

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



Monthly E-News

From the Office of President Clara Morin Dal Col
(Issue #4)



April 2019 UPDATE- I hope spring is unfolding nicely for you wherever you live in this beautiful province of ours.

Fort St. John Métis Community Annual General Meeting – I just had the pleasure of attending the AGM of our Chartered Community in Fort St. John on Sunday, April 7. It was so nice to see everyone and be able to chat about various MNBC initiatives and Community concerns. My congratulations to Community President Jacqueline Alderking

and the Board on their re-election. Jacqueline and her Board members are working hard for our Citizens and our Métis people. Thank you for all that you do, and thank you for making me feel so welcome.

Métis Nation Rights Reconciliation Symposium – Last week our Métis Nation held its Métis Nation Rights Reconciliation Symposium in Vancouver and each Governing Member, including MNBC, had strong representation in attendance. Noted Métis Rights lawyer Jean Teillet talked about the key elements of reconciliation between the Métis Nation and Canada going forward. The key elements include:

- truth and history;
- recognition of the Métis Nation and a Nation to Nation relationship;
- a government to government relationship;
- the Métis Nation has the right of self-determination through self-governance and determining who its citizens are; and
- some restoration, including land.

Each Governing Member has established a s.35 Métis Rights Regional Table with Canada. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Advancing Reconciliation with the Government of Canada in July 2018 laying out a path that includes addressing s.35 Métis Rights and Self Government for Métis in British Columbia. We are now working on a Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Process Agreement that we hope to have signed before the end of June. That agreement will lead to us negotiating the specifics of self-government and a



fiscal relationship with Canada. This is amazing progress in just the last couple of years. And now we are signing Accords with the Government of Canada on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship basis. These Accords are all designed to make a difference for Métis people.

Métis Housing Initiatives

As the MNBC Minister of Housing I invite your feedback on possible funding options for our new Métis Housing Accord which will provide \$5.6 million in annual funding to MNBC. In fiscal 2020/21 the annual funding increases to \$6.4 million. With this funding, we want to ensure it benefits as many Métis people as possible who need assistance with some aspect of housing. Here are some of the options we are looking at:

- Assistance with improving energy efficiencies to help lower the cost of home heating;
- Home renovations to enable seniors and elders to remain in their own homes longer;
- Assistance with the down payment for the purchase of homes on a repayable basis; and
- Short-term funding assistance for single parent families leaving a violent domestic situation

In future years, we will also look at the possible construction of new homes, including multi-family. Because the cost of acquiring land and building homes in British Columbia can use up the dollars very quickly this will only be done in partnerships with other governments and stakeholders.

As President of MNBC and the Minister of Housing, I would really like your feedback on the options above and any other ideas you might have. Please email me with your thoughts at cmorin-dalcol@mnbcc.ca . I look forward to hearing from you.

Upcoming Meetings – This month will see me in Prince George at our next Elder’s Conference on April 12-14. I will then be in Saskatoon the following week to meet with the federal Minister of Social Development. Later on this month I will be in the northwest meeting with our Métis Citizens.

I am honoured to continue to work on your behalf,

Clara Morin Dal Col
President

About MNBC:

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents nearly 90,000 self-identified Métis people in British Columbia. Of that, 19,000 are provincially registered Métis Citizens with MNBC. The Métis National Council, the Provincial Government of British Columbia, and the Federal Government of Canada recognize MNBC as the official governing nation for Métis in BC.