



THE VOICE OF MÉTIS IN BC

2023 Provincial
Budget Submission



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA





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LETTER FROM THE CEO:

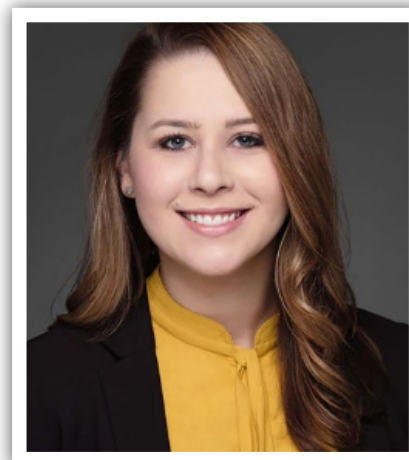
Tawnshi Members of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services,

As the province's largest Indigenous government, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) advocates for nearly 90,000 self-identified Métis people – representing approximately one-third of B.C.'s Indigenous population. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of all Métis in B.C. by developing and implementing culturally-relevant social and economic programs and services.

MNBC was encouraged to see the Province release the long-awaited Action Plan dedicated to implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. The Action Plan recognizes Métis as a distinct People, in recognition of our Nation's Indigenous status under the Constitution Act, 1982. Recognizing the distinct, constitutionally-protected rights of Métis is an important step forward. There are a number of other positive actions in the plan, including supporting the development of a Métis post-secondary institute, prioritizing endorsement and implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy, obtaining jurisdiction over child and family services, securing jurisdiction over child care, and most importantly, advancing a collaborative, whole-of-government approach in the partnership between MNBC and the Province of B.C., respecting Métis self-determination, and working to establish a new fiscal relationship that allows for more flexibility and sustainability in capacity and program funding.

Despite these positive advancements, our government continues to be challenged by a lack of core funding to facilitate ongoing engagement with the Province on distinctions-based policy development, and to support key initiatives in each of our 39 Métis Chartered Communities throughout B.C.

In the 'Report on the Budget 2022 Consultation', the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services made the unequivocal recommendation to "provide support to Métis Nation British Columbia for programs and services to Métis people." We trust the Committee will again recognize the needs laid out in this 2023 MNBC budget submission, which represents another opportunity for British Columbia to take concrete steps in advancing tangible reconciliation with our Nation.





The Committee should also be aware that MNBC and the Province are developing a new bilateral relationship agreement to replace the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II with a whole-of-government approach that will address a broad range of topic areas highlighted in our submission.

Covering the three categories of Métis Governance; Reconciliation Engagement; and Cultural Protection and Strategic Programming, the total amount requested of \$84.2 million will facilitate programs and services that our people rely on.

Maarsi,

Colette Trudeau

Interim Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Minister

Métis Nation BC



In November 2021, Métis Nation British Columbia and the Province of British Columbia announced a renewed commitment to strengthen their relationship and advance reconciliation with Métis people in B.C. From left: Louis De Jaeger, Region 2 Director, Minister of Economic Development, Minister of Health; Lissa Smith, President, Minister of Justice, Minister of Veterans, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs; Susie Hooper, Region 6 Director, Minister of Registry and Community Services, Minister of Environmental Protection; Patrick Harriott, Region 1 Director, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Language, Minister of Digital Governance, Assistant Minister of Métis Rights



RECOMMENDATION #1: MÉTIS GOVERNANCE

With a citizen mandate to pursue self-government, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is recognized by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation as the government of Métis in B.C. To improve the quality of life of the nearly 90,000 self-identified Métis people in the province – as prioritized in the MNBC Strategic Plan 2021-24 – this section seeks funding to facilitate core governance activities.

MNBC is seeking funding for the fiscal year 2023-24 to ensure sufficient resources for the operation of MNBC broadly, and our Board of Directors and Chartered Communities specifically. Core governance activities requiring funding include Métis Nation Governing Assemblies and the Annual General Meeting, plus administration of the MNBC Senate, Métis Women BC, Métis Youth BC, and Métis Veterans BC.

Our annual request to support critical governance activities reflects our continued growth as both an Indigenous nation and Métis government. These funds are essential to ensure MNBC can continue to successfully meet the needs of its citizens and move closer towards achieving self-government in the true spirit of reconciliation as outlined in the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan](#), which contains provisions for a new fiscal relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

In addition to providing essential resources to facilitate effective governance, this funding will be used to continue MNBC's work on priorities identified in the [Métis Nation Relationship Accord II](#), which was signed with the Province in 2016. A Letter of Intent was signed by the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in 2021 to pursue a new reconciliation agreement that formalizes a shared commitment to embark on a new relationship with the Métis Nation.

MNBC consists of three levels of governance, structured as follows:

- Eleven-member Board of Directors, including a President, Vice President, seven Regional Directors, one Provincial Chair of Métis Women British Columbia, and one Provincial Chair of Métis Youth British Columbia
- Seven Regional Governance Councils
- 39 Chartered Communities



MNBC President, Lissa Dawn Smith



In addition to supporting MNBC's Chartered Communities with annual events such as Louis Riel Day Commemorations, governance funding will advance key priorities contained in our strategic plan: Build a healthy and vibrant Metis Nation in B.C., bring children back to Métis communities, support a united Métis Nation, and increase cultural visibility.

Indigenous governance request: \$5.23 million



Métis Nation British Columbia's Board of Directors at Surrey headquarter on June 8, 2022.

Top left: Patrick Harriott, Region 1 Director, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Language, Minister of Digital Governance, Assistant Minister of Métis Rights; Colette Trudeau, Interim Deputy Minister, Interim Chief Executive Officer; Christopher Gall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Legal Officer; Susie Hooper, Region 6 Director, Minister of Registry and Community Services, Minister of Environmental Protection; Dean Gladue, Region 3 Director, Minister of Sports and Active Living, Minister of Natural Resources, Assistant Minister of Justice; Paulette Flamond, Region 7 Director, Minister of Employment and Training, Minister of Post-Secondary Education; Raynie Gervais, Region 5 Director, Minister of Elders, Assistant Minister of Culture, Heritage and Language; Debra Fisher, Region 4 Director, Minister of Children and Families, Minister of Education (K-12, Early Years); Louis De Jaeger, Region 2 Director, Minister of Economic Development, Minister of Health. Seated: Dr. Kate Elliott, Chair of Métis Women BC, Minister of Mental Health and Harm Reduction; Lissa Dawn Smith, President, Minister of Justice, Minister of Veterans, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs; Walter Mineault, Vice President, Minister of Métis Rights, Minister of Housing and Homelessness; Shaughn Davoren, Chair of Métis Youth BC.



RECOMMENDATION #2: CULTURAL PROTECTION AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

Cultural protection is an integral facet of reconciliation that touches all subject matter areas. MNBC is seeking funding to ensure Métis culture is recognized, respected and protected in a distinctions-based manner in respect of the DRIPA Action Plan. The information below outlines strategic priorities ranging from culture and citizenship to housing, education, health, and women and gender equity.

Children and families: (\$7.5 million)

MNBC is committed to improving outcomes for Métis children, youth, and families, and to reducing the number of Métis children in welfare through preventative services and legislative reform.

Citizenship: (\$1.2 million)

Maintaining a connection to heritage and culture through citizenship registration is necessary for the identity of Métis citizens. Verified against the federal Indian Register, MNBC's Central Registry is the province's sole holder of accurate, Métis-specific demographic data.

Cultural protection: (Culture – \$2 million, Institute – \$4 million)

MNBC is fulfilling its citizen mandate to protect the critically-endangered Michif language through targeted programming, and increase the visibility of Métis arts and culture through education. [The Amelia Douglas Institute for Métis Culture and Language](#) will advance this work.

Economic development: (Economic Development – \$0.97 million, MFCBC – \$1 million)

Economic self-reliance is critical to improving the quality of life for Métis in B.C. MNBC advocates for Métis-run businesses through strategic partnerships to create an ecosystem of success through the Métis Financial Corporation of BC.



Patrick Harriott, Region 1 Director, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Language, Minister of Digital Governance, and Assistant Minister of Metis Rights; and Dr. Kate Elliott, Chair of Métis Women BC, and Minister of Mental Health and Harm Reduction unveil plans for the Amelia Douglas Institute for Métis Culture and Language in December 2021 at MNBC head office.



Education: (\$3.8 million)

MNBC works hard to decolonize the public education system by supporting educational policy, research, pedagogy, projects, programs, and services in early years, kindergarten to grade 12, and post-secondary.

Health outcomes: (\$14.5 million)

As documented in the [Métis Public Health Surveillance Program – Baseline Report, 2021](#),

systemic racism, the residential school system and discriminatory

child welfare policies have contributed to poorer health outcomes for Métis people. MNBC advocates for programs and services that improve health outcomes for our people.

Housing and homelessness: (\$20 million)

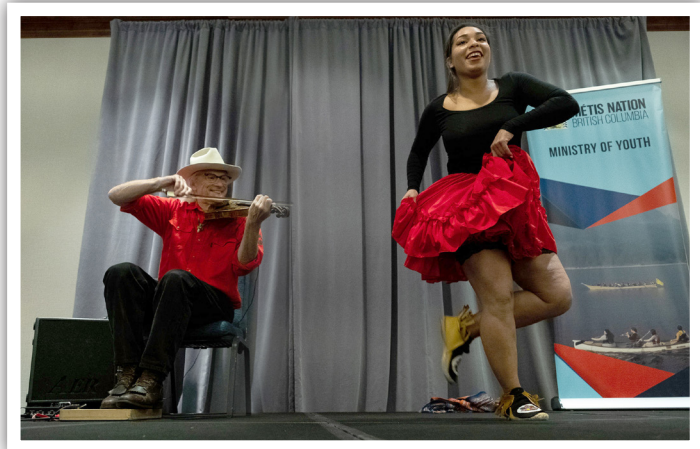
MNBC is aligned with the Province's focus on improving access to affordable housing. Citizens of our Nation face acute housing needs in all areas of the province. Acquiring land for housing, and establishing a Métis Housing Authority, are critical priorities for improving quality of life.

Sport: (\$2 million)

MNBC supports a healthier, more active future for our province's Métis people, families and communities.

Women and gender equity (\$5 million)

MNBC is committed to supporting recommendations from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), ending gender-based violence, and advocating for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.



Jigging at the Métis Youth Parliament.

Cultural Protection and Strategic Programming Request: \$61.97 million



RECOMMENDATION #3: RECONCILIATION ENGAGEMENT

In the context of reconciliation under the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan](#), the Province and MNBC are advancing their relationship by pursuing a new whole-of-government approach to Métis relations as a partnership that respects and furthers Métis self-determination.

The recently-announced [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan](#) contains concrete steps to achieving lasting and meaningful reconciliation, and includes distinctions-based language inclusive of the Métis Nation. Article 39 of the legislation states that, “Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.”

As a good partner in reconciliation, MNBC receives frequent requests from the Province to engage in the development of distinctions-based legislation to bring laws and policies into alignment with DRIPA. As a recent example, our policy analysts helped develop the Anti-Racism Data Legislation announced in May by the Premier and Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives Rachna Singh.

These ongoing requests cover a wide range of topics, and are directed at a broad list of MNBC ministries. While we are eager to engage at every step of the reconciliation journey, MNBC unfortunately lacks the core human resource capacity to participate fully and meaningfully in many of these important processes.

The funds will facilitate policy engagement across all MNBC [ministries](#) and [committees](#).



Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, selects the winning raffle ticket at the Louis Riel Day reception for Members of the Legislative Assembly in Victoria. Credit: Derek Robitaille

Reconciliation engagement request: \$17 million





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