Northern Health & Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Partnership Updates

Below is a summary of high-level updates for Métis Chartered Community members residing in the Northern region about the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Ministry of Health and Wellness and Northern Health (NH) Leadership Table 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 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.

Meeting insights

June 19, 2025 (Technical Staff Meeting)

- The committee reviewed updates to the Métis Nation BC — Northern Health Leadership Committee Relational Agreements, which outlines shared principles, roles, and processes that guide collaboration. Recent changes include embedding principles from *Lii Valeur di Goovarnimaan di Michif* (Principles of Métis Governance; Métis Politics and Governance in Canada by Kelly Saunders and Janique Dubois) to guide respectful and culturally informed processes, incorporating MNBC and NH core values to ensure alignment, and clarifying membership roles, including voting and non-voting members.
    - The draft agreement is designed to strengthen relationships, clarify processes, embed Métis governance principles, and support culturally safe and equitable health planning and delivery. The hope is to finalize the agreements in 2026.
- Reviewed progress on the MNBC-NH MHWP, including cultural wellness education, Respectful Relationships curriculum updates, Métis artwork and signage in NH owned and operated facilities, and strengthened collaboration with NH teams and service networks.
- Confirmed ongoing quarterly LOU meetings and shared updates on community engagement, self-identification and data, access and discharge planning, and health promotion.

December 1, 2025 (MNBC-NH Leadership Table Meeting)

- Both organizations reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening the partnership, renewing the LOU, and advancing the ongoing work of the MNBC-NH MHWP.
- Northern Health emphasized the significance of renewing the LOU and highlighted the importance of board-level engagement. Discussed governance roles and the need for clarity before endorsing the renewed LOU.
- NH Board Chair, Colleen Nyce, attended the MNBC-NH Leadership Committee meeting for the first time. MNBC leadership expressed appreciation for NH's action in fulfilling the request for board representation.
- Shared progress on MHWP implementation, including cultural safety curriculum development and Indigenous Patient Self-Identification Initiative launch at Ksyen Hospital (Terrace).
- Discussed the need for a clear protocol for receiving Métis gifts and artwork in NH facilities.



Métis sash displayed in the entrance of the Kitimat General Hospital



MNBC & Northern Health Leadership Table meeting hosted at MNBC HQ

What's New

Métis Art and Signage in Facilities

- A ceremony took place at the Kitimat General Hospital in May 2025 for the unveiling of a framed Métis sash. The ceremony included an opening by a Haisla Elder, representatives from the Northwest BC Métis Association, MNBC staff, NH staff and Métis community members.
- There is Métis representation on art committees for Ksyen (Terrace) and Dawson Creek facilities: a North East Métis Association representative is a member of the Dawson Creek new hospital build Art Committee, and a Métis artist based in Terrace is on the Kysen Regional Hospital Art Committee. Their participation will assist in integrating Métis art, language, and signage into the facility.

Métis Cultural Wellness Education & NH Cultural Safety Education

- The MNBC 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 NH teams who expressed an interest in receiving Métis-specific education.
- Two MNBC staff representatives continue to play an active role in the NH Respectful Relationships working groups, ensuring Métis perspectives are meaningfully represented in the cultural safety education curriculum developed by NH. The Core Team has finalized the title of the new 7.5-hour foundational course: Respectful Relationships: Foundations for Cultural Safety in the North. Course content was completed in October 2025, with a pilot launch scheduled for 2026.

Indigenous Self-Identification in Northern Health Facilities

- On November 3, 2025, the Indigenous Patient Self-Identification Initiative project launched its pilot site at Ksyen Regional Hospital in Terrace. MNBC Métis Health Research Coordinator continues to support the NH Patient Self-Identification (ID) Core Team. This initiative hopes to help connect patients with culturally safe care, specialized support staff on the Indigenous Care Team, and traditional healing practices.

Next Steps

- Advance LOU renewal engagement sessions across Regions 5 (North Central), 6 (Northwest), and 7 (Northeast), with planning led jointly by MNBC and NH staff.
- Develop a NH protocol for receiving Métis gifts and artwork in NH facilities, with consultation from local First Nations Health Directors and MNBC.
- Arrange meetings between MNBC, NH CEO and Indigenous Health Leadership in 2026 to discuss governance structure and NH Board Representation.
- Continue quarterly LOU meetings and Leadership Committee meetings in 2026, with an in-person meeting on May 12, 2026, in Prince George, followed by a health fair.

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