1: Launch and operationalize the 2nd Stage Housing Program

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

The Second Stage House is ready to accept its first program participants. Staff will be reviewing applicants in early January 2025 and will soon be providing culturally safe, secure, temporary housing to a limited number of women and children fleeing gender-based violence.

Ministry Goal 2: Launch and operationalize the Tenant Advocacy Program

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

Staff met with the BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) to provide updates on the Tenant Advocacy project and inquire on reporting requirements. SDPR has confirmed that MNBC may continue to work on deliverables from the project scope into 2025. The internal training module for tenant advocacy is nearly complete and is expected to be ready for implementation by the end of the fiscal year.

Ministry Goal 3: Provide services to 240 individual Métis citizens or self-identified Métis through Reaching Home in FY 2024-25

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

The Reaching Home Program is on track to meet all of its key performance indicators for the 2024-25 fiscal year. To date, 184 applicants, along with 381 beneficiaries have received \$314,000 in financial support this fiscal year.

Ministry Goal 4: Provide 65 non-repayable grants through the Ma Nîkî Home Renovation Program in FY 2024-25

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

The Ma Nîkî Home Renovation Program is on track to meet all its key performance indicators for 2024-25 fiscal year. To date, 51 Elders have been supported with home renovations to help them age in place, over \$689,000 has been provided to help finance these projects this fiscal year.

The contract for the Fortis Energy Efficiency and Conservation Project was signed in September 2024 with phase 1 deliverables completed ahead of schedule. 26 citizens have been assisted in FortisBC rebate program applications for energy efficiency home upgrades.



Ministry Goal 5: Gain access to Métis specific data from BC Housing and local point-in-time (POT) homeless counts by the end of FY 2024-25

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

Métis specific data from the 2023 point-in-time (PiT) homelessness count has been secured for available communities in BC, other than Greater Vancouver. A data sharing agreement has been signed with the Greater Vancouver community entity for the PiT counts, Lu'ma Native Housing Society. We are awaiting the release of data from Lu'ma.

Development Division Goals - Highlights:

1. Determine priorities and develop the property portfolio to meet the Nation's goals.
2. Establish a clear, predictable process for all projects in Métis Chartered Communities.
3. Expand partnerships and increase Ministry project visibility.
4. Ensure projects are culturally relevant to Métis Citizens.

Ministry Goal 1: Determine priorities and develop the property portfolio to meet the Nation's goals

Aligned with Goal 5 of the Nation

The Ministry of Housing achieved significant milestones under this goal, advancing the Nation's property portfolio to meet strategic goals. Move-ins began at two newly acquired 8-plex apartments in Hudson's Hope, and a 100-acre parcel was purchased in Kelly Lake. Funding approvals were secured for projects in Campbell River and Saanich, with community engagement sessions completed in North Island and Prince George.

Key projects progressed, including rezoning and development applications for a 41-unit apartment in Invermere and the initiation of master planning in Terrace, with funding applications underway for both. Additionally, the MNBC Housing Strategy has advanced significantly and is set to be presented to the Board in 2025. This strategy will guide future investments in housing and social infrastructure, ensuring the Nation's long-term goals are met.

Ministry Goal 2: Establish a clear predictable process for all projects in Métis Chartered Communities.

Aligned with Goal 4 of the Nation.

This goal focuses on empowering Métis Chartered Communities by streamlining processes and expanding access to funding opportunities. In 2024, the Board approved the Chartered Community Project Proposals (CCPP) process, enabling six Chartered Communities to advance their projects. Alongside the CCPP, staff initiated work on a comprehensive Housing Strategy and began developing a Data-Driven Decision-Making (DDDM) tool. This innovative tool will support Chartered Communities and MNBC by leveraging data to identify and prioritize viable projects. Both the Housing Strategy and the DDDM tool are expected to be presented to the Board for consideration in 2025, marking a

significant step toward creating a clear, predictable process for all community projects.

Division Goal 3: Expand partnerships and increase Ministry visibility.

Aligned with Goal 6 of the Nation.

The Ministry of Housing has made significant progress in expanding partnerships and increasing visibility, securing critical support for key projects.

BC Housing provided Preliminary Development Funding for projects in Campbell River, Saanich, Terrace, and Invermere, laying the groundwork for future construction. Additionally, capital funding was approved through BC Housing's Indigenous Housing Fund for the development and construction of the Saanich and Campbell River projects.

Further strengthening its collaborative efforts, MNBC received \$100,000 from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to support the cost of community engagement sessions, ensuring meaningful input from Métis Chartered Communities in shaping these developments. These partnerships highlight the Ministry's commitment to fostering relationships that drive impactful housing initiatives.

Ministry Goal 4: Ensure projects are culturally relevant to Métis Citizens

Aligned with Goal 4 of the Nation

The Ministry of Housing is dedicated to ensuring projects are culturally relevant to Métis Citizens by embedding Métis traditions and values. A Métis architect was engaged to incorporate traditional Métis design aesthetics into the Campbell River and Saanich projects.

The Chartered Community Engagement Process is being refined to address local needs for housing and social infrastructure, while new procurement criteria prioritizing Métis consultants, contractors, and artists. These efforts ensure cultural relevance, foster Métis inclusion, and create economic opportunities within Métis communities.



Ministry of JUSTICE

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: PATRICK HARRIOTT
ASSOCIATE MINISTER: DEAN GLADUE
DIRECTOR OF MÉTIS RIGHTS, NEGOTIATIONS
AND JUSTICE: MELANIE WALKER

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Justice is an independent ministry with its own tables and goals, but also acts as a central service ministry as our work crosses the paths of so many other ministries. We exist to bring justice for Métis in both the BC and Federal Justice systems; this includes decreasing and illuminating the over-representation of Métis, supporting and creating programs and services and safe spaces for those who are in the justice system, ensuring cultural inclusion for Métis in such programs, and breaking down the system that targets and creates Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). We serve all citizens, registered and non-registered, chartered communities, ministries, and leadership.

Area of expertise includes Métis rights, Métis law, and the justice system both provincial and federal for Indigenous people, Métis in particular.

Ministry of Justice Goals:

1. MNBC Justice Strategy
2. Canada Indigenous Justice Strategy
3. Justice and Policing Sub-Accord
4. BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) work:
 - a. Indigenous Justice Centres
 - b. Gladue services
 - c. Legal aid transition
5. MNBC Justice Council
6. Senate



The Ministry of Justice overall update:

Overall, the Ministry carried a huge workload through Q3 and had to prioritize funding and hiring in order to start to build the capacity needed to do the work in front of us.

We are working with the law foundation to release our 1.5 million that they have held for our justice strategy work. We also successfully received 100K from the law foundation for our Navigator work which is a coordinator role: Provincial Justice Coordinator; and 30K from BC for our legislative and policy work. Most recently we were very excited to be the recipient of the Law Foundation Weaving Justice Cedar Grant; this grant had 2 stages and required a lot of work from the Ministry, as well as amazing support from Elizabeth, MNBC's Senior Grant Manager – the grant will fund us to begin creating a solid basis of Métis Justice and Métis laws and processes for the Ministry – work that will ground us as well as provide the path for all of our work. We received 1 million – 250K per year for 4 years.

Due to our hard work in fund development, we were finally able to hire 3 new staff for the Ministry over Q3 and Q4. We were excited to announce that Colette Nelson, an MNBC citizen, transitioned to our Ministry from the Ministry of Education as our new Provincial Justice Coordinator; she will become our key navigator, front facing, for Métis reaching out to MNBC for help navigating the justice system.

We are also quite proud of our collaborative work within MNBC, working closely with the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity and the Ministry of Youth on various funding and initiative projects around Gender Based Violence and MMIWG.

Ministry of Justice Goal 1: MNBC Justice Strategy**Aligned with Goal 2, 3 and 5 of the Nation**

Since our announcement and celebration at the AGM of BC's endorsement of our Justice Strategy, we are now working with BC to update our workplan and budget for the implementation of the strategy; this implementation phase will cover approximately 4 years for community engagement, research, and creation of the programs and services we want to be able to provide. Our workplan and budget were already created in 2024 and sit at approx. 21 million. However, due to final edits and changes over the summer of the strategy, MoJ will work in the new year to finish any remaining internal or external consultation needed to update the workplan and budget accordingly. We anticipate the budget to increase with this additional work.

The updated workplan and budget, after cabinet will then, once invited, go to the BC Treasury Board for consideration.

In the meantime, we are finding opportunities to begin the work outlined in the Justice Strategy recommendations. For example, the Ministry, with the support of the Ministry of Rights, took on a substantive policy review with the BC Government and their Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative. The BC team was moving too fast for us and yet we were able to negotiate improved consultation, which included funding for the work and extended deadlines. We reviewed 39 position papers and provided extensive comments to BC. Our comments and perspective will be captured in BC's

What We Heard Report. We were also guaranteed to be consulted further as this work continues and the regulations are written for the changing legislation in 2025.

Ministry of Justice Goal 2: Canada Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS)

Aligned with Goal 2, 3, and 5 of the Nation

The IJS has had a very interesting and tumultuous path with good times and frustrating times. The IJS was a goal of the current Canadian government and was meant to be transformative; Canada attempted to lead co-development and collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and Métis; for us this meant multiple tables – a table with MNC and GMs, as well as our table with Canada, and our table with AFN and ITK. MMF and MNS were also consulted on this work.

Through Q3, MoJ, GSR, and our CEO and CRO worked collaboratively to advocate for MNBC and negotiate the best wording outcomes possible to ensure further work was done with MNBC. MNBC has been an active and full-time participant in this work through 2024, and through the final few months as negotiations continued; we have done good work and provided strong technical writing overall in the document. We are still waiting for updates from Canada and are internally working on our next steps given our shift away from MNC and towards bilateral tables.

Ministry of Justice Goal 3: Justice and Policing Sub-Accord

Aligned with Goal 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the Nation

Also through Q3, we continued our work on the federal sub-accord, which is an outcome of the UNDA action plan. MNBC took the lead in authoring much of the sub-accord in various themes and topics and was an active participant in this work; this leadership puts us in a good position with our departure from MNC and our focus towards bilateral tables with Canada in this work.

Ministry of Justice Goal 4: BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) work

Aligned with Goal 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Nation

Through a continued focus on building relationships with the BCFNJC, our next stage is to work with our internal First Nations Relationship Committee to work through next steps and recommendations. We continue to advocate for participation and collaboration in this work through our relationships with BC and the Indigenous Justice Secretariat.

Ministry of Justice Goal 5 and 6: MNBC Justice Council and Senate

Aligned with Goal 2,3, 4 and 6 of the Nation

In January we will bring together our new Justice Council post-2024 Election, and will continue to seek ways to best support them and build capacity to do so. We will also continue to meet with the Senate through Q4 to provide updates and open up dialogue around capacity needs.

Maarsii, Ministry of Justice team.

Ministry of RIGHTS

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: DEAN GLADUE

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: PATRICK HARRIOTT

DIRECTOR OF MÉTIS RIGHTS: MELANIE WALKER

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Rights (MoR) is a ministry that has its own independent tables, and also acts as a central service, providing negotiation and rights expertise to MNBC leadership and Ministries. This Ministry exists to ensure that MNBC citizens are recognized for their inherent rights as Indigenous people, and for MNBC to continue to govern as a self-determined government. Our most pressing mandate right now is to finish our research project and to use it to fight for s. 35 rights to be recognized from both BC and Canada. We serve all citizens, all ministries, and our leadership. We also directly support the MNBC Strategy Plan goal #1.



Ministry of Rights Goals:

1. Recognition of Rights and Self-Determination Agreement with Canada
To have Canada formally accept and recognize Métis rights in BC and MNBC as the chosen self-determined government of those rights.
2. United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA) Action Plan
To fully participate and collaborate with Canada on the implementation of its UNDA Action Plan through the shared priorities, the Métis specific priorities, and the MNBC specific priority as approved and published in June 2023.
3. Create Referrals process (Consultation)
Legislative and Policy review (external laws: BC and Canada law)
In February 2024, the MNBC Board approved re-structuring that included moving our consultation work to the Ministry of Rights; this work includes creating a formal process for consultation work at MNBC and participating in all legislative and policy changes occurring in western governments in BC and at the federal level.

4. Build Ministry Capacity

To increase the staff and funding for the Ministry so that we can keep up with the work being asked of us and the opportunities in front of us.

Ministry of Rights Goal 1: Recognition of Rights and Self-Determination Agreement with Canada

Aligned with Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Nation

Our RIRSD table is our walk towards Canada's determination of Métis rights in BC and our self-government agreement. Our ultimate goal is to have Canada determine our rights through our presented report and research outcomes and thus co-develop a self-government agreement between Canada and MNBC. We have kept up and continued our regular technical table meetings with Canada and continue to ask Canada for regular leadership level meetings for our BOD; this ask is being reenergized through a new strategic plan with our CRO and GSR team. At our RIRSD table, we worked hard to reinvigorate the TOR with Canada; however, pivoted as a strategy to a successfully signed workplan instead, which we are now acting on by creating draft term sheets that were presented to Canada in December; these terms sheets focus on two key ministries, Culture, Heritage and Language, and Health and have been created through co-development and collaboration between the Ministry of Rights and these respective MNBC ministry teams. We continue these meetings with Canada and have started to prepare them for our strong Rights focused dialogue in the Spring by introducing such rhetoric in our term sheets and at our meetings. This has never been our easiest table and yet we continue to evolve, strategize, collaborate internally, and pivot to push Canada and find successes in our path forward.

To support Canada's determination, we continued our intense research project: Tâpwêwin. In Q3, we conducted 29 interviews, focusing on Elders, Youth, Women, and Captains of the Hunt: Vancouver Island; Vancouver (AGM); Kamloops; Terrace, and Prince George. We are wrapping up any missed opportunities with key knowledge holders in January and conducting interviews on Vancouver Island and at our Headquarters. In March 2025, we will receive our final report from our research consultants, after which will have a legal analysis conducted and a report created that will go to Canada in Spring 2025 for their determination.

In the interim, we have also worked heavily with our external legal team to conduct further review and analysis on previous reports and determinations from Canada, other relevant reports and documents internal and external to MNBC, and additional relevant court cases to continue to build our legal case towards Canada's determination of rights in BC.

Ministry of Rights Goal 2: United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA) Action Plan

Aligned with Goal 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the Nation

In the Fall we lined up in person meetings with Canada's UNDA action plan team to continue to push and pursue the action plan priorities, including our MNBC specific action; MoR presented a draft

workplan concept with a goal to initiate conversations with Canada around Women and Gender Equity, Youth, and Education.

Ministry of Rights Goal 3: Create Referrals process (Consultation); Legislative and Policy review (external laws: BC and Canada law)

Aligned with Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Nation

Our Rights Assertion Strategy is well under way and now formally approved by our new BOD; this will culminate into a Rights Framework in the Summer of 2025 that will also be taken to the BOD. The Ministry focused on community engagement plans this past fall, including reaching out to our relevant committees (MWBC, youth, and 2SLGBTQQA+). We are also planning a BOD Rights workshop in January, chartered community engagement in February, and citizen outreach in March. We presented our Rights workshop agenda to the BOD in December and received positive feedback and overall support, and are now preparing for this workshop based on the feedback.

All of the priority work under the ministry currently, especially our legal reviews and our research project will feed into the Framework and our community and leadership engagement will help support us to ensure the final document is helpful and useful to MNBC, as well as chartered communities and citizens. We are also reviewing our Consultation Guidelines in parallel to this work as we start to work on the Rights Framework which may include aspects of new or updated guidelines.

The Ministry also supported the Ministry of Justice this fall in reviewing and commenting on 39 position policy papers from BC, including accessing 30K funding for that Ministry. We also were tagged in to support the research at the Point Ellice House. Our SLT invited the Ministry to the data sovereignty dialogue and we supported UNDA work with Heritage Canada on APM 101; we also worked with GMs and MNC on the IAAC co-administration agreement work. All of this work is a strong outcome in how this ministry acts as a supportive and central service ministry to other rights-based work in other ministries.

Ministry of Rights Goal 4: Build Ministry Capacity

Aligned with Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Nation

The Ministry was successful in continuing to build capacity; this is one of our strategic goals as we were unable to keep up with our incoming work without more staff. Although finding the right people takes time, we continue to prioritize this as a Ministry and were very excited to welcome our new Research Manager, Christina Hansen, a citizen of MNBC to the team. She brings with her decades of experience, as well as a deep knowledge of Métis rights and decolonized community research methodologies. In addition, our new Métis Rights Coordinator comes to us from New Zealand and although is new to the Canadian landscape of Indigenous rights, worked with local Indigenous groups back home for over a decade and brings a wealth of experience to the team.

We received approx. \$522K from CIRNAC for our RIRSD table, the highest amount negotiated to date for this table.

Maarsii, the Ministry of Rights Team.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: PAULETTE FLAMOND

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: KATIE TRACE

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Skills Training, Employment and Post Secondary Education (STEPS) lifts our citizens into a confident self-knowing so that they can secure the education and career that supports enriched, socioeconomic-resilient lives for themselves and their families. STEPS aims to eliminate barriers and inspire citizens, offering culturally safe programs and services that are grounded in Métis knowledge.



Ministry Goals:

1. STEPS strengthens our citizens for socioeconomic health and wealth by supporting their educational and employment aspirations through relevant services, programming, and funding opportunities that are grounded in cultural integrity and continuous knowing and learning.
2. STEPS seeks to enhance Métis visibility and Métis historic and cultural understanding by enhancing existing programs and services, weaving in cultural learning and supports, and through the development of new programs and services, including the development of a Métis post-secondary and skills training institute.
3. STEPS builds new and enhances current relationships with Métis Chartered Communities, post-secondary and skills training institutes, provincial and federal government partners, employers, and community agencies.
4. STEPS works to offer supports in a holistic way, offering critical wraparound resources for students that are grounded in a Métis cultural orientation.
5. STEPS works to optimize staff capacity by strengthening professional capacity and skill development, enhancing our programs and services to citizens.



Goal 1: STEPS strengthens our citizens for socioeconomic health and wealth by supporting their educational and employment aspirations through relevant services, programming, and funding opportunities that are grounded in cultural integrity and continuous knowing and learning.

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

2,198 total citizens were funded this fiscal year between April to December for their post-secondary education and other skills training requests. Between August to December 2024, 462 citizens received \$5,882,336 in funding. Specifically, there were 411 funded requests for post-secondary education (from certificate to graduate level programs), 44 for trade foundation or apprenticeship training, 169 for short tickets, along with 5 wage subsidies, 4 paid practicums and 14 emergency support requests.

Citizens Served Per Region April to December 2024

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7
427	576	424	217	204	145	205

The Employment Services and Employer Partnerships team has supported 264 clients this fiscal year, with over 70 clients between August and December 2024. These interventions include résumé and interview preparation, career decision-making guidance, and other targeted interventions to help individuals pursue sustainable careers. The team hosted three (3) employment-related information sessions, attended by 87 citizens, and set up three (3) wage subsidy and two (2) paid practicum agreements. They also attended five (5) events, including the Victoria Career Expo and Prince George Career Fair which saw more than 5000 attendees.

Since August, STEPS launched 9 provincial cohorts attended by 110 citizens. Fifteen cohorts in total were launched this fiscal, attended by 195 citizens. These cohorts included a range of impactful programs such as the Health Career Access Program (HCAP), Mental Health First Aid, Microsoft Office Basics, Microsoft Office Intermediate, Digital Marketing Bootcamp, and QuickBooks. In partnership with Community Futures, STEPS is delivering a THRIVE business cohort, which is aimed at entrepreneurs. Our Cultural Coordinator facilitated a well-received beaded poppy workshop and is now working with all active cohorts to ensure students have a connection to Métis culture and heritage.



Ministry Goal 2: STEPS seeks to enhance Métis visibility and Métis historic and cultural understanding by enhancing existing programs and services, weaving in cultural learning and supports, and through the development of new programs and services, including the development of a Métis post-secondary and skills training institute.

Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation

We saw progress in advancing the development of the Métis-led post-secondary institute. Key achievements include drafting the Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles in Michif with the help of Elder Norman Fleury, which were then translated into English to reflect community values and aspirations. These sessions also included numerous translations, stories, and perspectives to include in future development work.

Ministry Goal 3: STEPS builds new and enhances current relationships with Métis Chartered Communities, post-secondary and skills training institutes, provincial and federal government partners, employers, and community agencies.

Aligned with Goal 4 of the Nation

Engagement with provincial minister Anne Kang from the Ministry of Post Secondary Future Skills (PSFS) is taking place with the goal of advancing a long-term, sustainable funding agreement under Indigenous Skills Training & Education (ISTE). This includes working towards finalizing a bilateral protocol agreement, which has been in progress since 2021, to formalize and strengthen the positive, collaborative working relationship between PSFS and MNBC. Minister Kang's familiarity with these initiatives, stemming from her previous tenure as the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) in 2021/22, provides a valuable opportunity to accelerate discussions and solidify this critical agreement.



The MNBC Nursing Bursary was launched and opened for applications on October 25, 2024, to Métis citizens. This initiative, supported by a one-time funding allocation of \$1.5 million from the Provincial Ministry of Health, has already made a significant impact. To date, 86 Métis nursing students have received \$5,000 bursaries, totaling \$430,000 in direct support. Many recipients have expressed heartfelt gratitude, emphasizing how this financial assistance has alleviated barriers and enabled them to focus on their education and future careers in nursing.

Ministry Goal 4: STEPS works to offer supports in a holistic way, offering critical wraparound resources for students that are grounded in a Métis cultural orientation.

Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation

STEPS completed a community survey for Métis citizens and communities, as part of the development of MNBC's first Métis-led post-secondary institute. This initiative aims to meet the educational goals of Métis communities by offering labour market relevant and innovative post-secondary accredited programming while fostering a deep-rooted sense of cultural identity. The college will prioritize Métis ways of being, doing, and knowing, ensuring that Métis culture is embedded throughout a student's journey. It was huge success, receiving 1,060 responses, with analysis expected to be completed by mid-February. The team presented at the AGM town hall and engaged in meaningful conversations with community members at the trade show. Additionally, transcripts from STEPS student focus groups will be reviewed and incorporated into the community engagement report. The team continues to build their relationship with community members, and other post-secondary institutes. Moving forward, we are focused on finalizing the analysis of the community feedback survey, preparing an updated business plan and presenting proposed names to the MNBC Board of Directors.

Ministry Goal 5: STEPS works to optimize staff capacity by strengthening professional capacity and skill development, enhancing our programs and services to citizens.

Aligned with Goal 5 of the Nation

STEPS staff gathered in Surrey in April for three days of collaboration, teambuilding, and peer mentorship and coaching. A highlight of this gathering was the workshop "Cultivating Culturally Safe Spaces" facilitated by MNBC citizen Catherine Ruddell.

The STEPS management team gathered in West Kelowna for two days of teamwork and collaboration on revisiting the STEPS strategic plan and refining our Standards of Practice. The team also participated in a finger weaving workshop hosted by Jakob Knudsen and streamed MNBC Citizen Jordan Waunch's short film - Shadow of the Rougarou.

Ministry of SPORTS AND ACTIVE LIVING

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: DEAN GLADUE

DIRECTOR: MARC RIDDELL

SENIOR MANAGER: ADAM FITCHETT

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Sport and Active Living at the Métis Nation British Columbia's mission is to empower our communities through an active lifestyle. We are committed to providing accessible sporting opportunities, fostering athletic excellence, and instilling a sense of pride in our Métis athletes. Through strategic collaborations and innovative programs, we aim to build a strong, united community where every citizen can thrive, excel in sports, and celebrate our rich cultural heritage on the playing field.

Ministry Goal 1: Enhance and expand budget capacity in the Ministry of Sport and Active Living through various grants and interorganizational partnerships with other Ministries at MNBC.

Aligned with Goal #5 of the Nation

The Ministry of Sport and Active Living (MoSaL) has made significant strides toward achieving this goal. We are proud to announce the receipt of two external grants: one for the inclusive hockey tournament This Tournament Has Everything and another for a snowshoeing event, organized in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Food Security and the Ministry of Youth. Additionally, MoSaL has expanded its team by hiring three new staff members to enhance our capacity—two Sport and Active Living Coordinators and one Administrative Coordinator.

Another exciting milestone comes from our Métis Cooking Series, which has successfully concluded its final stage. In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and MNBC's Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Food Security, this professionally filmed workshop series featured two Métis chefs from different regions. The series includes 4–5 episodes, each approximately 10 minutes long, showcasing both traditional and modernized Métis dishes. The series has been well-received, amassing over 10,000 views and inspiring Métis families to explore their culinary heritage. To further support this initiative, the Ministry distributed grants of \$250 each to 400 Métis families,



enabling them to purchase ingredients and cook along with the videos. As a token of appreciation for their photo or video submissions, participants will also receive Métis cookbooks containing additional recipes. As of now, there has been over 100 submissions of photos and videos.

Ministry Goal 2: Enhance visibility through strategic partnerships. Establishing and cultivating partnerships with Indigenous organizations, non-Indigenous organizations, and government agencies to collaboratively organize and execute large-scale provincial and national events. The primary aim is to gain recognition from professional sports teams (Canucks, BC Lions, Whitecaps, Warriors), fostering a sense of community and inclusivity.

Aligned with Goal #6 of the Nation

The Ministry has also made significant progress in planning the MNBC Lacrosse and Active Living Forum, a transformative three-day event. Scheduled to take place from March 14th to 17th, the forum celebrates Métis culture while promoting active living among youth.

The forum will be held at two iconic locations: the Lacrosse portion will take place at Simon Fraser University and will be hosted by the professional NLL team, the Vancouver Warriors. While workshops will be hosted at the Fort Langley National Historic Site. This unique combination of modern sporting facilities and culturally significant landmarks promises an enriching experience for all participants.

The Ministry has also strengthened collaborations with ISPARC, partnering for the first-ever Indigenous Youth Development Basketball Camp on February 1st in collaboration with Vancouver Sea to Sky with over 100 participants registered.

Additionally, one of the ministries major accomplishments was hosting the first MNBC Indigenous Youth Camp in partnership with the Canadian Premier League team, Vancouver FC, in Langley, British Columbia. Open to all MNBC citizens, self-identifying Métis, and First Nations youth from across Greater Vancouver, the event even drew one family from Kamloops and had over 75 participants.

Ministry Goal 3: Enhance policies and procedures by implementing and updating administrative guidelines and tracking systems to facilitate MNBC Citizens' access to sports. This will allow smoother transitions for future employees in the Ministry of Sport and Active Living.



Aligned with Goal #5 of the Nation

The Ministry of Sport and Active Living (MoSaL) has taken important initial steps toward advancing its policies and procedures by hiring an Administrative Coordinator. This addition has significantly streamlined processes that previously lacked capacity. In this new role, the Ministry's Administrative Coordinator will collaborate with policy analysts to ensure that future programming aligns with MNBC guidelines and current sport policies.

Ministry Goal 4: Establish youth camps in collaboration with professional sports teams to promote skill development and mentorship opportunities for young Métis individuals.

Aligned with Goal #4 of the Nation

In addition to the first-ever partnership with ISPARC's Development Youth Camps and the Vancouver FC Youth Camp, MNBC's Ministry of Sport and Active Living is excited to host its inaugural Horseback Riding Camp.

Over the course of five days, youth will participate in a three-hour-per-day horseback riding program owned by Métis business, Painted Horse Equestrian. Through interactive lessons, workshops, and activities, participants will develop horseback riding skills while connecting with nature. Immersed in an outdoor setting, campers will experience a holistic environment that nurtures their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Ministry Goal 5: Inclusivity and accessibility for all MNBC citizens in sport and active living. Ensuring that sports and active living programs are inclusive and accessible to individuals of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds within MNBC. This will require specified programming that will need adapting throughout the year and will be an evolutionary process.

Aligned with Goal #3 of the Nation:

MoSaL is proud to have partnered with This Tournament Has Everything (TTHE), an inclusive draft-style hockey tournament for women, trans, two-spirit, and non-binary players. The event will take place on the Sunshine Coast, in ch'atlich (Sechelt).

MNBC will provide on-site support, assisting with logistics and cultural elements of the tournament. Additionally, MoSaL has played a key role in helping TTHE secure funding through the Federal Government's Community Safety Fund.



Ministry of **VETERANS**

Respectfully Submitted:

MVBC CHAIR: DAVID ARMITT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TANYA DAVOREN

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS: MICHELLE FORTIN

Since the 2024 AGM in September, MVBC have continue to work on Advocating for Métis Veterans. As part of the National Métis Veteran Council, MVBC Chair Dave Armitt continues to engage agencies at the National level such as Veterans Affairs Canada, Library Archives Canada and other Federal departments where Veterans have a vested interest.

MVBC now has several Regional Representatives and Committee members who have completed Service Officer Training with Veterans Affairs Canada and are able to assist Métis Veterans that have service-related injuries. This includes both Canadian Armed Forces serving and retired Members as well as RCMP Regular Members.

There is potential for further and expanded Service Officer Training to be held for MVBC. MVBC covers 7 regions and requires representation in Regions 3, 4, 6, and 7. These Regions can ask for Veteran representation at their RGC by reaching out to the MVBC Chair in advance.

The current number of Métis Veterans is 129. Membership is open to current serving CAF and RCMP Regular Members as well as retired Métis Veterans. MVBC strongly believes that there are more Métis Veterans with our Citizenry but, they don't realize that they are Veterans. Some think that their service was short or that they never deployed overseas or fought in a war, so they believe that they are not a Veteran. The current Veterans Affairs Canada definition of a Veteran is: A member must have completed Basic Training and be Honourably Released from the Canadian Armed Forces. Additionally, MVBC recognizes RCMP Regular Members are considered Veterans as they are supported by Veterans Affairs Canada. To become a MVBC Veteran Member a person must first be a Citizen of MNBC and must then meet the current Veterans Affairs Canada definition of a Veteran.

This time period reflects two of the most important dates for Métis Veterans – Indigenous Veterans Day, November 8 and Remembrance Day, November 11. MVBC leadership participated along with President Mineault in the annual Victory Square event in Vancouver, laying wreaths on behalf of MNBC and MVBC. Another 11 wreaths were laid across the province and MVBC members were engaged in



ceremonies in Regions 1 and 2. Our participation was marked by interviews with Dave on both CBC and Global news outlets.

Much effort has been given to our involvement in the INVICTUS Games 2025, which are being hosted on the territories the four First Nations (Liłwat7úl (Liłwat), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. The games will take place in Vancouver and Whistler, in Vancouver held in Vancouver and Whistler 08-16 February 2025. To add to the Indigenous componentry, MVBC has been working since September with the INVICTUS Games 2025 Coordinators to have Métis Culture included in the theme of the event. At time of writing, our Ministry of Culture and Heritage is working with MVBC to ensure Métis culture is proudly displayed for the attendees in early February.

MVBC created a serialized Challenge Coin for MVBC Members along with designing a sash. At the AGM, Challenge Coins and Sashed were distributed to Regions 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7, with partial distribution to Region 2 and future distribution to Region 3. Once the sashes for members have been fully distributed, the sash will become available for purchase at The Trading Post.



Ministry of **WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY (MOWGE)**

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: CARMEN CARRIERE

MINISTER: LOUIS DE JAEGER, MBA

DIRECTOR: RACHEL PERKINS

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Women and Gender Equity elevates Métis women and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities by advocating for resources, programs and services that reflect their unique needs.

MOWGE Goal 1:

ADVOCACY: Strengthen MMIW[2S+], and 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy and ensure all MNBC programs and services are responsive to the needs of Métis women and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members by developing regular and ongoing methods for: needs assessments and data collection on issues impacting Métis women and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, creating funding proposals, developing and participating in cross-ministry tables, and providing recommendations on MNBC policy processes.

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

Partnership with Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG):

- MOWGE continues to collaborate with PSSG on their development of a Red Dress Alert pilot project for BC.
- Discussions have also occurred on MNBC's Justice Strategy and the possibility of developing a Métis -specific table to further advance MMIWG2S+ work in the province.

MOWGE Goal Two:

GENDER BASED/FAMILY VIOLENCE: Lead the development and delivery of Gender-based and Family Violence initiatives, in partnership with other Ministries, which enhances MNBC capacity and provide direct services and supports to communities to assist both women and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members experiencing, and healing from violence.



Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

Gender-based violence capacity-building:

- As a result of funding from the provincial and federal governments, MOWGE is currently developing a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Strategy, Safe Métis Communities, and designing programs and services in alignment with the Strategy.
- Funding has been provided to expand the Métis Counselling Connection program to provide access to counselling for those Métis citizens in need, including those who have or who are experiencing violence.
- Further capacity to design and deliver programs and services has occurred with the hiring and posting of a Research Analyst and Program Coordinators.

MOWGE Goal Three:

WOMEN: Advance the effective representation of women in governance through providing Secretariat support to MWBC, including wrapping up the legacy of the existing Council, preparing for a new Council (e.g., onboarding and governance training), the development of a Plan for the new Council, and enhanced supports, capacity-building and inclusion of MWBC Community Representatives.

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

New MOWGE Minister and MWBC Council

- The Fall election and the AGM resulted in a new Minister for MOWGE, Carmen Carriere and a new incoming Métis Women Governance Council (MWBC).
- Orientation occurred at the AGM for the new members.
- Additional new MWBC members were acclaimed in by-elections and further orientation will occur.

MOWGE Goal Four:

2SLGBTQQIA: Improve the services and supports for Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ community members by supporting the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Committee and supporting the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community's transition into a governance council, and increasing MNBC capacity to deliver services and supports specific to the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance:

- An historic resolution passed at the 2024 AGM that will see the creation of a 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council. This will be the first of its kind amongst Métis nations in Canada.
- New members were acclaimed in December and January resulted in the election of a new Chair, Louis De Jaeger
- Alongside the Governance department, MOWGE will support its implementation.

2SLGBTQQIA+ Initiative:

- MOWGE was awarded funding for a new project “Piihtikway/ Come In: Two-Spirit Resurgence and Healing through Kinship and Culture”.
- The project consists of a Medicine Pouch Mini Art Series, an Introduction to Beading workshop, a virtual speaker series with Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA+ relatives across BC that have been occurring through Fall and Winter and will culminate in a 2SLGBTQQIA+ Resource Book.

MOWGE Goal Five:

KAAWIICHIHITOYAAHK/ OUR TEAM: Focus on Ministry sustainability and growth, both financial and people culture, including development of a financial sustainability plan, enhanced processes and support for staff recruitment/ training/retention/care and ministry business.

Aligned with Goal 5 of the Nation

Sustainable funding:

- MOWGE continued to develop and submit several grant applications to support future projects.

Increased staff capacity & retention:

- MOWGE has hired several new permanent positions in 2024 and early 2025.

Ministry of YOUTH (MOY)

Respectfully Submitted:

MINISTER: DANIELLE BERGEVIN

DIRECTOR: RACHEL PERKINS

Ministry Mission:

The Ministry of Youth serves Métis youth in British Columbia ages of 15-30. The Ministry of Youth aims to revitalize and strengthen Métis culture and community by providing Métis youth in BC with culturally relevant education, life skills, programs, and events. Through these initiatives, the Ministry of Youth aims 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.

Annual goal 1: Cultivate Métis Youth cultural knowledge, community connection, language revitalization, and land stewardship by delivering youth Michif language and culture camp, virtual culture workshops, and land stewardship program. Recognize and celebrate Métis youth achievements and contributions to their culture and community by hosting the annual Métis Role Model Campaign.

Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation

- **Eco Collective:** The Michif Collective for Environmental Action empowers Métis youth and young adults in B.C. to explore their environmental passions and drive climate action. Program sessions explored a variety of topics including cultural burning, the significance of fire in Métis culture, eco-anxiety, and conservation, among others. In October, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Food Security we hosted the Youth Eco Retreat, recognizing 11 youth who completed over 35 hours of environmental volunteering through the Eco Collective Initiative. The retreat fostered learning, connection, and celebration of their contributions to sustainability.
- **Métis Spirit Award:** In December, we launched the call for nominations for the annual Métis Spirit Awards, receiving over 15 nominations within the first two weeks from across British Columbia. Additionally, we developed a culturally rooted framework for reviewing and assessing nominations, ensuring a transparent and equitable process.



Annual goal 2: Promote opportunities for education, training, employment, and life skills enhancement among Métis youth in British Columbia through fostering strategic internal and external partnerships, identifying and understanding unique needs of Métis youth, and staying attuned to current labour market dynamics and industry trends.

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

- Collaborated closely with Vancouver Community College (VCC) to finalize the Culinary Pathways cohort curriculum and complete participant registrations, ensuring readiness for the program's start on January 21, 2025. The Youth Employment and Training Coordinator connected with participants individually to ensure program fit, provide guidance with form completion, identify needs such as accessibility or transportation, and finalize all necessary documents for program enrollment. We toured VCC campus, connected with faculty and support staff, and delivered program supplies and welcome packages in preparation for the training's start.

Annual Goal Three: Enhance the overall well-being and healing of Métis youth through the delivery of culturally rooted wellness initiatives that provide access to Elders and traditional knowledge related to physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing and harm-reduction supports.

Aligned with Goal 2 of the Nation

New MOY Minister and MYBC Council

- The Fall election and the AGM resulted in a new Minister for MOY, Danielle Bergevin, and a new incoming Métis Youth BC Governance Council (MYBC).
- Orientation and governance training occurred at the AGM for the new members.
- Additional new MYBC members were acclaimed in by-elections and further orientation will occur in the coming weeks.

Annual Goal Four: Advance the effective representation of Métis youth in governance through providing Secretariat support to MYBC Council, maintaining MNBC's seat on the UIYC (Unified Indigenous Youth Collective), and development of resources and supports for capacity-building, and inclusion of community youth representatives.

Aligned with Goal 4 of the Nation

- The Ministry of Youth is providing ongoing secretariat support to MYBC Council
- New regional youth representative for Region 2 was acclaimed
- In collaboration with the Governance department, The Ministry of Youth will support orientation document review, organizing strategic planning sessions, and supporting other council priorities in the coming weeks

Annual Goal Five: Enhance youth advocacy efforts and ensure MNBC programs and services remain responsive to the unique needs of Métis youth of Métis youth, including 2S+ (Two-Spirit, LGBTQIA+) and youth with diverse abilities. Create a plan for regular and ongoing practices to conduct needs assessments, regional youth surveys, participate in cross-ministry collaborative forums, government engagement sessions, seek internal partnerships, and provide recommendations to MNBC.

Aligned with Goal 3 of the Nation

- Increased our relationship with MNBC's Ministry of Children and Family team for the Restorative Interventions and support for Youth (RISY) project.
- Collaborate closely with 2SLGBTQQIA+ Coordinator from the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity to integrate a 2S+ lens into youth programs and events.
- Participate in collaborative meetings with other Ministries, offering expertise and support for youth-focused events, such as Métis Girls gatherings hosted by the Ministry of Health & Wellness.

Annual Goal Six: Develop the Ministry sustainability and succession plan, focus on enhancing onboarding and record-keeping practices, staff training, and retention.

Aligned with Goal 5 of the Nation

- The Ministry of Youth has strengthened its administrative capacity by adding a Program Assistant to enhance operational efficiency, allowing coordinators to dedicate more time to key priorities. Additionally, the Ministry has welcomed a Manager, Youth Justice, who has been collaborating with MNBC's Ministry of Children and Families and Ministry of Justice to develop resources and supports for at risk Métis youth who are involved or connected to the Youth Justice System.
- During this period, the Ministry of Youth has actively engaged in creating funding proposals and developing and participating in cross-ministry tables.
- The Ministry engaged in strengthening internal processes to create efficiencies and best practices to support service and program delivery.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society

Respectfully Submitted: **JUNE GRAHAM, PRESIDENT**

Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society (ACMS) is working with MNBC to get our clinic complete and up and running. This will be the first Métis Micro Clinic in BC. The clinic is adjacent to our chartered community office! Our clinic will serve as a template in many ways for future Micro Clinics. We have posted a job position on MNBC site and other sites as well for a registered social worker for our navigator position. We have a Paramedic for our clinic. Our goal is to have a doctor soon. This is very exciting, not just for our community, but for all chartered communities in the future.



Our daycare has just finished a groundbreaking ceremony in collaboration with the two First Nation Bands whose land we reside on. The daycare has come to the building stage working with MNBC, Pacific Rim School District, Tseshah First Nation, and Hupacasath First Nation. Tseshah First Nation has generously donated the Cedar posts for the front entrance way. MNBC, ACMS and Tseshah will be instrumental in creating a name for the daycare. We are all looking forward to the grand opening soon.

ACMS has been committed to building relationships with Tseshah and Hupacasath First Nation. We are cognisant of following protocol and have met with elected chief and council a few times. ACMS has received a letter of support from Tseshah First Nation for our daycare. We are hopeful to receive one also for the clinic.

ACMS has been working with Pacific Rim School District in the interest of our children getting their academic and wellness needs identified and supported. With funding given to ACMS from our district we now have a Métis Student support worker. She is connecting with our students and building relationships with not only the students but their families.

ACMS holds a seat at the Indigenous Education Committee within Pacific Rim School District. We will be attending a two-day retreat with the committee in February.

ACMS has held a few successful family days that have been well attended. We also had an Elders Christmas dinner as well. We are planning another family day in February.

ACMS was proud to have our flag fly at City Hall on Louis Riel Day last November. City council will start a discussion this year with ACMS about a longer time that our flag can fly. Some cities have the flag up for the entire week. That is our goal.

ACMS office is open a few hours one day a week. There are no staff at ACMS.

Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **MARLENE SWEARS, PRESIDENT**

We have an exciting year. We had the opportunity to move into a bigger office with a boardroom. It has been a long time coming for us. We can now offer more programs in our own facility. We have hired a Métis contractor who is currently installing some renovations and bringing the space to life.

With some new funding available from the CCPP funding, we have built a early years resource center downstairs in our office.

We received additional funding with our Aboriginal Early years Childhood Development contract to hire a part time worker who connects with Métis children in our school district. She will utilize the resource center to offer one on one and small group programs.

This past summer, we held our 10th annual jamboree at McLeese Lake. As always, meeting new families in our area is a highlight this year. We are seeing an increase in participants in our cultural games and family day. We'd like to thank Kendra and Keenan for your time volunteering and participating in our cultural games. This year marks our 30 years' operation in Williams Lake and this year's jamboree will be a bigger celebration of our anniversary.

3 staff from the office got the opportunity with Indigenous Tourism to do a helicopter tour with Tweedsmuir Air. We look forward to more engagement and connections with the communities West of us.

We have been connecting with the Bella Coola school district offering supports with creating their Indigenous Education Committee. Our office has held 2 seats on this committee for the past 20 years in our own district. We have built a wonderful relationship with our school district and continue to offer cultural presentations and education on Métis culture. One of our elders also works in the Friendship center head start program and daycare program 2 days a week providing Métis culture connecting with children under school age.

We've held numerous office functions thanks to the funds received from different MNBC programs. The engagement from the youth and elders has been increasing over the past couple years. Special events have been to capacity.

Our community free store "Give a little, take a little" is still in operation with a large increase in the number of people accessing it. We were supported this year by some other provincial initiatives which have allowed us to stay in operation with a part-time employee. This program has been recognized as a valuable community asset from the city and other service providers. We are currently seeking ongoing funding to keep this available for the next year.



Louis Riel day celebration is held same time as our Christmas event, but this year we had the opportunity to honor our Métis Veterans and thank them for their service. We would like to continue this as a yearly event.

Our Christmas party is always a max capacity event. This is supported by the ministry of Children and Families as we have a large turnout of Métis children. We are known for our inclusivity of surroundings cultures, and this is always fun to mix the families together for an evening of games, Métis music and food.

We invite you all to stop into our new location for a coffee and a snack when you are travelling through our area.

Cowichan Valley Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **RICHARD LEWIS, PRESIDENT**

It has been a busy and productive year. Our dedicated non-paid board and community volunteers have devoted many, many hours to manage and support our community, host cultural events and support new and old members alike.

Every month we have hosted one or more workshops in our upstairs educational space, on top of holding monthly crafting circle for youth and others. These events were possible through the funding support of MNBC and funding from other outside successful grant proposals.

We continue to have an active agreement with School District #79 which funds our Métis specific cultural teaching assistants who work full time for the district and are CUPE employees. For more than a decade we

have held a Métis cultural day camp in May where 2 grade 4 classes come for the day to learn about the Métis history and culture. This day camp runs for 5 days.

Voyageur Canoe Station

We are involved with the New Hospital build in the Cowichan Valley by having dedicated community members sitting on various committees. Jan our Vice President attending a Beam Signing event before it is raised in place.

A major highlight from this past year was through the New Horizons for Seniors grant, we were able to support the development and production of a Métis Veterans challenge coin to thank our Métis Veterans for their service, past and present.

To show our veterans, that we do remember and recognize that they did sacrifice a lot, to serve and protect us.

Shown on the front of the coin are the four service, RCMP, Air Force, Army and Navy, the colored background representing their uniform colors.



The Sash is in the form of the Remembrance symbol. The braided sweet grass running North and South, East and West represents the four corners of Canada that Métis members have come from to serve and the four corners of the world that they have served at. In our written Michif Language “PROUD TO BE MÉTIS” shown twice, represents the combination of two different languages to make one.

On the reverse side is the medicine wheel for healing, and repeated four time, for the four Military Services, the words, Honour, Remember, Thank and Heal.

The outline of British Columbia is recognizing our Province to which many of our people now reside in. In the center, our Cowichan Valley Métis logo, from where this special coin was developed.

The seven Maple leaf's surrounding British Columbia show that there are Seven teachings of the Medicine wheel, they also represent the seven Communities that make up Region one “Vancouver Island” and the seven Regions that make up Métis Nation British Columbia.

Our community would like to request that if all other communities outside of Region1, could let us know how many Veterans are in your community, we would like to see if we can provide a coin to your veterans on our behalf.

Through this grant, we also sponsored (accommodation and food) Métis veterans from Region 1 to attend the Vancouver Island Rendezvous

Again, We Thank you, Our Veterans, for your sacrifice and service.

We are committed to sponsoring at least 4 seasonal gatherings for our community -Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall)

Nothing Better than serving Saskatoon Berry Pie at a community event!

This Past Christmas we handed out one hundred Christmas Community Appreciation bags to our members, they included, soup mix, canned salmon, wild rice, chocolates, and other items.



This past year has been a great year for our community, both in growth and accomplishments.

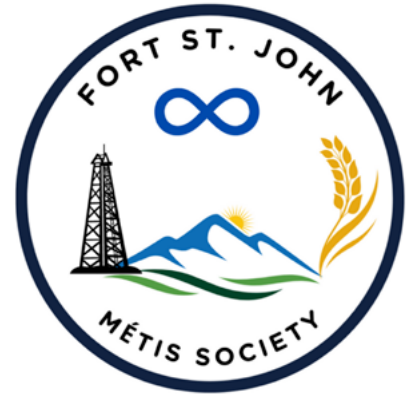
I know as a leader, we would not be where we are, if it were not for the dedication of our members, the strength of all our communities and the terrific support from the leadership of MNBC and their support Team.

Again, We Thank you, Our Veterans, for your sacrifice and service.

Fort St. John Métis Society

Respectfully Submitted: **ALANA COPELAND, PRESIDENT**

Over the past year, the Fort St. John Métis Society has made remarkable progress in fostering community connection, supporting Métis culture, and promoting well-being. With dedication and teamwork, we have delivered programs and events that cater to all ages, celebrate Métis heritage, and address key community needs. Below is an overview of our activities and accomplishments since the beginning of 2024.



Programs and Activities

Cultural Events

1. Louis Riel Day Celebrations
 - Hosted a skating event paired with smudge kit making to honor Louis Riel's legacy.
 - Achieved the proclamation of Louis Riel Day in the City of Fort St. John, enhancing recognition of Métis contributions.
2. Traditional Arts and Crafts Workshops
 - Hosted Red Dress beading to preserve traditional Métis beadwork skills.
 - Organized a Caribou tufting poppy class.
3. Events for National Days of Significance
 - On National Truth and Reconciliation Day, held a Fishing Derby, emphasizing reflection and connection to nature.
 - Commemorated MMIW Red Dress Day with a special event to raise awareness and support healing.
4. Workshops on Traditional Skills
 - Conducted classes in wreath making, and pumpkin carving, helping participants learn practical skills.

Community Engagement and Social Programs

1. Food Trailer Initiative
 - Successfully ran the Métis Society's food trailer at several large-scale events, showcasing Métis culinary traditions.

2. Soup and Bannock Days
 - Regularly hosted these gatherings to foster a welcoming space for community members to connect and share.
3. Food Security Program
 - Organized a canning class, seed-starting class, dairy processing and distributed 9,000 lbs of apples to families, enhancing access to fresh produce and food education.
4. Community Events
 - Hosted a variety of seasonal gatherings, including a Canada Day BBQ, Christmas Party, and a bowling event to bring people together.
5. Fire Safety and Elder Support
 - Conducted Fire Safe events, including yard cleanups for elders to protect their homes from wildfire risks.
6. School Outreach Program
 - Collaborated with a local elementary school to provide hands-on lessons on Métis beading and tufting traditions, fostering early cultural education.

Elder and Family Support

1. Seniors Foot Care Clinics
 - Hosted multiple clinics to provide essential care services to elders, promoting their health and well-being.
2. Back-to-School Support
 - Distributed backpacks to children at the start of the school year to alleviate financial strain for families.
3. Cultivating Safe Spaces Event
 - Organized an event to promote inclusion and ensure the Métis Society remains a welcoming place for everyone.

Recognition and Milestones

1. Awards and Accomplishments
 - Proudly won the Fort St. John Non-Profit Community Award, recognizing our contributions to the community.
2. New Office
 - Relocated to a new office, providing a more functional space for hosting events, services, and community initiatives.

3. Election Participation

- Supported civic engagement by hosting a ballot box for the election, encouraging voter participation.

Highlights by the Numbers

- 15+ workshops and classes focused on traditional Métis skills and crafts.
- 12 community events, ranging from BBQs and holiday celebrations to safe spaces initiatives.
- Support extended to hundreds of community members, from children to elders.

Conclusion

The Fort St. John Métis Society had a busy and productive year filled with cultural, educational, and community-focused initiatives. We remain committed to preserving Métis heritage, promoting cultural understanding, and supporting the well-being of all community members.

Thank you to our volunteers, sponsors, and community members for their invaluable support. Together, we continue to make a meaningful impact.

Kelowna Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **CHERYL DODMAN, PRESIDENT**

2024 was an exciting year for the Kelowna Métis Association.

We held more events than ever before, expanded our membership, hired new staff, made new community partnerships, grew our social media presence, and elected a new board of directors at our AGM.

In April 2024, KMA brought on two new staff members. Nicole Tupechka and Leslie Ferguson. Nicole Tupechka is a Métis woman from Camrose, Alberta. Her family names are Desjarlais,

Monkmon, Whitford. She has a Bachelor's degree in management and has a wealth of experience in event management, social media, community engagement and music and arts.

She began working 8 hours a week for us, and is now working 20 hours a week on events, grant writing social media and also produces our monthly newsletter to our membership. She is also creating our Métis 101 course with Leslie.

Leslie Ferguson is a Métis woman from Selkirk Manitoba. Her family names are McKenzie, Gunn, and Fiddler. She is currently studying at UBCO to obtain a BA in Indigenous Studies. She is a former property manager, self employed, and worked in multi family development. She previously worked with Métis Community Services Society as the Elders Circle Coordinator. She has a passion for her Métis genealogy and history.

She has been working to develop the Métis 101 course with a UBCO professor and is also working on grant writing and programming, as well as answering e-mails.

Membership

In 2024 we added many new members.

We had new members join us through events, social media, our newsletter, and getting our into the community more.

Online Presence

In 2024 we continued to send out our monthly newsletter, posting updates, events and resources to our public Facebook page, as well to our private Facebook membership group with over 600 members. Our newsletter is sent out monthly to over 1500 members. This year we also created a KMA Instagram account and have grown it to over 235+. Our KMA youth Instagram account continues to post and grow to over 550+.



Grants we applied for:

- Giving Voices Grant- was not successful, it was given to an organization in WestBank, but we were encouraged to apply again.
- Language Initiative Grant- was not successful. We were encouraged to reapply as well.
- Downie Wenjack Blanket Fund- We were successful with this grant and able to fund 4 moccasin making workshops, for over 20 participants.

KMA AGM

We had about 40 people in attendance and elected our new Board members. We provided a lunch to members. Our new board of directors was elected. Our Board members are

- Emma Tetrault- Youth Rep
- Garrett Millsap- Officer of the Hunt/ Director
- Roddy Aubichon- Director
- Brad Dahl- Director
- Carol Therrien -Women's Community Rep Payton Gosling- Director
- Helene Wilson - Elder
- Rosemary Kean- Secretary Brian Winter- Treasurer
- Cheryl Dodman- President
- Jessica Saris- Vice President

With the addition of our new employees KMA was able to host more events than ever before. We continued to run our beading circle twice a month at Mamawapomin in partnership with Métis Community Services. The circle continues to grow, and we are now seeing upwards of 40+ people per circle. Our monthly potlucks have continued, also at Mamawapomin and we have had growing interest and attendance for those as well as we add other entertainment.

In addition to our regular events we have added some new events as well as purposed by Nicole and Leslie. Nicole proposed \$9,000 be budgeted (and the board allocated up to \$15,000) for new initiatives including a Métis book club, Herbal Planting Workshop, Métis Medicine Making Workshop, Rattlemaking, Wisdom Deck Workshop, Safetalk Workshop, and Elder Care workshop with Interior Health Aboriginal Patient Care Quality.

Métis Book Club

We ran 10 sessions of our Métis Book Club.

Nicole was able to arrange free space at the Kelowna downtown library where we have been meeting usually once or twice per month. Our first book was Medicines to Help us by Christi Belcourt. We gave our 45 copies of the book and journeyed with it through the weeks, learning new plants, and their uses. Many

people began foraging and using these medicines. Each week we provided healthy snacks and drinks to our participants, and it was a great social meet up for mostly women, young moms, and elders to discuss plants and their uses. Each week we had anywhere from 3-25 participants.

The cost for the books was \$1400, and the snacks each session are \$50-\$100.

Herbal Planting Workshop

Nicole organized an herbal planting workshop with Summerhill Biodynamic farm and Kekuli where 17 participants received large planters, compost, rocks, and organic soil to grow their own patio planter. Each planter received a strawberry plant, marigold edible flower, rosemary and a sage plant. Gabe Cipes (Biodynamic farmer of Summerhill) gave us a farm tour, told us about the Kekuli (Indigenous ceremony space) and helped us to plant our herbal planters. We used our Medicines to Help Us book to read about the plants, their uses, and practice their Michif names. Nicole made lunch for participants and provided snacks. The workshop was free for members. The total budget was \$1805.00 for planters, facilitator, space, food and snacks.

Herbal Medicine Making Workshop

Nicole organized an herbal medicine making workshop with Métis company Wise Woman Traditions. Rose is the owner and facilitator who showed our members how to make honey electuaries for immunity and wellness as well as making our own home made oil of oregano. She did a meditation, and taught us about plant uses, and how to process them into medicine. There were 10 participants at this workshop. We provided snacks and teas. Everyone got to take home their own medicines and recipes and we made extra medicines for community members and elders with our extra supplies.

The approximate cost of the workshop supplies, and facilitator was about \$800.

Safetalk Suicide Intervention Training

17 participants took this training with us. The costs were all covered by MNBC. Leslie worked to secure venue, advertise, organized participants and catering.

Rattle Making

This was a Regional Womens Representative initiative by Carol T.

We had 21 Métis Community members in this two day workshop hosted by Métis Artist Robyn Pross. The workshop also included a meditation, and healing ceremony.

We provided all the supplies for rattle making as well as food and refreshments. The cost of the rattle was \$105 per person.

We spent \$2503 in total for all rattles and food.

KMA Christmas Party

We hosted 126 people for our KMA Christmas Party with catering by Bonne Bouche Catering with

a French Métis style menu. We hired a band for entertainment and did a giveaway gift ceremony and gave gifts to Elders and had a childrens entertainment section. We spent \$6817.62 on catering and \$400 on entertainment. We spend \$400 for Christmas gifts for Elders and appreciation gifts for Board Members.

Decor was done with personal items from Leslie, Nicole and MSC.

Métis 101 Course

We attended the Métis 101 course in Vernon, BC which was done by SOSMA.

We have been working with Dr. Gabrielle Lagault at UBCO who is a Métis Scholar.

Leslie approached her with a proposal for creating a Métis 101 course for our community members and we worked together to develop a program that resulted in her students creating 3 learning modules covering the beginning of Métis history, culture, and traditions. This will be delivered to our Métis community late Spring of 2025. There has been no costs associated with this so far.

In lieu of money, we worked with the students, to give them a tour of Mamawapomin, and had Métis Elder Carol Fraser guest lecture for their class.

Métis 101 for children school visits

Nicole and Arlette visited two elementary schools in district 23, (Ellison and Belgo) to give a presentation of Métis culture, items, music and language to Métis children within the schools. The children were so excited to sing and learn with us.

Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

Respectfully Submitted: **CAITLIN BIRD, PRESIDENT**

In the five or so months between the September MNBC AGM and present, MNGV has been busy!

Our Seniors luncheons continued throughout the fall and winter, growing in numbers each month. We alternate between specific discussions and presentations, with guest speakers on things like the seniors dental program, and activities such as the Christmas ornament painting workshop facilitated by an extremely talented artist in our community, Kristi Bridgeman (www.kristibridgeman.com).

Our youth council organized and participated in a beading and moccasin making workshop throughout the fall and early winter in addition to regular gatherings to work on projects and connect.

Our women's council hosted gatherings, including Seven Sacred Teachings with Elder Bruce Dumont, and began plans for the year ahead.

The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council organized a series of ongoing gatherings to support connection and wellbeing of our 2SLGBTQQIA+ community, including a Kinsgiving potluck and a workshop on traditional medicines and medicine bag making, with an opportunity for 2SLGBTQQIA+ community members to participate in a 2SLGBTQQIA+ sweatlodge coming soon.

In addition, we hosted a variety of workshops and opportunities for everyone in our community to gather and connect, including: hide tanning, beaded earrings, jigging and fiddling classes, and more!

In early October, MNGV hosted a regional gathering, Walking in Wahkohtowin, a gathering to foster community and collaborate on addressing the systemic and gender-based violence that impacts our Métis communities on the island. This gathering brought together two-spirit people, women and men over three days in the beautiful, shared territory of the Qualicum and Snaw-naw-as people. Participants were welcomed from each of the chartered communities in region 1 to share stories and insights on addressing gender-based violence, participate in ceremony, and take part in cultural activities such as medicine bag and rattle making.



MNGV's AGM also took place in October, with a few key positions up for election, including Women's Representative, BC Métis Assembly of Natural Resources Representative, and Directors at Large. Those who were elected in our 2024 AGM included a mix of returning board members, whether continuing in new roles, or returning to the board after a break, as well as new board members. As always, the breadth of knowledge, experience, perspectives and expertise that the diversity within our board brings is a great strength for our community.

In November we honoured our Métis Veterans by laying a wreath at the Saanich Cenotaph, celebrated Louis Riel with fiddling and some jigging at our November community potluck, and shifted into Christmas planning.

Christmas time is always a busy time for MNGV, and this year we added onto our seasonal programming! Our Community Christmas Potluck Gathering was moved to a new location to accommodate nearly 200 people and featured the fabulous addition of a Métis Fashion Show, organized by our community's very own Jo-Ina Young. We also hosted a Métis Art Show that was on display to the public throughout the month of December. All three were a huge success!

Christmas-time is also a time when MNGV prepares and delivers gifts to our seniors, which this year included homemade dishcloths, calendars made specifically for these gifts featuring the artwork of community members, homemade antipasto, Mitsoh pemmican (not included in photo below), and more.

At this time of year, MNGV also hosts a silent auction fundraiser to support community activities (let us know if you'd like to learn how to take part next year!). This year we added a Secret Santa program for families that may be experiencing hardship over the holidays; these hampers included a grocery or gas card (thanks to generous community donations) and a gift for their kiddos.

January started off strong with the board gathering to begin developing a 5-year strategic plan. The new calendar year also came with the restarting of our regular community activities, including our monthly community potlucks. At our January potluck, we invited another round of feedback on a community sash, one step close to having our very own MNGV specific sash, with colours that community feels meaningfully represent who we are as Métis people living within the Greater Victoria area. We also celebrated the life of Romy Pritchard, one of our community members who passed away in October. Romy was an active part of both our community and the Cowichan Valley Métis Association for many years. With MNGV, Romy organized many of our early fundraising efforts, and always brought community spirit and vibrancy to our events.



Throughout all this, the MNGV board continued to work with our education partners, health partners, municipal partners, and beyond, to continue to advocate for our community members and work towards inclusive and culturally appropriate services.

We look forward to everything that 2025 will bring!

Miki'siw Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **TOM ADAMS, PRESIDENT**

Highlight was completing Strategic and Business Plans. This was a long but very beneficial journey to help our Board and Membership be able to focus on the wants and needs of the community, how we are doing and where we want to go.

Board Training with Nicole Ludwig from MNBC

Met with Komox First Nation Council to work on friendship/partnership building

Offered Tutoring to 16 students who were needing help with their education

Working towards Métis and Urban Indigenous Primary Care Network resources being utilized in our community in partnership with MNBC

Working with MNBC and Brandi Berry former member and current University Student on a Youth Mental Health Research Project

Board Members also participated in other committees on behalf of the Organization

- Comox Valley Advisory Group on Reconciliation
- School District 71 Committees
- North Island College Indigenous Advisory Committee

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

Monthly Elders/Seniors Luncheons with a variety of speakers and focuses. In Veterans Day – We heard from all of our Elder/Senior Veterans about their experiences and were able to play MNBC's recording of Veteran Clifford Swain at the event. We had MNBC Health Navigator Yvonne present what she can do for our Elders/Seniors.

Wednesdays – Finish off your project circles in the Winter Months

As well as all of the events below

JANUARY

- Drum Painting workshop
- Finger Weaving workshop
- Emergency Preparedness Workshop with facilitators from the Comox Valley Emergency Management team



FEBRUARY

- Beaded Medicine Pouches
- Mini Capote making workshop
- Partnered with DS71 to host Loreli Higgins Clark for our membership. She was in the schools and our community with her Cultural rediscovery journey

MARCH

- Wrapped Beaded Lanyard workshop
- Wednesdays – Finish off your project circles

APRIL

- Red Dress Pin workshop
- Wednesdays – Finish off your project circles

MAY

- Annual General Meeting of the Association
- Volunteers Recognized at AGM
- Partnered with Indigenous Women's Sharing Society to host a Red Dress Walk for the community
- Began a project with the Arts Council to produce Ancestral Echos – multi editions of podcsts with Elders/youth coming together to learn about Métis lived experiences from the Elders/ Seniors
- Hosted a 3 day Back to the Land Camp for families
- Honored and sashed 39 High School Graduates through the Valley

JUNE

- Participated in National Indigenous Peoples Day as a partner with Komox First Nation

AUGUST

- Took Seniors and Elders to Morningstar Bison Ranch in Nanaimo
- Took a bus full of Elders/Seniors to the Vancouver Island Rendezvous

SEPTEMBER

- Hosted the Comox Valley Spirit Walk with Indigenous Women's Sharing Society – about 1200 in attendance

OCTOBER

- Hosted a community celebration with the Arts Council for the completion of the Ancestral Echos project

NOVEMBER

- Arranged and attended Métis Flag raisings at 19 Wing CFB Comox , Cumberland Village Office, City of Courtenay and Town of Comox. The flags flew from November 12- 17th, 2024
- Hosted a Louis Riel Day Pancake Breakfast on November 16th for families with fun games and good food.

DECEMBER

- Hosted a Holiday Luncheon with Métis Santa, cookie decorating and good fun
- Hosted a Turkey Dinner for Elders and Seniors with a Christmas Lights tour after dinner

North Cariboo Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **TONY GOULET, PRESIDENT**

North Cariboo Métis Association was very busy this past year. One of our highlights was the 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Dance in May. Since 1994, North Cariboo Métis Association is proud to serve and represent the Métis in Quesnel. We also had a family bbq gathering in September. Education is also part of our mandate. We enjoy teaching students to jig and share Métis culture in our school district. NCMA was busy with cultural workshops for all ages throughout the year ranging from ribbon skirt, jelly making, salve making, and herb baskets, and how to make bannock (fried and baked). We hosted an open house for Louis Riel Day. The final activity was a children's Christmas party in December with crafts and a visit by Santa. North Cariboo Métis Association is active in many community events: from Moosehide Day, Red Dress Day, Remembrance Day service, and National Truth and Reconciliation Day, National Indigenous Peoples' Day.



North Fraser Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **GREG STANFORD, PRESIDENT**

The North Fraser Métis Association (NFMA) is an Indigenous non-profit community organization and registered BC charity that provides cultural and historical programming for Métis people. As an active member of Métis Nation BC (MNBC), we attend provincial meetings and represent the largest number of citizens within the MNBC framework. We are often the first point of contact for Indigenous people in BC's Lower Mainland seeking services and support. Our goal is to build a continuum of care for individuals from birth to end-of-life, welcoming feedback and guidance from our community.



Organizational Structure and Transparency

NFMA operates under provincial guidelines for a registered BC Society and charity. Our elected volunteer board consists of qualified Métis community members.

For the second consecutive year, we were the recipient of the BC Gaming Grant. This grant contributes to funding programs and administration up to \$250,000 annually. Additionally, our registered charity status enables NFMA to complete fundraising activities such as 50/50 draws, raffles, and Bingo nights. To ensure transparency with our fiscal responsibilities, we have engaged an external bookkeeping company who reconciles all financial responsibilities.

We have established a partnership with the United Church and are exploring opportunities for affordable housing, including creating a multi-use safe sanctuary and community gathering space. This initiative aligns with our vision of healing from intergenerational trauma caused by colonization, disease, residential schools, and systemic racism.

2024 Highlights and Achievements Grants and Funding:

- Secured the BC Gaming Grant for the second year, enabling support for programs and administration.
- Actively pursued additional grants to expand cultural programming.



Cultural and Community Engagement:

1. Workshops and Programs:

- Beaded Vamps and Moccasin Making: Facilitated by Lisa Shepherd, Métis artist and knowledge keeper. Due to its success and high demand, we plan to offer this program again.
- Strong Threads Capote Workshop: Led by Deni Paquette, Métis Elder and knowledge keeper. This popular program is scheduled to return in January 2025.

2. Community Events:

- Open House: Hosted at the United Church, featuring jigging, fiddle music, and honored guests, including Métis Elders and community leaders. President Walter Mineault attended along with Phil Gladue, Carl Machon, and Chief Larrabee.
- Moody Park Indigenous Peoples Day: Collaborated with Spirit of the Children to engage K-12 students in Métis culture and history through artwork and programming information.
- Festival du Bois: Partnered with the Francophone community to showcase Métis artifacts, jigging, carving, and highlight support programs provided by MNBC.
- NFMA Summer Family Day BBQ: Despite the rain, this event featured music, games, bannock, and hot dogs, with MLA Raj Chouhan in attendance.
- Veterans Day: Honored Métis veterans by laying a wreath at the New Westminster City Cenotaph.
- Louis Riel Day: Celebrated with dance performances, music, art workshops, and jigging lessons. This event was well engaged with Mayor Patrick Johnston, MLA Jennifer Whiteside and Peter Julian, MP and



Council members Daniel Fontaine and Paul Minhas in attendance. Chief Rhonda Larrabee of the Qayqayt nation gave land acknowledgement.

- Christmas Party: A festive event with jigging, beading, storytelling, fun bingo, Christmas caroling, and gifts for children.

3. **Advocacy and Representation:**

- NFMA President attended events such as the BC Housing Conference, Orange Shirt Day, and various meetings with local politicians representing the interests of the NFMA community.

Community Vision and Goals

NFMA is committed to fostering a sense of community by creating secure and stable environments for members to explore and celebrate their Métis heritage. Elders play a vital role in sharing knowledge, history, and traditions through workshops and gatherings. Our long-term goal is to establish a community center to host cultural events and provide support, healing, and advocacy for individuals and families.

Key Focus Areas:

- Affordable housing
- Childcare
- Food security and sovereignty
- Reconnecting families in a disconnected world

We aim to strengthen bonds with Indigenous families and provide opportunities to share our culture through events like Golden Spike Days and Festival du Bois. These celebrations highlight Métis history, customs, language, and crafts such as carving, jigging, beading, and drumming.

Looking Ahead to 2025

In the coming year, NFMA plans to:

- Continue cultural programming and community outreach.
- Host gatherings and share MNBC services and programs.
- Collaborate with MNBC and stakeholders to secure a multi-use community gathering space.

NFMA extends our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated board members, officers, and volunteers for their unwavering commitment to our community. Together, we will honor our heritage and preserve it for future generations, embodying the ideals of Louis Riel.

North Island Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **JACKIE LEVER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

North Island Métis has had another year of growth as we increase and diversify the supports for our Métis community. We have eight staff and one service dog 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, crocheting, and embroidering
- 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
- Lspaas - A monthly daytime drop-in group where members can finish projects and have a cup of tea
- Men's Group – Sessions where men got to build flower box planters and other various woodwork projects, as well as learn bushcrafting
- Kayhkwai 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 kickboxing class
- Book Club – A monthly Métis-authored book club for NIMA womxn with meal provided
- Laarb Kawmaekit – A program that explores cultural food sustainability practices, such as canning, making pemmican, fishing and more
- Physical activity programs for our members which included swimming, visiting the driving range, geocaching, online yoga, and skating
- Reclaiming the Matriarch – A program for womxn that celebrates who we are, builds peer relationships and supports womxn's empowerment



**NORTH ISLAND
MÉTIS**



- Tanning workshops, gauntlet, capote, point toe moccasin, Michif language courses, sash making, plants and salve making, multimedia art projects, CORE/PAL courses and more
- NIMA's Health team has bookable appointments to support members. We also hosted a Health Fair with vaccination clinics, health professional services and dietician presentations

NIMA's online store offers our custom-designed sashes, shirts, sweaters, and beading kits. Check out our latest bison design and other unique styles. Visit nimetis.com/store for Métis clothing, beading supplies, and more.

We had many special celebrations in 2024:

- NIMA Annual General Meeting in April with elections, voyageur games, 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
- Easter dinner and activities
- 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 on Quadra Island
- OrcaFest – a community celebration in Port McNeill
- Métis flag raising in November for Louis Riel celebrations in Campbell River and Port Hardy
- Louis Riel day event in Campbell River including voyageur games, sashing NIMA's veterans, prizes and dinner
- Louis Riel day activities and dinner in Port Hardy
- NIMA Pancake Breakfast family events
- 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
- Santa Breakfast event for families

We are proud to be continually working to build an inclusive workplace and a safe space for 2SLGBTQIA+ people. We have been supporting our through involvement in local health and education advisory boards and community coalitions.

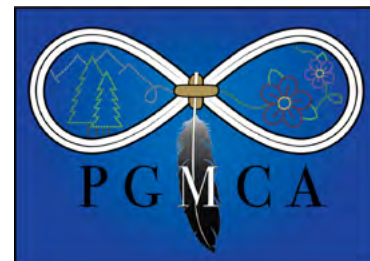
Prince George Métis Community Association

Respectfully Submitted: **SYLVIA DESROCHER, PRESIDENT**

Boon Zhoor, Kiya wow!

Prince George Métis Community Association as always, has had a busy year.

Once again, we had a very successful Métis Pharmacare program here in Prince George as well as the Christmas Hamper Campaign. PGMCA strives to help our most vulnerable citizens with these two programs, so we aim to provide them each year.



Every year, we attend, gift and sash our local Métis graduates at the secondary and post-secondary levels. This year saw us sash 95 graduates in total!

We have held crafting workshops throughout the year such as beading, ribbon shirt-making and moose tufting. We also held a very successful canning workshop for the Youth and Elders at a local Indigenous woman's homestead. All programs are well attended and appreciated.

Again, we participated in Indigenous People's Day event at Lheidli T'enneh park and attended Orange Shirt Day and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women events.

We partnered with Niwikowin for two culture camps as well as our annual Fall picnic.

We engaged Madeline McCallum within the Restoring Connections project with resounding success. This event saw Madeline perform Métis dancing and facilitate a healing circle.

We still partner with SD57 to host the Land-Based Learning program out at Otipemisiwak Lake. We also participated with SD57 3-day Culture Camp at the Lheidli T'enneh park.

PGMCA held its 2024 AGM in November along with MNBC Housing presentation. This event was very well attended.

Louis Riel Day has PGMCA contact the City of Prince George to fly our Métis flag at the city hall and with the well-known icon called Mr PG. Once again PGMCA hosted a dinner along with slide shows and bingo. This year we had a waiting list of citizens wanting to attend, so we will have to reassess numbers for next year's event. We sashed our Métis Veterans at this event. Every year we honor our past veterans with the laying of a wreath on Remembrance Day.

The PGMCA Christmas dinner was another successful event with a waiting list of citizens wanting to attend. With over 2500 registered Métis citizens in Prince George, our programs and dinners are becoming more and more desirable. As usual, this year's Christmas dinner had Santa attend and distribute gifts to our children.

We are continually working with the local University (UNBC) doing Métis teachings and attending their Indigenous events. They very much appreciate the Métis presence.

Our website is almost complete and the expected date to go live will be January 31, 2025.

We are still working on making good relations with our First Nations cousins. Our President, Sylvia Desrocher is involved and sits as an Elder with the Aboriginal Justice Society, Niwikowin, and the school division. She has just joined the board of the Friendship Centre. With her leadership, and the help of her incredible board of directors, the Métis community and culture is becoming much more visible and understood.

As you can see, we have accomplished much and there is much to continue doing.

Ekosi,

PGMCA Volunteer Board of Directors

Prince Rupert & District Métis Society

Respectfully Submitted: **JOY SUNDIN, PRESIDENT**

It has been another momentous year of gathering and sharing together for the betterment of our Métis communities and our citizens. Keeping a strong cohesive connection with each other will be the enduring strength of our Métis Nation. I hold my hands up high with respect for all the volunteers and MNBC staff and Directors of today and yesteryear who make our Nation strong! We are proud to be Métis!



Métis culture and pride are vital to our community's growth as we plan and organize events and activities that enhance experiences for our Métis community. And we like to show off a little of our culture to our entire city! Others are curious to know about the Métis and what role we played in the growth of our country.

We had another fun year in 2024 with gatherings where we shared foods, activities and stories, and here is a synopsis of the good times!

In January we held an Adult Crafternoon, a Mosaic crafting event, after a successful Parent & Child Mosaic craft event had been held the month previous. The adults wanted their turn to create!

In February we hosted several Family Events including a public Disco Skate and Family Swim at our local recreation centre, and families to participate at the local Gymnastics Club Family Afternoon event. The Prince Rupert Arts Council has a monthly specialty movie night at the local cinema, and we supported adults to attend the cultural movies throughout the winter and spring, complete with popcorn!

In March we had a highly successful family gathering at the Gigantic Fun game venue with a pizza meal and tons of treats and it was a fabulous time for families to gather and play together.

April was a marvelous NW Region 6 Women's Gathering which was held in Terrace, with thirty women from throughout Region 6 participating in numerous activities including spiritual growth, art, personal care sessions, and bingo too! A wonderful time to meet other Métis women from across the northwest.

Also, in April we held a SafeTalk Suicide Prevention Course and invited not only Métis citizens but others from our area who are supporting our Métis community.

In May was a hosted Dessert Night of sweet treats and tasty beverages much to everyone's delight! And we sponsored families to attend the live performing arts centre's Dino Light event.

June is always a very busy month for our Métis citizens as we celebrate Seafest with the entire Rupert

community and share our culture by having our annual bison burger vending booth at the annual community festival. There are line-ups down the block as the patrons savours the bison meat.

June was our communities' opportunity to host the ASIST Suicide Intervention Course that was well attended and from which we gained supportive knowledge for our citizens. PRDMS sashed our high school graduates at the end of June, and we honoured them with sashes, gift cards, and congratulations!

And, 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. And that was after the dancers presented workshops during the preceding week in the public schools for youth from High School to preschool. We also had 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, we had the first of our anticipated annual Kayak and Campfire BBQ event with families and individuals learning ocean kayaking skills. A fun time was had by all!

In September, a few leaders attended the NW Health Promotion Gathering that was held in Smithers, where our PRDMS yoga instructor citizen led a well-received chair yoga activity. We also had another successful Ice Cream Treat Night to end off the summer activities.

In November Métis gathered at the community cenotaph to commemorate our Canadian veterans by our Métis youth laying a wreath as they learn about sacrifice and struggle. And 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. We have an opportunity to teach about Louis Riel as we share our culture and history.

And December is time to celebrate the season with the annual Christmas Dinner, a catered meal with sweet desserts lovingly prepared by citizens, a visit from Santa with gifts and pictures, and again being blessed with Andrew's and Tom's Métis music skills and singing along to Christmas favourites.

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**

The Rocky Mountain Métis Association (RMMA) is situated in the East Kootenay and comprises over 1,000 registered citizens spanning a vast geographical area.

The autumn season was particularly busy for RMMA. We engaged the services of a new Community Navigator and reopened our community space. Beading groups convene on Mondays and Fridays, comprising a vibrant group of artisans who engage in beading and socializing. Thursdays serve as our Food Recovery Day, as part of the Cranbrook Food Recovery Hub. We collect

and process hundreds of pounds of food weekly, which citizens can access at our community space to fill bags based on their needs. Additionally, we maintain a fully stocked pantry with dry goods and a freezer of meat. We have successfully secured various food grants to ensure the sustenance of our citizens.



RMMA was selected to receive the Chartered Community Project Proposal funding (CCPP) grant offered by the Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC). This grant has facilitated numerous improvements to our community space. New blinds, office equipment, and furniture have been installed. A proposed new kitchen area and cultural icons are on deck as well. We are currently soliciting contractors to complete a Request for Proposals (RFP) to finalize the scope of the grant.

November is a busy month for RMMA, and we hosted our fall kitchen party. Over 100 citizens and friends attended to celebrate during Louis Riel Week. A substantial quantity of bannock was consumed, and jigging was the highlight of the festivities. We also conducted a sashing ceremony for new citizens. The 2024 fall kitchen party was a resounding success.

In conclusion of November, we convened our Annual General Meeting (AGM), which witnessed record attendance. We received support from the governance ministry of MNBC, and Nicole Ludwig presided over our meeting. The meeting featured robust debate and numerous questions, demonstrating our commitment to progress in a good way. The Board of RMMA remained the same with a couple of positions changing.

In December, the RMMA team collaborated with the girls' hockey team to assemble 18 full-sized hampers for distribution to families during the Christmas season. RMMA generously donated to this initiative and assisted in distributing the hampers. Additionally, we received a request from one of the schools to provide remade bags of bannock to be included in Christmas hampers. We enthusiastically

fulfilled this request and have received positive feedback from the organizing teacher regarding the bannock kits.

We have also been actively working with our school boards in keeping relationships open and active all the while stressing the need for Métis representation in light of the racist education directives of our government that exclude Métis people from the table.

Salmon Arm Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **DAVID ALLARD, PRESIDENT**

Salmon Arm Métis Association is a Chartered Community in Region 3. We cover areas including Revelstoke, Malakwa, Sicamous, Chase, Sorrento, Blind Bay, Enderby, Grindrod and Salmon Arm (and points between). We currently have 587 citizens.

January 13th, 2024 - SAMA hosted lessons in growing microgreens and making bannock at a local farm in Salmon Arm. There were 35 plus people in attendance even though it was minus 20 some degrees! Participants took home a microgreen which they started at the class. Lunch was provided, consisting of chili and bannock. Everyone enjoyed the lessons, connection with others and the luncheon.

On February 25th, SAMA held a bingo which was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

On April 6th, SAMA held a Ladies Chair Yoga class.

On April 20th a Ribbon Skirt Making class was held.

A gardening workshop was held on May 28th in conjunction with the Shuswap Agricultural Association where participants learned about soil ecology and how to access and improve garden soil for a healthy garden.

A Do-It-Yourself Air Cleaning workshop was held on June 7th. Members made their own air cleaners in the class.

A family picnic was hosted at a local park on June 21st for National Indigenous Peoples Day. Children could run and play in the park and splash in the water park. Lunch was provided as well as snacks and refreshments. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

August/September SAMA gave away school supplies to those in need and paid the school fees as well.

On September 28th SAMA held a dinner and dance. It was a catered dinner followed by music provided by local musicians. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

We held our AGM on October 20th.



SAMA hosted another bingo on November 3rd. Everyone enjoyed the gathering and the games.

On November 29th we had 90 members attend a catered Christmas dinner. Gift cards were given to each member, and gifts were given to the children. Christmas carols were sung by local musicians after dinner. It was a fun evening for all.

The Flu/Covid clinic was held on December 7th. It was a worthwhile event but only a few attended.

We will be holding an Unplug and Play event on January 29, 2025. The purpose of this event is to get children off their devices and enjoy socializing while creating dreamcatchers.

SAMA is looking forward to another successful year of activities and events in 2025. We look forward to supporting our community, strengthening cultural connections and helping those in need.

We wish to thank MNBC for their continued assistance and support throughout the year which in turn helps us support our members. We wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy year ahead!

Sincerely,

Salmon Arm Métis Association

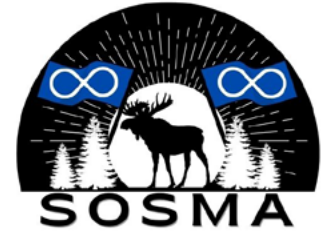


SAMA is located on the traditional and unceded Territory of the Secwepemc First Nation

South-Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association

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

Since September 2024, SOSMA has been actively engaged in various cultural and community-building activities aimed at strengthening Métis heritage and supporting community well-being. Here is an overview of our accomplishments and initiatives during this period:



1. Grand Opening
 - SOSMA successfully opened our new cultural centre at 101 – 352 Winnipeg Street in Penticton. We look forward to serving our community and give thanks to MNBC for their support in helping us build a space that reflects our beautiful culture and heritage.
2. Language Classes Completion:
 - SOSMA successfully completed a series of language classes focused on preserving and revitalizing the Métis language. These classes were well-attended and have contributed significantly to the preservation of our linguistic heritage, fostering a deeper connection among participants to their cultural roots.
3. Workshops:
 - Moccasin Making: We hosted workshops on traditional moccasin making, which provided participants with hands-on experience in crafting these culturally significant items. These sessions not only imparted valuable skills but also created a space for sharing stories and traditions.
 - Healing Circles: SOSMA facilitated healing circles aimed at promoting emotional and spiritual well-being within the community. These gatherings offered a supportive environment for individuals to share experiences, engage in discussions, and partake in culturally relevant healing practices.
4. Christmas Kraft Fair:
 - Our first annual Christmas Kraft Fair was a vibrant event that showcased the creativity and craftsmanship of our members. It served as an excellent opportunity for local artisans to display and sell their work, fostering economic support within the community.
5. Food Hampers Distribution:
 - SOSMA organized the distribution of food hampers during the holiday season, ensuring that community members in need had access to essential food items. This initiative was part of our

ongoing commitment to supporting the well-being of all members, particularly during festive times.

Looking Forward to 2025: SOSMA is excited about the opportunities that 2025 holds. We plan to expand our educational and cultural programs, continue fostering community connections, and explore new avenues for supporting the Métis community in the South Okanagan Similkameen area. Our upcoming initiatives will build upon the successes of the past year, further enhancing our collective cultural and social resilience.

This report encapsulates our dedication to cultural preservation, community support, and the empowerment of our members. We remain committed to our mission and look forward to another successful year of growth and achievement.

Surrey-Delta Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **LEE FRASER, PRESIDENT**

The Surrey Delta Métis Association (SDMA) experienced a dynamic and impactful 2024, thanks to the unwavering dedication of our leadership and Board of Directors. This report summarizes the key activities, events, and initiatives undertaken by the SDMA over the past year, all aimed at celebrating Métis culture, addressing community needs, and fostering a stronger Métis identity in our region.



Ongoing Initiatives

- **Monthly Board Meetings**

Our Board of Directors has continued to meet regularly to ensure that the organization's activities and direction are aligned with our community's needs. These meetings have been vital in shaping the strategic goals of the SDMA, ensuring transparency, and maintaining open communication between board members.

- **Social Media and Website Updates**

To engage with both members and the broader public, we have been actively updating our social media platforms and website. This includes promoting events, sharing Métis culture, and providing resources to the community. The online presence has been critical in connecting with our citizens and increasing awareness of Métis heritage to a wider audience.

- **Community Lending Library**

As part of our educational outreach, we established a Community Lending Library in 2022. This resource will offer books, cultural materials, and educational resources that emphasize Métis history, language, and traditions, ensuring that the next generation has access to important cultural teachings.

- **Community Garden Project**

The Community Garden Project serves as a space for our community to grow traditional medicines, vegetables, and herbs. This



initiative aims to promote sustainable living, food sovereignty, and cultural preservation through the sharing of Métis gardening knowledge. We distribute our harvest to our local foodbank to help those in need.

Notable Events and Activities (2023-2024)

- **Senior Lunches (November 2023 - November 2024)**

Throughout the year, we have provided monthly Senior Lunches as part of our commitment to supporting the health and well-being of Métis elders. These gatherings have offered an opportunity for socialization, nutritional support, and the exchange of traditional knowledge, fostering a sense of community and connection.

- **Winter Essentials Kits (Fall 2023 - Spring 2024)**

100 Winter Essentials Kits were assembled to give to children of our community. The kit consisted of reusable handwarmers, gloves, scarves, hats, reflective backpack stickers, lip balms, mini tissue packs, cup and straw, and a hot cocoa packet.

- **SDMA Finds a New Home (December 2024)**

Our new home is now located inside of Northwood United Church, at 8855 156 St in Surrey, BC. Office visits are now available by appointment only.

Special Partnerships and Meetings

- **Fraser Health Partnership Accord Signing (February 2024)**

We are grateful to have attended the signing of the Fraser Health Partnership Accord in February 2024. This agreement reflects MNBC's ongoing collaboration with health organizations to ensure Métis people have equitable access to healthcare services.

- **SDMA AGM (October 19th, 2024)**

We are pleased to have welcomed newly elected board members to our team.

- **Louis Riel Day Proclamation Reading at Surrey City Hall (November 2024)**

MNBC staff, SDMA board members and citizens of our community gathered for the reading. Citizens were grateful for the opportunity to represent their Métis community and help their children engage with their culture.



Community Engagement and Cultural Preservation

- **Children of the Fur Trade at Museum of Surrey (April 2024)**

In April, we hosted the “Children of the Fur Trade” exhibit at the Museum of Surrey. This event provided a powerful learning experience for both youth and adults, highlighting the history and contributions of Métis people in the fur trade and beyond. The community enjoyed our Métis artisan craft market, food provided by the Métis Bannock Queen, jigging performances, and fiddle music.

- **Cloverdale Rodeo Booth at Indigenous Village (May 2024)**

Our organization participated in the Cloverdale Rodeo, hosting a booth at the Indigenous Village. This event provided a platform to showcase Métis culture and engage with the public. We are grateful to the board members and volunteers from our community for their assistance with running our booth.

- **Sashing Surrey and Delta High School Grads (June 2024)**

A highlight of June was the sashing of Métis graduates from Surrey and Delta high schools. This meaningful tradition celebrates the accomplishments of Métis students as they transition into the next chapter of their lives. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of education within our community.

- **National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 2024)**

On National Indigenous Peoples Day, we hosted a series of cultural activities to celebrate Métis traditions, music, dance, and food. This event not only showcased the vibrancy of Métis culture but also provided an opportunity for public education on the Métis nation's history.

- **Elders Program - Laptop and Tablet Giveaway (Summer 2024)**

In our ongoing efforts to support our Elders, we distributed laptops and tablets to community members who may not have had access to modern technology or needed an upgrade. This initiative aimed to bridge the digital divide, allowing elders to stay connected with their families and communities.

Educational and Cultural Programming

- **Board Governance Training (April 2024)**

In April 2024, board members participated in a board governance training through MNBC.

- **Online Grant Writing Workshop (July 2024)**

In July 2024, we hosted an online grant-writing workshop, empowering community members with the skills needed to access funding for their own initiatives.

- **Elders Program - Bison Tour at Academy Farms (September 2024)**

In September, our Elders Program organized a tour of Academy Farms, where Elders had the chance to learn about bison farming and the cultural significance of bison to the Métis people. They enjoyed the outing and lunch together, being reminded of the roaming bison on our homelands.

- **Garden Info Session & Traditional Medicine Harvest with Lorelei Lyons (September 2024)**

Lorelei Lyons, a respected Métis knowledge keeper, led a session on traditional medicine harvesting. Participants learned about the importance of medicinal plants in Métis culture, gaining hands-on experience and knowledge for future gardening and harvesting efforts. Together we harvested traditional medicines, vegetables, and herbs on our community garden plot.



- **“Lii Michif Niiyanaan: We Are Métis” Documentary Film Screening (September and November 2024)**

We hosted a screening of the documentary film *Lii Michif Niiyanaan: We Are Métis*, which explored Métis identity, history, and cultural resilience.

We invited our citizens to bring family and friends to the film screening, to further educate the community about the Métis people. The film had such an enthusiastic turnout in September, that we decided to offer a screening again in both Surrey and Delta in honour of Louis Riel Day in November.

Closing Statement

Overall, 2024 has been a year of growth and connection for the Surrey Delta Métis Association. We look forward to building on these accomplishments in the coming year as we continue to serve and strengthen our community.

Tri-River Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **ALICIA FERNANDO, PRESIDENT**

The Tri-River Métis Association held an AGM April 20, 2024. The new board continues to serve our community diligently and meets monthly for meetings. TRMA has a small office rental and a cell but no operational staff. We rely on volunteers and MNBC community services to help with referrals for community requests. We do have a person who helps with our bookkeeping as needed.



We have facilitated several events through all of the funding pots provided through MNBC, including some of our annual or semi-annual favourites:

- Family day horse-drawn sleigh rides and fireside lunch
- Louis Riel Day – We had a community dinner and education table for a multicultural event
- War Canoe and Picnic at Tyee Lake
- White Buffalo Gift Exchange and Christmas Party
- Fall Stone Soup Gathering – Back in Hazelton this year (see photo)
- Paint Nights
- Elder/Community Dinners

TRMA also had application-based grants for health activities and firewood this year. This firewood program used Métis providers.

Events facilitated by MNBC ministries in our area included a Regional Health Gathering in Smithers, SAFE Talk and ASSIST training workshops in Smithers and funding for a Regional Women's Gathering in Terrace. The regional events were well-attended and were valuable times to share company, knowledge, food, and entertainment. The continued need for mental health and addiction support is a key message we hear.

Board members have also applied for other funding to provide workshops and events to benefit our members and the broader community. These were through Northern Health Wellness Grants, ISPARC



Food Systems Program Grants, Honor Your Health Challenge, and BC Multiculturalism & Anti Racism Grant. These provided for several moccasin, drum and beading workshops as well as workshops on gardening, medicinal plant harvesting and use like fire cider, and cultivating safe spaces in the community.

Thank you to the community champions who support the proposal writing, planning and implementation. We continue to work on getting more involvement and have just started doing consistently timed community dinners which we think will help. As a community, we have spread out to several towns up to a four hour drive apart. This adds to the challenges for connection. Many of our northern family members also face issues with affordable housing and food and access to health care. TRMA looks forward to building more partnerships and connections to our culture.

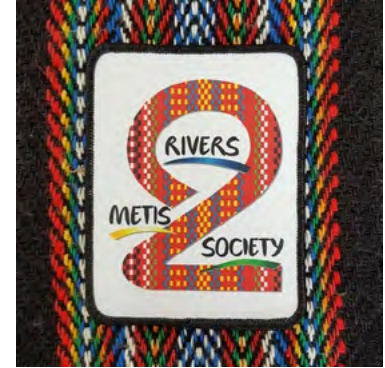


Two Rivers Métis Society

Respectfully Submitted: **MARC DUBORD, PRESIDENT**

A Message from our Board of Directors

Two Rivers Métis Society (TRMS) is a chartered community of Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and a registered non-profit organization representing the Métis citizens of Kamloops and surrounding area. We are part of MNBC's Region 3: Thompson Okanagan and the boundaries of our area of service include Chase to the East, Kamloops to the South, Cache Creek to the West, and Clearwater to the North. The goal of the TRMS Board of Directors is to foster a vibrant, active community of Métis citizens who are knowledgeable about our distinct culture, history and values. At our events, we strive to represent a diverse demographic of members including Elders, young families, women and youth.



Embracing Uncertainty

In 2024, the Two Rivers Métis Society Board of Directors expressed concern over the economic uncertainty felt across the province. As inflation rates climbed for food, energy and home costs, our board conveyed to members the need to return to traditional Métis ways of hunting, harvesting and food preservation. Throughout the year, the TRMS Board planned, funded and executed numerous workshops and food security programs designed to encourage citizens to respect our natural resources and learn to provide for themselves and their families. In collaboration with Métis Nation British Columbia, TRMS was also able to promote health consciousness to our citizens in offering a DIY Air Cleaner Workshop during wildfire season and an Immunization Clinic in partnership with Interior Health in autumn.

Future Harvest Seed Program and Gardening Workshops

A major focus of the TRMS Board in 2024 was to boost the confidence of members in learning traditional Métis harvesting skills to grow their own



Proud community members following the TRMS Annual General Meeting, October 2024.

produce. The 2nd annual Future Harvest Seed Program directly supported this focus providing over 30 TRMS families a variety of seeds and growing instructions free-of-charge by mail and in-person pick up. The Board of Directors pulled from local talent enlisting TRMS member and certified Horticulturist, Eden Mackay, to facilitate an on-site gardening workshop at a local, urban farm in April. In May, MNBC generously funded a Gardenless Growing Workshop with Kalista Pruden of Avalily Permaculture to inspire members short on space to utilize ground-free growing techniques. Both workshops emphasized respecting our food sources and reclaiming our Indigenous traditions as a self-sufficient people.

Summer Family Event

Two Rivers Métis Society saw tremendous member support for our end-of-summer social gathering: the August Summer Family Event. This family-friendly event invited members and their families to take in live entertainment from Métis fiddle band, Playin' Late Band, share in a traditional meal of bison chili and bannock and step out of their comfort zone by learning to jig with dance instructor, Métis Bev. This event saw a great turnout with 115 in attendance and remains the only community Métis Bev has visited to successfully perform the round dance! This event also served to strengthen community ties as TRMS President, Marc Dubord, and former MNBC Region 3 Senator, Fern Hinse, had the honour of sashing 13 community members in a ceremonial sashing. Participating members and guests alike were deeply moved in witnessing this important ceremony in our community.

Hide Tanning Workshop with Métis Artist and Master Hide Tanner, Kimberly Guillon-Stewart

In late April, Two Rivers Métis Society embarked on a two-day hide tanning workshop offered to members wanting to learn more about the traditional art form. Utilizing local resources, the workshop was held on the private ranch of one of our TRMS members and our facilitator was able to teach the class demonstrating on a deer hide donated by one of our youth. Over the weekend, 15 participants took turns stretching, scraping, preparing and finally tanning the hide using a traditional brain and soap solution. Led by a TRMS Elder, the workshop provided participants with a sense of belonging and community as they sat fireside each day, sharing meals and working tirelessly to preserve the hide for future use.



Hide Tanning Workshop group photo, April 2024.

Make it happen

Here are some numbers to describe Two Rivers Métis Society's year-in-review for 2024:

- 34 – Number of verified voting members present at our 2024 AGM held in October
- 40 – Number of citizens who participated in our Fishing License Reimbursement Program promoting good stewardship of the local waters in the region
- 200 – Number of bowls of bison chili served by Two Rivers Métis Society members to the public at this year's National Indigenous Day Celebrations held at Riverside Park in downtown Kamloops
- 2 – Number of Remembrance Day Ceremonies participated in locally by Two Rivers Métis Society Board members strengthening our community ties
- 9 – The age of our youngest participant at our Canning Workshop held in October to foster food preservation skills for generations to come
- 11 – Elected Board members dedicated to serving our TRMS community
- 60 – Number of bowlers who participated in our Bowling & Bannock Party held in honour of Family Day at a local, family owned and operated bowling alley
- 1 – Newly formed TRMS Youth Jigging Troupe encouraging youth to learn our Métis traditional dance through experienced Métis instructors, weekly practices and frequent community performances



Canning Workshop participants apple coring assembly line, October 2024.



Métis Bev teaches guests to jig at the TRMS Summer Family Event, August 2024.

Vermillion Forks Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **NATASHA SMITH, PRESIDENT**

The Vermillion Forks Métis Association has enjoyed an eventful and prosperous 2024, hosting various successful events and programs throughout the year.

Our youth rep and secretary-treasurer hosted multiple family bowling nights, providing the venue, food, and beverages for all families who attended. This event was well received, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to connect.

This year, our association chose one successful candidate through application to receive our bursary. Congratulations, Kabrie Hartwell. We are so proud of your accomplishments and wish you great success as you embark on your educational journey.

This summer, we put on a horse-riding camp. We rented a bus, supplied lunch, and took 18 children ranging from 12 to 18 years of age to Merritt to ride horses at KickinHorse Ranch, where they were instructed by Climbing Mountains Equestrian. The children were given a hayride, learned how to make leather medicine pouches, and took steer roping lessons on a calf roping dummy. Their response to this experience was positive, and they requested to have it again.

We put up the teepee, made Bannock, stocked up on beverages, got cake, and put on an event for the entire community to connect and learn about National Indigenous Peoples Day. The schools brought all the students from K-12, and many individuals from the community also joined in our activities, which included many craft tables, face painting, indigenous games, teepee teachings, fiddlers, etc. It was a great day, and fun was had by all who attended.

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. This event is well received by the community and heavily requested to have it continue as it has become a community staple event.



Our sewing group has been busy sewing weekly, creating various projects while connecting.

One of our members has taken on and created a walking group that meets weekly during the spring and summer, connecting while enjoying nature.

Louis Riel Day Dinner was a great success. We invited some of our regional leaders to join us as we reflected and gave thanks over a roast beef dinner catered by Little Creek Grill and music by BeeFiddled. Thank you again for joining us.

The yoga class is still going strong, running twice a week with a certified instructor. The class is open to anyone in the community and adaptive to any mobility level.

Truth and Reconciliation Day, our association purchased Orange Shirts, which were then given to those in the community who wanted to wear them. We had a table set up at our Soup and Social to distribute the shirts to the community

We also hosted our annual winter craft fair. This year the event took place over two days and had many local community vendors attend.

Starting January 2025, our youth leader is starting a weekly games night for ages 13-30. Games and snacks are provided. We are all very excited to be able to provide this experience to our youth and look forward to seeing it progress.

Vermillion Forks has many more ideas that we plan to explore as we begin 2025. We look forward to sharing our adventures with you.



Vernon and District Métis Association

Respectfully Submitted: **RON CARON, PRESIDENT**

The Vernon and District Métis Association has had an active and vibrant year in 2024, hosting a variety of events that have engaged and enriched the community. Below is a summary of the events held from January 2024 through to December 2024:



1. **Grand Opening of the Cultural Centre:** On March 10, 2024, we celebrated the grand opening of our new Cultural Centre. The event was attended by 60 people who came to see the new facility.
2. **Monthly Seniors/Elders Luncheon and Bingo:** These monthly gatherings provided a regular opportunity for our seniors and elders to socialize, enjoy a meal, and participate in bingo games.
3. **Chair Yoga Sessions:** We offered a six-week chair yoga program promoting physical wellness.
4. **Family Bowling Event:** In March 2024, we hosted a family bowling event that saw 50 people come together for a fun and active outing.
5. **Distribution of Children's Curricular Books:** We provided educational resources to children from preschool to grade 7, supporting their learning and development of skills.
6. **Métis 101 Workshop:** In April 2024, 40 people attended this informative session to learn about Métis history, culture, and identity.
7. **Estate Planning Workshop:** Held on May 2, 2024, this workshop was attended by 16 people who received valuable information on planning their estates.
8. **Ribbon Skirt Making Workshop:** On May 4, 2024, 15 women participated in this cultural craft workshop, creating their own ribbon skirts.
9. **Clean Air Purification Workshop:** This workshop, held on June 8, 2024, was attended by 25 people who learned about improving indoor air quality.
10. **National Indigenous People's Day Celebration:** On June 21, 2024, we celebrated National Indigenous People's



Elders and Senior's Luncheon and Bingo

Day at O'Keefe Ranch, with 70 people in attendance. There were games, dancing and a meal.

11. **Don McBeth Memorial Bursary:** We created the first Don McBeth Memorial Bursary, awarding \$1,000 to a grade 12 student pursuing further education at UBCO.
12. **Safe Talk Prevention Workshop:** Held on July 6, 2024, this workshop focused on suicide prevention and was attended by 6 people.
13. **Youth Towne Hall:** On August 7, 2024, 4 youth attended this event to discuss issues and ideas relevant to their age group.
14. **Back-To-School Gift Cards:** On August 27, 2024, we distributed gift cards to 57 children to help them prepare for the new school year.
15. **Youth Movie Night:** Unfortunately, no one attended the Youth Movie Night on October 5, 2024.
16. **Medicine/Tobacco Bag Workshop:** Held on October 19 and 26, 2024, this workshop was attended by 15 people who created their own medicine/tobacco bags.
17. **Gingerbread House Making Afternoon:** On December 21, 2024, 17 children participated in this festive activity, creating their own gingerbread houses.
18. **Christmas and Louis Riel Day Gathering:** This event, held in December, was attended by 100 people who came together to celebrate and honor Louis Riel.
19. **Christmas Hampers:** We distributed turkey, potatoes, and carrot Christmas hampers to 72 families, ensuring they had a festive meal.
20. **Beaded Earring Workshop:** On December 28, 2024, 24 women attended this workshop to create their own beaded earrings.



Beaded Earring workshop

These events reflect the Vernon & District Métis Association's commitment to fostering community engagement, cultural preservation, and social support. We look forward to continuing our efforts in the coming year.

Waceya Métis Society

Respectfully Submitted: **ANTHONY WINGHAM, PRESIDENT**

Since May 31, 2024, the Waceya Métis Society has undergone significant transformation under new leadership. Through rebuilding governance, addressing financial discrepancies, and fostering meaningful community engagement, we have set a strong foundation for the future. This report outlines the progress and accomplishments achieved during this period.



The Society addressed over two years of unresolved financial issues, reconciling accounts and clearing discrepancies. Three major funding grants, previously spent without work initiated or proper reporting, were completed, and all overdue MNBC reports were submitted. Membership records were cleaned up, ensuring accuracy and transparency. Governance was restored by rebuilding a fully functional Board of Directors and implementing proper practices aligned with the Society's bylaws. Additionally, we added a Diverse Learners Representative to advocate for neurodivergent-friendly initiatives, ensuring inclusivity for all members.

Recognizing the financial challenges posed by the \$5,500 monthly cost of the Surrey Cloverdale office, we made the strategic decision to close it. Over three years of accumulated clutter were cleared, and usable items were stored for future events and programs. In partnership with the City of Langley, we secured the Al Anderson Pool Multipurpose Room as a temporary, accessible location. This space, available every Friday and Saturday, has allowed us to reconnect with our geographical community and host regular events.

Community engagement has been a priority. We hosted monthly events in White Rock to engage the 90+ citizens in that area, ensuring they felt included. The Louis Riel Day Dinner and Dance, in collaboration with Locality Brewing and Stampede Burger, was a Region 2-wide celebration that brought together over 100 citizens despite challenging weather. MNBC funding made this event possible. From September to November, fiddle lessons celebrated Métis music and traditions, while Northern Michif language classes with Grandma Stella, funded through the MNBC Language Revitalization Grant, promoted cultural preservation. Through the Giving Voice Grant, we supported women-led activities and groups, fostering empowerment within our community.

In August, we held a STEPS Month, inviting the STEPS team to our office every Monday to assist citizens with inquiries. This initiative attracted participants from as far as Vancouver, highlighting the value of this program. Our Youth Representative actively hosted youth events, strengthening connections and encouraging participation among younger members.

To enhance communication, we utilized social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok, alongside email and SMS updates. These efforts ensured timely and transparent engagement with members. Partnerships with organizations such as Encompass and the Langley School District have further supported community-focused projects and educational initiatives.

Looking ahead, we are committed to rebuilding and strengthening the community in Langley and White Rock. Our focus remains on hosting regular events, promoting cultural revitalization, and ensuring financial sustainability. This report is a testament to the resilience and dedication of the Waceya Métis Society as we continue to grow and thrive.

Maarsii for your support and commitment to our collective success. Together, we look forward to building a stronger, more connected future for the Waceya Métis Society.



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA