Interior Health & Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Partnership Updates

Below is a summary of high-level updates for Métis Chartered Community members residing in the Interior region about the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Ministry of Health and Wellness and Interior Health (IH) Leadership Table (MILT) and Letter of Understanding (LOU) Joint Committee meetings that took place during 2025, outlining priorities and planned next steps. These meetings are intended to support the implementation of the Métis Health and Wellness Plan (MHWP) and each quarterly meeting is based on a theme that aligns with the plan's baskets of work.

MNBC-IH Health and Wellness MILT Meeting Discussions

January 16, 2025

- MNBC provided an overview of current MNBC education opportunities such as Ta Saantii Mamawapowuk and Miyo-Pimâtisowin: Métis Cultural Wellness Education for Healthcare Professionals.
- Executive Director, Office of Indigenous Health & Reconciliation (BC Provincial Government) has volunteered to sit at the MILT table.
- MNBC is establishing a Steering Committee to guide the development of an Elders Advisory Council. The Council will support MNBC's Board in identifying priorities and strategic areas of focus to enhance the well-being of Métis Elders and seniors.
- IH provided an overview of its draft Indigenous Mental Wellness Plan. The plan aims to work more closely with Indigenous partners to create culturally safe, equitable mental health and substance use services, while enhancing crisis response, rural service planning, and increasing Indigenous leadership and participation in care planning and delivery.

June 10, 2025

- MNBC facilitated a pilot offering of Miyo-Pimâtisowin: Métis Cultural Wellness Education for Healthcare Professionals. This course aims to support healthcare providers in developing a basic understanding of Métis identity, history, and governance, including the impacts of colonialism on Métis health and wellness.
- MNBC provided updates regarding ongoing Métis community engagement to understand the current needs of Métis regarding end-of-life care, Advance Care Planning, and long-term care.
- IH shared its overview of their current Indigenous Cultural Safety and Anti-Racism Education, including current mandatory job-ready courses, experiential learning, and Métis-specific education content.

What's New

Cultural Mental Health and Harm Reduction
(November 2024 – February 2025)

- Nine virtual dialogues were held with Métis youth, Elders, knowledge holders, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. Feedback will inform a Métis-specific harm reduction framework for release in 2026.
- Three regional harm reduction gatherings were hosted in the Okanagan, Northeast, and Kootenays.
- Additional cultural wellness events included the Métis Girls Gathering in Prince George and a Health and Wellness Gathering in Kamloops.

Dignity in Death and Dying
(March 16–17, 2025)

- MNBC hosted two gatherings in Kelowna and Cranbrook to hear community perspectives on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and identify support needed moving forward.

Michif Language and Cultural Representation
(May 23, 2025)

- IH and MNBC collaborated to include Southern, Northern, and French Michif in new Urgent Primary Care Centers (UPCCs) welcome walls. This approach was successfully implemented at the Elk Valley UPCC, which also features Métis art, signage, and a framed Métis sash gifted by MNBC. Michif language will be included as a standard feature in future IH welcome walls.

Métis Health Experience Program
(MHEP; September 22, 2025)

- Thirteen Métis Chartered Communities in Regions 3–4 have received 25 copies of the MHEP brochures and MNBC resource cards for their offices.
- The Métis Health Experience Guidebook: Navigating Provincial Health Feedback was published online to support Métis individuals navigating healthcare concerns, compliments, and feedback processes across BC. The guidebook can be accessed here.

Métis Cultural Wellness Education
(October 6, 2025)

- The Miyo-Pimâtisowin: Métis Cultural Wellness Education for Healthcare Professionals course received accreditation through UBC Continuing Professional Development. The curriculum includes Métis history, cultural wellness perspectives, MHWP content, and guided reflection. Training is available virtually or in-person, with invitations sent to IH teams who expressed an interest in receiving Métis-specific education. Course details can be found here: Miyo-Pimâtisowin – Métis Cultural Wellness Education for Healthcare Professionals.

Immunization Clinics
(October–November 2025)

- Regional Health Coordinators organized nine immunization clinics across the Interior region, including Salmon Arm, Penticton, Princeton, and Williams Lake.
- A total of 198 Métis community members received immunizations.

Senior and Elders Health and Wellness
(November 19, 2025)

- MNBC's Advanced Care Plan (ACP) guidebook has been approved, with a tentative roll-out planned for the February Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The ACP guide helps individuals document their medical and cultural wishes or instructions on how their support system can best support them and their care. Métis Elders and Seniors Assistance Program (MESAP) increased funding to $3,000 for single Elders and $4,500 for couples to better meet community needs.

Virtual Emergency Care Pilot
(December 8, 2025)

- Interior Health launched the LINK-ED Virtual Emergency Care Pilot designed to modernize emergency care services for rural communities. The four participating sites include Lillooet, Clearwater, Nakusp, and Princeton hospitals. Each site uses a virtual physician several nights per week to support reliable overnight access in rural communities. Evaluations will occur at three, six, and twelve months post-implementation. MNBC will support the promotion of the pilot through Communications and Community Engagement.

Next Steps

- Continue implementation of MHWP actions across all baskets, with a focus on cultural wellness, health promotion, and Elders' support.
- Expand access to accredited Métis cultural wellness education for IH teams.
- Continue collaboration on Michif language inclusion and cultural representation in IH facilities.
- Continue community engagement on harm reduction, cultural wellness, and Métis health priorities.

Interior Health
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