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Our Foundation

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) was established in 1996 as the representative organization for Métis in BC. In 2002, the “National Definition” of Métis was formalized by representatives of the Métis Nation. MNBC is recognized as the governing body for the Métis people in BC by the Métis National Council, the Government of Canada, and the Government of BC. MNBC continues to advocate for respectful recognition and reconciliation of our inherent Aboriginal rights, and our existence within the Canadian federation.

The foundation of MNBC is its people. MNBC represents nearly 90,000 Métis people and 38 Chartered Communities in BC. MNBC seeks to develop and enhance opportunities for Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services.

Over the past ten months, MNBC senior staff, leadership, and the Board held strategy sessions to develop this three-year strategic plan (2021-2024). Priorities that emerged throughout the process are reflected in the strategic goals; as a healthy and united Nation centered around culture, Métis rights, and ensuring Métis children are cared for within Métis communities. MNBC is committed to ensuring the rights of women and girls underpin the direction of the Nation. This is reflected in strategic goals of the Nation, which build on the important work of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the National Family and Survivors Circle: Reclaiming Power and Place, and the Métis Women BC Strategic Plan.

Mission, Vision & Values

Our Mission
Métis Nation British Columbia develops and enhances opportunities for our Métis Chartered Communities and Métis people in British Columbia by providing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services.

Our Vision
Métis Nation British Columbia will build a proud self-governing, sustainable Nation in recognition of inherent rights for our Métis citizens.

Our Values
Our values shape our strategic priorities and also our day-to-day decision making and operations. We hold ourselves accountable to them and have reflected our values throughout this plan.

Teamwork • Respect • Dedication • Accountability • Integrity • Professionalism
Five Strategic Priorities

1. Build a healthy and vibrant Métis Nation BC
2. Bring children back to communities
3. Support a united Métis nation
4. Increase cultural visibility
5. Protect, clarify, and acknowledge Section 35 Métis rights
Strategic Priority:

1. Build a healthy and vibrant Métis Nation BC
   - Bring children back to communities
   - Support a united Métis Nation
   - Increase cultural visibility

A healthy MNBC starts with healthy Citizens. MNBC will use evidenced-based policies to develop a Métis Health and Wellness plan that reflects our Citizens’ needs and acknowledges the diversity within our communities. A healthy Nation requires distinctions-based mental health and wellness supports that incorporate Métis culture. To be healthy, Métis people need a safe place to live and call home. MNBC will target land acquisition to support the construction of affordable housing and culturally relevant childcare facilities throughout the province. To be healthy, Métis people need meaningful employment, access to skills training, post-secondary programs, and mentorship. Through Skills Training, Employment and Post-Secondary MNBC will increase our offerings to Citizens and create a Métis-specific training institute.

MNBC is committed to building a healthy Nation that reflects the diverse needs within our communities. We will do this by improving communication between MNBC and our Citizens. We will honour our Elders by ensuring they are supported to live at home, or close to home, with Métis specific services. MNBC will advocate for Métis women, who continue to be disproportionally impacted by systemically unequal structures in our society.

We will work to strengthen our Nation and increase the capacity of Chartered Communities to deliver services and respond to emergencies. MNBC will support the role of Regional Governance Councils to provide local leadership.
Some of the ways we will act on this priority:

- Create a Mental Wellness Strategy for the Nation, outlining how we will keep our children, youth and communities healthy and active
- Meaningfully engage and consult with Chartered Communities and Citizens on a regular basis
- Facilitate access to safe and affordable housing and support land ownership to strengthen our Nation
- Increase opportunities for Métis-owned businesses to succeed in BC
- Support employment initiatives as a social determinant of health
MNBC will develop sustainable capacity to assume jurisdiction of Métis children in care. This will be done through relationship building and partnerships with senior levels of government. MNBC will also prioritize programs that support Métis families and empower them to thrive.

Capacity will be increased to place Métis children with Métis families across BC. Using best practices, including learning from those with lived experience and working with Elders, we will support children and families. Citizen engagement will inform program development. We see a Nation where all Métis children are aware of and have opportunities to live their culture.

Citizens will see MNBC take a leadership role in obtaining Indigenous Governing Body status and bringing our children home to their communities.
Some of the ways we will act on this priority:

- Develop a solid foundation before MNBC assumes jurisdiction of our children in care
- Support communities, Métis families, and Elders to take care of vulnerable children and youth
- Increase our capacity to place Métis children with Métis families across BC
- Ensure children in care are provided the opportunity to connect with their culture
- Increase access to Métis childcare spaces
A united Métis Nation is built upon open communication and collective leadership. We will begin by increasing capacity within our communities through meaningful engagement and communication. Citizen engagement will inform grassroots development of and innovative access to programs and services. By leveraging technology, we can reach our Citizens in every region of the province.

Citizens will see more transparency from MNBC, with townhalls, online Cabinet meetings, and key documents published for public viewing. Decision making will rest with the entire MNBC Cabinet, not with individuals.

Women will be encouraged and supported to participate in governance through communities of practice and a “Grandmothers Wisdom Council.” Mentorship and training opportunities will help women become involved in diverse governance structures, such as school boards, city councils, and the MNBC Cabinet.
Some of the ways we will act on this priority:

- Gain a better understanding of the diverse needs between regions
- Improve overall communications between MNBC, Chartered Communities, and Citizens
- Use culture to create a common understanding and desire to work together
- Build increased capacity within communities through meaningful engagement and regular communication
- Enhance women’s voices through governance structures and principles that enable their participation
Strategic Priority:

1. Build a healthy and vibrant Métis Nation BC
2. Bring children back to communities
3. Support a united Métis Nation
4. Increase cultural visibility
5. Protect, clarify, and acknowledge Section 35 Métis rights

Métis culture is integral to MNBC’s strategic direction. All ministries are working to embed Métis culture into programs and services for Métis people across the province. A new, made-in-BC, Métis Culture and Language Institute will become a home for Métis history in BC and provide a central base for cultural programming and language development. The Institute will become a main component of educating the public regarding Métis identity, history, and culture.

Direct access to cultural information and resources will strengthen capacity for Métis people in our Nation. By creating mentorship opportunities, we will support the growth and prosperity of our youth. Digital tools will be used to gather our people from across the province.

MNBC is working to change perceptions and relational accountability and is prioritizing education – for staff, Métis people, and in institutions across BC.
Some of the ways we will act on this priority:

- Develop a new BC Métis Culture and Language Institute
- Increase direct access to cultural information and resources for Citizens
- Utilize digital tools to gather our people from across the province
- Foster new and more meaningful partnerships with school districts across BC
- Support the development of more mentorship opportunities
STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Protect, clarify, and acknowledge Section 35 Métis rights

Protecting Métis rights is fundamental for a strong and united Métis Nation in BC, particularly with culture, education, health, housing, and economic development. Understanding and communicating our Section 35 rights in the context of Canada and the Province of BC will secure the future for Métis in BC.

We will clarify what Métis rights are, and strengthen our relationships with First Nations through cooperative working relationships. We will establish a BC Métis-First Nations working table to address areas of shared interest and concern. Supporting First Nations and finding opportunities to recognize and acknowledge First Nation and Inuit successes will improve the understanding, recognition, and support for Métis rights.
Some of the ways we will act on this priority:

- Clearly define our Constitutional rights as they pertain to our relationship with Canada and the Province of British Columbia
- Involve Chartered Communities and Citizens in the further definition of self-government
- Work with Canada and the BC Government to implement United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) legislation
- Establish a new Métis Nation Relationship Accord Secretariat that will work with the BC Government to annually publish progress reports on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) Action Plan
- Work toward financial self-sustainability
Looking ahead

The hopes and aspirations of MNBC’s Cabinet is for the Nation to have a united purpose. Our rights need to be recognized. MNBC strives to be self-reliant and to build a strong economic future for our Citizens. We want to bring our children in care home and ensure every Métis Elder has a safe place to call home. MNBC will continue to build on our successes and build a strong Nation.

The direction outlined in this strategic plan will serve as the foundation for MNBC to develop and enhance opportunities for Métis people and communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services.

Our people, communities, relationships, and culture, are essential to delivering the priorities outlined in this document. We are excited to put this plan into action and we look forward to working for our Citizens to support Métis people across BC.
The foundation of MNBC is its people.