



90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017– 2018



A STRONG MÉTIS NATION EMBRACING MÉTIS RIGHTS

# MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA

## Métis Nation of Alberta Vision

A strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights.

## Métis Nation of Alberta Mission

To pursue the advancement of the socio-economic and cultural well-being of the Métis people of Alberta.

## Métis Nation of Alberta Guiding Principles

- We believe in the national definition of Métis;
- We believe in continuing to build our foundation for future generations;
- We believe in fairness and respect for all people
- We believe in the need to work in unity and harmony;
- We believe in Métis participation in building our Nation;
- We believe in encouraging and assisting Métis people to achieve their goals
- We believe in honesty, integrity, and professionalism;
- We believe we will achieve self-government; and
- We believe in our Métis rights as recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982).

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# 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly

## BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Annual General Assembly Business Meeting	Saturday, August 11, 2018
	Sunday, August 12, 2018
Opening Prayer	9:00am
Meeting Called to Order	Establish Quorum
	Appointment of Sergeant at Arms
	Election of Chair & Vice-Chair
	Adoption of Agenda
	Selection of Resolutions Committee
Report to Officers	President: Audrey Poitras
	Secretary: Karen Collins <i>Summary of Motions</i>
	Treasurer: Bev New <i>Auditor's Report Financial Statements 2017/2018</i>
	Resolutions <i>Special and Ordinary</i>
Adjournment Closing Ceremony	Closing Remarks: President Audrey Poitras
	Closing Prayer





# PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

# PRESIDENT AUDREY POITRAS



## Greetings,

It is with great honour and pride that I welcome you to the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). Since our 2017 assembly, this last year has been full of exciting and important milestones.

Through this year's theme, "Nationhood", we are exploring the rich history of Métis identity and governance in the Province of Alberta. Since the Battle of Seven Oaks in 1816, the Métis have fought to be recognized as a distinct Nation of People. In 1885 Louis Riel established the provisional government to ensure the Métis way of life was preserved, and our rights as indigenous people were recognized and respected. These were the first steps of Métis self-government in this country.

On November 16, 2017, 132 years later, after Riel's death, the Métis within Alberta were finally recognized as a distinct nation of people, with the signing of the MNA - Canada Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation. This agreement intends to renew our nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship and establishes formal negotiations to finally have our Métis self-government recognized.

In July, we signed another agreement with the Government of Canada, guaranteeing a clear method of consultation with the MNA. This agreement ensures all citizens are represented when consultation occurs with the federal government.

We also recently released a Métis harvesting report; resulting from province-wide consultations with citizens and negotiations with the Government of Alberta. We anticipate the cabinet's approval of a Métis harvesting policy by fall of this year. Additionally, we spent the first half of 2017 engaging with citizens on self-government and developing a constitution. Copies of both reports, are available here, at the Assembly, and online.

I want to thank you for your participation throughout these processes as well as thank our dedicated staff for their passion towards this very purposeful work. With your voice, and their work, we continue building a strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights.

On behalf of our provincial office, I want to thank everyone involved in the planning of this year's events. I look forward to talking with you and continuing to advance our Métis Nation.

Hope you all enjoy a wonderful weekend.

Warm Regards,

Audrey Poitras  
President



# DIGNITARY GREETING





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

### Statement from the Prime Minister of Canada

It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone to the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Since its inauguration, the Métis Nation of Alberta Annual General Assembly has provided a strong and productive forum for promoting the rights of the Métis as both Aboriginals and citizens of Alberta. The Government of Canada recognizes and fully supports the hard work of the Métis Nation of Alberta as they work to bring positive awareness to the importance of supporting our Métis and Aboriginal communities throughout Canada.



Thank you to the organizers of this year's event and to everyone in attendance for coming out to take part.

Please accept my warmest regards and best wishes for a successful Annual General Assembly!

A blue ink signature of Justin Trudeau.

Ottawa  
2018

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**Message from David Yurdiga**  
Member of Parliament for Fort McMurray – Cold Lake



On behalf of Canada's Official Opposition, and the riding of Fort McMurray – Cold lake, It gives me such great honor to be able to welcome all Alberta Métis Nation delegates to our beautiful community of Lac La Biche, within the riding of Fort McMurray – Cold Lake, for your annual 90th General Assembly.

The annual gathering of Métis is an occasion to recognize the record of achievement of the Métis People's contributions to Canada, particularly in Alberta.

The Town of Lac La Biche hosts the highest population of Metis anywhere in Canada, and historically "Lac La Biche has roots as a Métis Between 1763 and 1821, Métis freemen lived a semi-nomadic lifestyle around the area, often working as farmers, hunters, fishers, trappers, and seasonal laborers for the Hudson's Bay Company, as we continue to value such traditions of the Métis today"

I would like to wish all Métis a very successful and positive experience and AGM; while gathering in Lac La Biche, as I am very proud of the relationship between Region one leadership and Our Riding for Fort McMurray – Cold Lake.

I look forward to working together in the future, moving forward, and our ongoing great working relationship.

Sincerely,

David Yurdiga, MP  
Fort McMurray – Cold Lake



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada



## Message from Honourable Rachel Notley Premier of Alberta

*On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly for the Métis Nation of Alberta.*

*The Government of Alberta celebrates the rich history of the Métis people in Alberta and our strong partnerships, such as our ten year Framework Agreement with the Métis Nation of Alberta. With a strong connection to the land, the Métis have made invaluable social and cultural contributions to the history and successes of this great province. Today, we acknowledge the history of the Métis Nation of Alberta in particular.*

*Ninety years of history is a tremendous achievement. Milestones such as this one provide us with the opportunity to reflect on all we have accomplished and where we hope to go in the future. By deepening our understanding of the many generations of history on these lands, we can build a brighter future based on greater appreciation, understanding, and respect.*

*I hope you, the members of the Métis Nation of Alberta, enjoy celebrating your nine decades of history and I wish each of you all the best in your collective future.*

Rachel Notley

*August 11-12, 2018*





## **Message from Richard Feehan Minister of Indigenous Relations**

*On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my honour to congratulate the Métis Nation of Alberta on its 90<sup>th</sup> annual assembly.*

*This year, I have had the pleasure of meeting with President Audrey Poitras on numerous occasions, and I have had the opportunity to visit with many MNA members in their communities. These visits have been a great way to get to know some of the individuals that make up the Métis Nation and its rich historical and cultural contributions across Alberta, fostering greater understanding of our mutual priorities and concerns.*

*This past February, we completed year one of the new MNA-GOA Framework Agreement. I am proud of the progress we have made this past year through many collaborative and constructive conversations, including our discussions on the Métis Harvesting Policy and the continued development of the Métis Consultation Policy. These policies will ensure that Métis people in Alberta have a voice in the land and resource management decisions that affect them. Additionally, I am pleased with the projects we are working on together through the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative and through the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund.*

*I highly value my relationship with the Métis Nation of Alberta, and I look forward to continuing our work together. Through mutual cooperation and communication in shared interests and priorities, I am honoured to work towards further developing our nation-to-nation relationship on behalf of the Government of Alberta.*

*Best wishes for a successful assembly and a wonderful summer.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Feehan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Richard Feehan**

**June 25, 2018**





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

**MLA DAVID HANSON**

LAC LA BICHE - ST. PAUL - TWO HILLS

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Lac La Biche - St. Paul - Two Hills and the Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Relations I am honoured to extend a warm welcome to all who have made the journey for the 90<sup>th</sup> Métis Nation of Alberta Annual Assembly.

This organization provides a strong voice to facilitate and promote opportunities for present and future generations of Metis. We commend your vision of strengthening the Métis culture & history.

The Government of Alberta continues to work with the Métis Nation of Alberta to reduce the barriers to success, and pursue the advancement of Métis people in Alberta.

Please enjoy your stay in our great community and take this opportunity to explore all that the area has to offer. We appreciate your dedication and commitment for organizing this event. I look forward to meeting you all and working together to build a better future for all.

MLA David Hanson

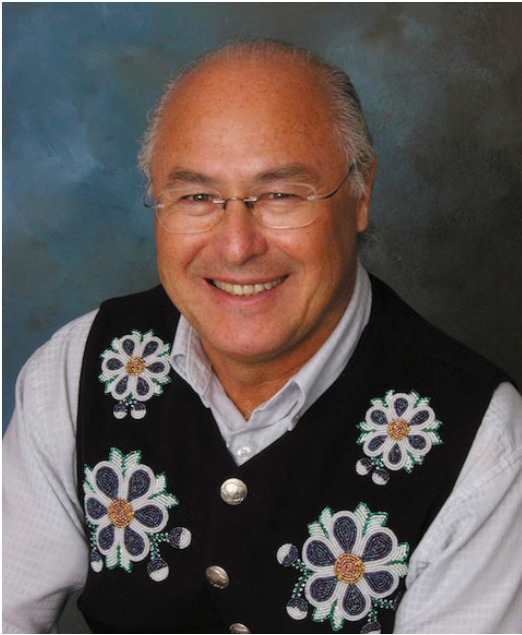
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### Greetings from Mayor Omer Moghrabi

On behalf of Lac La Biche County, welcome to the Métis Nation of Alberta's annual assembly. It also gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to our County, a historic community with strong indigenous roots and Métis culture. Métis people have played an important role in the development of our region, from the days of the fur trade right through to the modern era. I would also like to congratulate the Métis Nation of Alberta on its ninetieth anniversary. This is an important milestone for an organization that serves as a voice for all Métis people in our beautiful province.

Mayor Omer Moghrabi



## **Greetings from President Clément Chartier Métis National Council**

Congratulations to members of the Métis Nation of Alberta and President Audrey Poitras as you gather at your 90th Annual General Assembly.

On behalf of the Métis National Council, I am honored to welcome delegates, Elders, youth and especially Métis veterans as you prepare to meet on this historic occasion.

The Métis National Council and its Governing Members are making significant strides forward under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord that we signed with Prime Minister Trudeau last year. Canada's Budget 2018 included unprecedented investments in the Métis Nation in areas such as housing and early learning and child care.

We are now working with the federal government on second year priorities under the Accord in the areas of education, economic development and health care with the intention of securing major new investments in Budget 2019. The Métis Nation of Alberta is an integral part of our Métis Nation negotiating team and brings decades of experience and expertise to the table.

The Métis National Council looks forward to continuing this work with the Métis Nation of Alberta and the other Governing Members as we seize the current opportunities to advance our interests as the Métis Nation within the Canadian federation.

I wish you a productive assembly and hope you enjoy the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Clément Chartier



**Métis Nation of Ontario**  
Office of the President



**A message from Margaret Froh, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario,  
to the delegates of the 2018 Métis Nation of Alberta 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly**

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), I am pleased to send greetings and well wishes to all the delegates attending the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). I very much look forward to attending this year!

The MNO applauds the work of MNA President Audrey Poitras and all of MNA's leadership, citizens and staff on the outstanding work advancing Métis rights, culture and well-being of Métis families and communities throughout Alberta.

We are grateful for the strong and respectful relationship we built between our respective governments and we look forward to continuing to work together over the coming years.

I know that this year's event, being held at Lac La Biche Alberta, will be amazing and I look forward to celebrating your successes with you!

Sincerely,

Margaret Froh  
President,  
Métis Nation of Ontario





## Message from President David Chartrand

On behalf of the Manitoba Métis Federation, I give special acknowledgment to our Elders, Youth, and Veterans here today. I also offer my warm welcome to all the Delegates on the occasion of the Métis Nation of Alberta's 90th Annual General Assembly. Congratulations are certainly in order for this accomplishment reflecting nearly a century of representation, advocacy and governance.

Together, through legal and political struggles across our Métis Nation Homeland, and at the federal seat of government in Ottawa, the Métis Nation leadership has raised our flag and our name. We have built and will continue to build our Métis Nation Governments with reputations and abilities well above other governments, whether indigenous or non-indigenous.

I offer congratulations to President Poitras, who has steered the Métis Nation of Alberta for 22 years. The coming years promise to be exciting and fruitful for the Métis National Council and its Governing Members as we enter into this new era of Reconciliation with the Distinctions-Based, Nation-to-Nation, and Government-to-Government approach of Prime Minister Trudeau's Liberal Government.

To all of the Delegates, I wish you the best of success for a productive Assembly. I anticipate there will be many discussions and much debate that will help form your vision and determine action for years to come. In the middle of the Assembly's important work, I hope you will also take time to have some fun, catch up with distant relatives and old friends and, of course, make new friends.

Meeqwetch.



## OFFICE of the PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

June 29, 2018

Audrey Poitras  
President  
Métis Nation of Alberta  
100 Delia Grey Building  
11738 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton AB T5G 0X5



Tansi, Hello!

I am pleased to bring greetings on behalf of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to the Métis Nation-Alberta.

Our shared heritage has long been a source of pride for our people. Today, we can stand taller as our organizations work to ensure our rightful place in history is recognized and that we drive positive change and development for people in the Homeland.

Our ancestors worked tirelessly to build families, communities and opportunities for Métis people. More than that, they worked to build relationships – like the bonds between our members and our organizations. Today, we can draw on that history to build a future that secures and respects the culture and rights for future generations.

I look forward to another year of progress for our people. Although there will be challenges, we will gain strength by working together and supporting each other to create a respectful future for our Nations.

Much respect

Glen McCallum  
*President*

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Greetings Delegates of the Métis Nation of Alberta's Annual General Assembly

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO), I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of your 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly.

It is inspiring to see such a wonderful milestone year for the Métis Nation of Alberta. I celebrate the years of success, challenges and opportunities through which you have journeyed, holding steadfast to the Mission "To pursue the advancement of the socio-economic and cultural well-being of the Métis people in Alberta". You continue to foster our strong Métis Heritage and improve outcomes for Métis people.

I offer you my best wishes for a successful, prosperous 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly.

Kind regards,

Melanie Omeniho  
President  
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak





# MINISTERIAL REPORTS

# MINISTRY OF MÉTIS HEALTH, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH



**Sylvia Johnson**

*Minister of Métis Health,  
Children, and Youth*

Greetings! As the President of Region Six, I am very pleased to have been appointed as the Minister of the Health, Children, and Youth portfolio for the Métis Nation of Alberta. I am so pleased with the progress the Métis have made in health. Our members are already benefiting from services being delivered. I want to thank Audrey Poitras and Provincial Council for their support, and most of all the wonderful staff and Dr. Jill Sporidis, who have all worked very hard for the best interests of our citizens across Alberta.

The Ministry of Health also includes Children and Youth, and the two complement each other very well. We have been delivering many activities and providing opportunities benefiting our youth. Cultural conferences and camps, as well as regional activities, have given our youth the opportunity to meet and positively interact with other youth from across Alberta. Our youth movement is growing with more citizens joining every day. I would also like to thank our Regional Health Committee representatives. As a team, we will succeed in improving the health outcomes for all Métis Albertans!

The Ministry of Health, Children, and Youth is committed to developing meaningful and innovative opportunities to improve the health outcomes of Métis Albertans. The ministry produces population-level health research, which is used to lobby for equitable distribution of health funding resources for the widespread development of Métis health programming. The Ministry is also engaged in currently offering a variety of culturally-appropriate services, accessible for all Métis people in Alberta. Service uptake and evaluation of current Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) health initiatives are informing the development of a Comprehensive Health and Wellness Centre (CHWC) being designed to offer culturally-appropriate, multidisciplinary health services province-wide.

Health is shaped by particular cultural, social, and economic contexts, and health care services must be responsive to diverse population segments, including Alberta's Métis population. The inadequacies of the past, driven in part by a lack of needs-based and cultural understanding, suggests the need for existing, invested organizations, to deliver programs and services that are more culturally-aligned to the needs of Métis people. The MNA has been recognized nationally and internationally for its pioneering spirit, and creativity in the design and delivery of services for Métis people in areas of education, housing, and employment. Our successes are predicated upon our capacity to engage our community to solicit input and feedback for the services we provide, and our capacity to deliver services upholding the distinctiveness of Métis history, customs, and culture.

The ministry has worked diligently to pursue meaningful and innovative methods for providing culturally-appropriate health services for all Métis Albertans. An example includes the recruitment of volunteer health service providers, who received Métis cultural competency training and attended the 2017 Annual General Assembly (AGA) to provide free, culturally-appropriate services to Métis Albertans.

Building upon this model, in November of 2017, the Ministry implemented the MNA's first "Pop-up Clinic", where the entire department was transformed to provide free health services at the Provincial office, to Métis Albertans over two days during Métis Week. During these two days, over 70 people accessed a variety of services offered in a "one-stop-shop" model. Health, Children, and Youth staff recruited volunteer health care providers for the provision of health services including:

- Smoking cessation;
- Influenza vaccinations;
- Take-home naloxone kit training;
- Dietetic counselling;
- Diabetes screening and program referrals;
- Foot care; and
- Dental health assessments.

The successes of these MNA-led initiatives highlight that when health services are offered in a culturally-appropriate manner, by a community leader, there is greater uptake of those services amongst Métis Albertans. Extending upon these learnings, and the foundation of trust that Métis Albertans have in the MNA, the MNA is well positioned to achieve another milestone through the design and delivery of Métis-specific health care programming via the proposed MNA CHWC. We are committed to every Métis Albertan receiving exceptional health care services through innovation and excellence in service, research, and learning, built upon the strengths of our partnerships and deep roots within Métis communities across the province.

The MNA has prioritized the development of Métis health research, to improve health outcomes for Métis Albertans and continues to work with Alberta Health using our information sharing agreement. The result of this valued partnership has enabled the MNA to gather valuable health data specific to Métis Albertans identifying their unique health needs.

## 2017 - 2018 Research

New research projects undertaken by the MNA during this past fiscal year, include:

1. Opioids and Substances of Misuse Amongst Métis Albertans, 2017

2. The Social Determinants of Health Amongst Métis Nation of Alberta Citizens, 2017
3. Type 2 Diabetes in the Métis Population of Alberta: A Mixed Methods Study, 2018

Some of the significant findings from these reports, include:

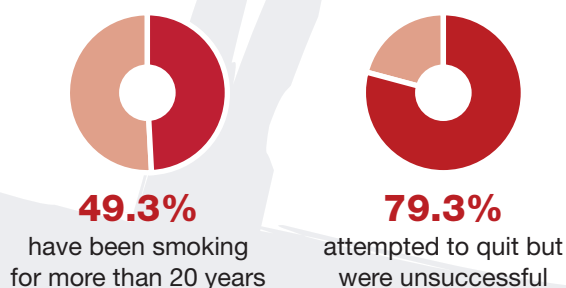
### Opioids and Substances of Misuse

- Between January 1, 2016 to March 21, 2017, the rate of accidental opioid poisoning deaths per 100,000 persons was slightly higher amongst Métis Albertans as compared to non-Métis Albertans;
- Amongst both groups, the majority of opioid poisoning deaths were related to fentanyl, as compared to non-fentanyl opioids;
- Males, aged 30-44 years, represented a higher proportion of opioid poisoning deaths amongst both groups;
- Between 2013 to 2016, opioid dispensation rates were consistently higher among Métis Albertans as compared to non-Métis Albertans; and
- From 2014 to 2017, rates of emergency department visits and hospitalizations related to opioid use and other substances of misuse for Métis Albertans was consistently higher relative to non-Métis Albertans.

### The Social Determinants of Health

- 47% of respondents reported living with chronic disease;
- 33% of participants reported they were quite or extremely stressed;
- 24% of participants smoke tobacco

### Participants Who Smoke



- 38% of the sample stated at least some of the time, they did not have the variety of food or good quality food due to lack of money;
- 21% of participants reported hunger due to lack of money;



- 16.7% stated they did not receive health care they needed in the past 12 months;
- 39% of respondents stated they have been the subject of discrimination;
- 37% of the sample reported having a relative who had attended a residential school;
- 5.7% of respondents had personally attended a residential school; and
- Controlling for the presence of chronic disease, lower education levels were the largest predictive of poorer health.

### Type 2 Diabetes

- Age-standardized prevalence of *Type 2 diabetes is 1.5 times higher* among Métis Albertans compared to non-Métis Albertans;
- For both sexes, incidence rates of Type 2 diabetes were generally comparable or higher among Métis Albertans compared to non-Métis Albertans;
- Among females, *diabetes rates for Métis Albertans over the age of 80 were 1.8 times higher* than rates among their non-Métis counterparts;
- Dispensation *rates for blood glucose lowering drugs were 1.9 times higher* among Métis females (at least 60 years old) compared to non-Métis females in 2016;
- Métis males (at least 60 years old) had *dispensations rates 1.6 times higher* than non-Métis males;
- Dispensation rates of blood glucose lowering medications were also higher among Métis compared to non-Métis populations between 2010 and 2016; and
- Overall, the incidence rate and prevalence of diabetes between 2006 and 2016 was generally higher among Métis Albertans compared to their non-Métis counterparts.

Full published reports specific to each of the research projects mentioned above will be released in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. It is imperative, in the spirit of reconciliation, this work continue so Métis Albertans' right to self-determination of health services can be realized and an improvement in the health outcomes and overall well-being of Métis Albertans can be achieved.

To ensure cultural identity and familial connections are maintained, the Ministry of Health, Children, and Youth also, works in collaboration with the Government of Alberta to support the needs of Métis children and families, provide supports for those involved in Child and Family Intervention Services, and Métis citizens living with

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Métis Resource Workers are available to connect Métis citizens to relevant supports and services, providing the necessary tools to build strong Métis families and communities, which will contribute to successful futures.

Since 1987, the Métis Nation of Alberta has maintained a formalized sub-agreement with Children's Services through the Métis Nation of Alberta/Government of Alberta Framework Agreement. This agreement is intended to create opportunities to involve Métis Albertans in government policy and planning processes, as well as support the advancement of Métis children and families involved in the intervention system through the provision of supports and services, as necessary.



Dancing T-rex at the Youth and Seniors Symposium

The ministry also offers a variety of youth-oriented Cultural Enrichment Programs, including the annual Youth and Seniors Symposium and the Annual General Assembly's Youth Conference. These initiatives provide Métis youth with opportunities to learn and practice traditional Métis values, culture, and ways of living. Cultural Enrichment Programs and the Youth and Seniors Symposium are designed to provide youth with traditional knowledge to keep our unique and vibrant Métis culture alive. Ensuring a strong Métis Nation of citizens for generations to come is of the utmost importance! Planning has already begun for the 3rd annual Youth and Seniors Symposium, which will take place in January 2019!

**Sylvia Johnson**

Minister of Health, Children, and Youth





*Traditional métis beading*



# MINISTRY OF CULTURE, VETERANS, AND SENIORS



**Dan Cardinal**

*Co-Minister of Culture,  
Veterans, and Seniors*



**Duane Zaraska**

*Co-Minister of Culture,  
Veterans, and Seniors*

Another year has come and it was a busy one for the Métis Nation of Alberta's Ministry of Culture, Veterans and Seniors. It has been a complete honour to serve citizens in this ministry, which is such an important portfolio. Displaying and promoting our culture is so important to our nation. It shows that our people and our culture are unique and different than other distinct Nations or groups of people. Furthermore, it is important that we continue our customs and traditions in our journey to being recognized. We must extend our heritage to our youth so our culture will continue to be strong. We want to thank the culture team at head office for their diligence and hard work, whether it was for a project or research, which they do on a daily basis, they do it well, so hats off to the culture team.



Of course, the other part of this ministry is of equal importance. Seniors and veterans hold a special place in our hearts and are so important to our nation. Our seniors and elders are the ones who have contributed and are responsible for leading the Nation to what it has become today. For that, we want to say thanks for being involved and for helping build our great nation. Our veterans are a special group of individuals. We are so proud of what they have done for our country, and they deserve extra commendation for facing and enduring the extra challenges they faced going to war. It was, of course, a challenge to even go for a regular Canadian, but the Métis soldiers faced additional challenges. It was a challenge to even get to where they were enlisted, travelling distances from remote and isolated areas, and of course, the cultural and language barriers that they faced. To the veterans of the early wars and the veterans of today we want to say, "thank you."

Of course, no event goes on without the cultural component, so it really was a busy year. On January 19-21, 2018, the Métis Nation of Alberta held its second annual Youth and Seniors Symposium: Uniting Generations. The goal of the annual gathering is to reconcile the need for connection and belonging amongst Métis youth and seniors, by providing an opportunity for sharing of cultural knowledge, relationship building, and a greater understanding of the unique challenges faced today by Métis youth and seniors. According to participant feedback, the Youth and Seniors Symposium of the Métis Nation of Alberta was a great success. The event gathered a record number of Métis people, provided guests with opportunities to connect with other Métis people, and encouraged mentorship and knowledge sharing opportunities between Métis seniors, elders, and youth. This was accomplished through engaging team-building activities, cultural workshops, and presentations by keynote speakers and facilitators such as Aaron Paquette, Norman Fleury, Krista Leddy, Adam Gaudry, John McDonald, Muriel Stanley Venne, and others. We are very excited to be planning the third annual event, scheduled to take place January 2019.

The youth also contributed and made the event a success. The idea behind the symposium was to get both groups working together, communicating, feeling comfortable, passing down history and knowledge, and sharing the new views of our youth, which is so important. Our youth are our future and it is essential to keep them involved, so they can teach and continue spreading our culture. We want to extend a big thank you to the youth team for organizing this and making it a great success.

Another great success this past year was the Aboriginal Days Celebration at Métis Crossing. It was well attended and was a fun-filled day. The event included dance groups, fiddling, jigging, and the great tunes of The Nicely Put Together Band. Indeed, a great day.

A lot of energy and time has been put in to the development of Métis Crossing. Although a lot of work, we are completely honoured to be a part of the Métis Crossing Advisory Committee (MCAC). The group has agreed upon and completed the conceptual design with the architects, and is now in the process of selecting a general contractor for the position. Once the contractor is selected, they can begin hiring the subs. We are very excited about the opportunities and jobs for our citizens, as we will try to fill the spots with Métis companies.

The dream of Métis Crossing is finally becoming a reality and is so exciting for the Métis Nation and its citizens. It's a beautiful setting on the North Saskatchewan River just 10 miles south of Smokey Lake sitting on land that was once five river lots. Here will sit our 10,000-sq. ft. Cultural



*Aaron Paquette – Keynote speaker at the Youth & Seniors Symposium*

Gathering Centre complete with gathering spaces, meeting rooms, classrooms, exhibits, and interpretive spaces to engage visitors. It will be Alberta's premiere facility for Métis experiences, cultural interpretation, education, gatherings, tourism and business development.

Another story in the making is at Fort Edmonton Park. There, they are building the Indigenous Peoples Experience and within it is a big part of our story – a story of the Métis, complete with interpreters. Also, it has been exciting to work with the MNA culture team to contribute and help tell an accurate story of the Métis. It was a complete honour to give greetings and welcoming remarks at a recent flag raising ceremony at Fort Edmonton Park to kick off the 1885 Resistance Week. Good things are happening at Fort Edmonton Park.

Last summer Edmonton city hall raised the Métis Flag, the parliamentary grounds, and recently The Treaty Six & Métis flag were raised at Holy Rosary High School in Lloydminster. This was part of another committee in which we are involved with, The Treaty Six Reconciliation Committee. Although a slow process, it is so important that we stay involved.

One of the projects we have been working on is The Garneau Tree Project. A project that we hold dear to our hearts. Laurent Garneau was an important man to the Métis Nation, and well known to the City of Edmonton and its early history. On September 15, 2017, a celebration to honour the life of the tree and life of Laurent took place at the location of the tree, which is now part of the University of Alberta.



The tree had reached its end of life and needed to be cut down for safety reasons. It was an emotional ceremony for many. The wood is presently at a miller and has been dried. We are currently working with the University of Alberta to decide how to commemorate Laurent Garneau and the tree. We also plan on forming a committee thereafter to decide what to do with the wood that remains after working with the University of Alberta.

We are so happy and pleased with the work of the MNA's culture team, as well as the collaboration with the youth programs at the Nation. This year, the team rolled out cultural programming throughout the province, and it was quite successful and continues to do good things. Workshops included beading and moccasin making. It is great to see the interest and enthusiasm that citizens have shown. We have also developed the first ever Cultural Camp for youth at Métis Crossing.



*Cultural Enrichment Program – Moccasin making*

How exciting, as it will include cultural teachings such as hide tanning, beading, finger weaving, and more. Campers will learn how to live off the land, participate in a canoe expedition, and sleep in a traditional Métis trappers tent.

In early May we were asked and again, were very honored to work with a wonderful woman who has given a lot and is still involved with the Nation, Muriel Stanley-Venne. The project is the Andrew Whitford story, an important story to the Métis people and the Nation.

Our culture and history is so important to us and we must continue to research, study, and pass down the knowledge so we can continue into our vibrant future.

Another part of our ministry includes seniors and veterans and are very important, as they truly are our most precious resource. They are our knowledge holders, our history holders, and of course the ones who have laid the foundation and building of our nation.

In addition to the Senior and Youth Symposium, mentioned earlier, we attended the first National Indigenous Elders conference. The participation was exceptional. The place was packed with elders who came together for this magnificent event. It was incredible to witness that many elders in one place. Although it was big and difficult to manage, it gave us enthusiasm to do it again, and laid a strong foundation for future gatherings of this kind.

We will further honour and dedicate a building for our Elders at Métis Crossing. It will be called The Elders Lodge, a place to gather and tell their stories. It gives us such gratitude and good feelings when we are able to assist a senior in any way. We quite often find ourselves advocating for seniors and helping them understand and apply for any programs offered through the Alberta Seniors Assistance program. We are also involved with the Community Response to Elder Abuse Treatment (CREAT) in Bonnyville, Alberta, an important committee to the seniors in our area. It is important they have someone to talk to, or come to when they need help. The group also acts upon notification of abuse. We are glad to be there for them and for their protection.

Our ministry continues to recognize and honour our heroes, the Métis veterans. We are so proud of what they have done, not only for our Métis communities, but for our great country. We will continue to include them in our activities and events. They will never be forgotten, but rather included and always recognized. As we complete phase two of Métis Crossing, we will be building The Veterans Walkway. This walkway will include story boards of the wars in which the Métis soldiers were involved, as well as the veterans from each of the wars. It will include a walkway lined with poppy planters and benches to sit and read the display boards. Veterans, you are so deserving of this recognition.

It has been a very busy year, however, it has been so enjoyable and again a complete honour to be your Culture, Senior and Veterans Ministers for this past term. Thank you, citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta, and thank you seniors and veterans.

***Dan Cardinal & Duane Zaraska***

Co-Ministers of Culture, Seniors, and Veterans





*Historic Garneau Tree celebration*



# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESEARCH



**Audrey Poitras**

*Co-Minister of Education,  
Training, and Research*



**Lawrence Gervais**

*Co-Minister of Education,  
Training, and Research*

## Message from the Co-Minister

### Hello Métis Citizens. Tansi!

As the Co-Minister for Education, Training and Research, I am pleased to present to you the 2017-18 annual report from the Rupertsland Institute (RLI). Consistent with many years past, the RLI report is a stand-alone document and is available to you at the RLI booth, which has been set-up by RLI staff at this assembly. I encourage each of you to read this document and to approach RLI staff at their booth, if you have any questions.

Many of you already know Rupertsland Institute (RLI) is the Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) affiliate responsible for education, training and research. In its short institutional life, RLI has gained notable recognition for its sound administrative practices and accountability, and is well known and recognized among government circles as the legitimate voice for Métis interests in all of its mandated areas.

For this reporting year, we have seen many developments turn into achievements for the Métis Nation; both at the Métis National Council (MNC) and at the MNA. There are on-going negotiations with the federal government that will form part of the transformative change we will go through in the years ahead as these negotiations with government progress. Much of this work is happening because the Trudeau government pledged to work more closely with Indigenous peoples under Canada's reconciliation efforts with Indigenous peoples, including the Métis Nation. The first step in fulfilling this promise was the signing of the Métis Nation Accord between Canada and the Métis National Council (MNC) in April 2017.

The path to reconciliation also led to the signing of the Canada-MNA Framework Agreement in November 2017, which has now spawned nation-to-nation negotiations to recognize MNA as a new level of Indigenous government. As such, the importance of the Canada-MNA Framework Agreement cannot be understated. The agreement, along with the Métis Nation Accord and its companion sub-accords will set the basis for a number of sectoral agreements, some of which will have bearing on the RLI mandate and I will refer to later in this report.

At the provincial level, the Government of Alberta (GOA) and the MNA signed a ten-year framework agreement including commitments to work on a nation-to-nation basis, and to develop inclusive Métis policies on a number of areas, including all three of RLI's mandated areas. In light of the work we are doing in kindergarten to grade 12 (K-12) education, this agreement is very encouraging.

In January of this year, the MNA added RLI representation to its Canada-MNA officials working group where the agenda included discussions with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to begin negotiating a new labour market strategy for the Métis Nation in Alberta. The current labour market strategy (ASETS) was developed under the Conservative Government and was initially scheduled to sunset in 2015. After a series of extensions to that funding arrangement, we are finally in the position to negotiate new terms and conditions for the next round of labour market programming. For the first time in history, the MNA-RLI team is negotiating bilateral arrangements with Canada spanning 10 years. Our goal is a flexible approach to programs for Métis clients and students; potentially also including students in the K-12 system. An interesting feature in the next agreement will be implementing “wrap-around” services designed to support the most vulnerable citizens in our population and to ensure, among other things, that we lower the Métis drop-out rates in schools.

As part of the Métis Nation Accord, the federal government announced a funding stream for Early Learning and Childcare (ELCC) in the 2018 budget. This funding will bring a new dimension to the wrap-around services I mentioned earlier, as the MNA could potentially bring early learning interventions to the community and quite possibly, child care services. Although a community mandate on ELCC has not been clearly defined by the MNA, I anticipate RLI will engage the citizenship in province-wide consultations to arrive at a tailored-made response to ELCC programming across the province.

The 2018 budget also included a \$10-million funding allocation for Métis Nation post-secondary endowments. Although no specific amounts have been allocated to governing members, I believe the education investment will lead to an expansion of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) Endowment Program where we already have 15 endowments and the Métis Scholar Awards. I have reported, in previous years, that RLI administers the MEF and has been capitalizing the MEF to establish endowments since 2005. Over the past six months, RLI has been working with at least five post-secondary institutions to supplement or to create new endowments.

I have also noted previously, that RLI now has the K-12 education mandate. RLI has now set up the Alberta Métis Education Council (AMEC) and has become widely recognized by educators, institutions, and government stakeholders as the legitimate Métis voice in education. This recognition has RLI participating in important policy committees and has been granted membership in institutions such as the College of Alberta School Superintendents and the Alberta Research Network, an entity funding academic research.

Much of the work conducted by our Education Division and the AMEC involves participation in updating provincial curriculum and in particular, the Indigenous content now required in that curriculum. As part of this process, the government actually changed, and legislated, the Teaching Quality Standards for Alberta teachers and school leadership to ensure that educators are able to teach the new Indigenous content in the curriculum, and to ensure professional practice standards are at a certain level of proficiency in this regard. In other words, the educators need to be educated on Indigenous content. RLI is bringing Métis content to provincial curriculum. Métis perspectives in history, culture, and language will be taught to students across the full education spectrum from K-12. In the next few months, RLI will be deploying a “Moodle-site” (an open-source learning platform) for provincial educators, including relevant Métis K-12 foundational knowledge and lesson plans to be down-loaded for classroom use.

In a signal of improved relations, RLI and Alberta Education recently added another secondment position. We are also in the final stages of negotiating an interim funding agreement that will more than double our education budget for the next three years, concurrently, we are also discussing longer-term funding arrangements for Métis education.

I began this report by stating this was a transformational year. I hope this briefing provided you an insight into the work my colleagues and I have accomplished over the past 12 months. In closing, I want to thank the RLI staff for the commitment and excellence demonstrated in reaching these significant milestones.

Marci,

**Lawrence Gervais**

Co-Minister of Education, Training, and Research



# MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND SPORTS



**James Atkinson**

*Co-Minister of  
Forestry and Sports*



**Elmer Gullion**

*Co-Minister of  
Forestry and Sports*

Our ministry spent the last year securing resources to enhance our ability to address the concerns and needs of the Métis community in Alberta. Currently, we rely on the staff of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) from other areas to support our work.

The Ministry of Forestry and Sports has been working to identify economic and cultural opportunities for our citizens to participate in the provincial forestry industry. In sports, we continue to seek sport and fitness options, as well as ways to increase our capacity to support Métis athletes and teams in pursuing their goals.

## Forestry

Much of the past year has been spent developing relationships with key players in government and industry to facilitate reaching our goals. In 2016-17, we were able to train 32 citizens in Wildland Firetack training at our Métis Crossing site. Last year, we began the process to attain a contract with Alberta to train wildfire fighters. After some great meetings and frank discussions, we are pleased to have secured a contract to train Métis fire fighters starting next year.

We have also continued to work with the Alberta Association of Forest Management Professionals (AAFMP) to establish a memorandum of understanding (MoU), or relationship agreement, for information sharing and working towards a greater mutual understanding of forest use and resource extraction. It is our hope to see greater Métis involvement in the planning and use of forests by industry.

Under this portfolio, we will continue to seek new and innovative ways to ensure we are included in decisions about how our forests are being used, and to play a greater role in the economic activities in our forests. We are working to establish a formal working relationship with the Alberta Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture to better facilitate our involvement in forestry management and economics. We hope to have this relationship established by the end of this calendar year.

## Sports

Once again, the Métis Nation has entered a team into the Alberta Native Provincial Hockey Tournament. This year's team was a novice one that once again won gold with an extremely strong showing. Next year, we also plan to sponsor a young women's team and a bantam boys team.

Our ministry is working to establish an Alberta Métis Sports Scholarship to provide financial support for those citizens seeking a strong education and collegiate sports career. This work will be done in conjunction with Rupertsland Institute, but will be



focused on citizens with a sports affinity and meeting the educational requirements for university sports. For this initiative, we hope to have the framework completed by March 2019.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Forestry and Sports will continue to identify and pursue opportunities for Métis citizens and the Nation to become more involved and educated on forest management in Alberta. We will also continue to develop the supports and opportunities that enhancing our citizens' health and well-being through sport. We also want to start developing a province-wide Métis sports scholarship supporting Métis athletes in their scholastic sports endeavors.

Our accomplishments thus far, has been done with limited technical support, but with the new 10-year framework agreement with Alberta, we see greater opportunity to enhance our Ministry's ability to pursue initiatives and opportunities, and we are working to establish the relationships that will provide that increased capacity. We are looking forward to the year ahead.

*James Atkinson & Elmer Gullion*  
Co-Ministers of Forestry and Sport



*MNA Voyageurs – Alberta Native Provincial Hockey champions*



# MINISTRY OF REGISTRY, GOVERNANCE, AND JUSTICE



**Marlene Lanz**

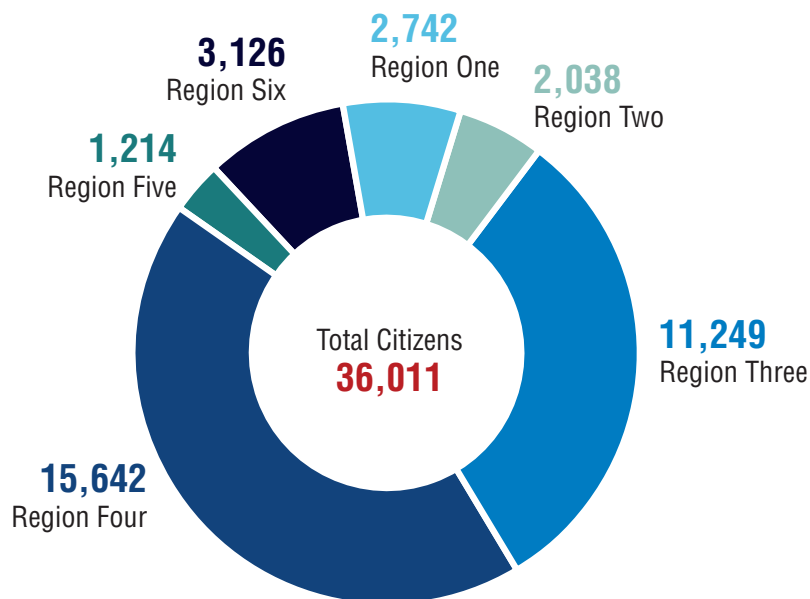
*Co-Minister of Registry,  
Governance, and Justice*

## Registry

As the co-ministers responsible for Métis Registry for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), we continue providing direction and guidance to the Director of Métis Identification & Registry Systems and staff. The registry staff provide exceptional service to all Métis in Alberta. Our department is recognized at a federal level as the premier registry among our counterparts.

During the April 2018 to March 2019 fiscal year, our focus will be registering our children, youth, and post-secondary students. The Registry department is encouraging all new applicants to register their children, regardless of age. The previous fiscal year was another success as we received 3,346 applications, which is an increase over the five-year average of 3,241. The efforts of the Registry department saw the MNA grow by 2,800 new citizens. This brought the MNA citizenship count to over 36,000. We look forward to continued success and growth of our Nation in the coming year.

## Alberta Citizen Count by Region (as of March 31, 2018)



**Carol Ridsdale**

*Co-Minister of Registry,  
Governance, and Justice*



Citizenship processing time has always been a concern with our citizens and applicants. We are continuing to optimize our policies and procedures to ensure our citizens are receiving their cards in a timely fashion. Applicants over the age of 65, and any applicant who identifies as a student requiring proof of Métis ancestry for funding purposes are given priority. In addition, we expedite the process for the youth participating in the Native Hockey Provincials. In these priority instances, all citizenship requirements must still be met.

The Métis Nation Registry attended several functions in 2017-18 to assist regions with citizenship drives in conjunction with Métis locals and annual general meetings (AGM), as well as MNA led events. We have attended at least two events in every region since March 2018. Whenever possible, Registry is available to attend regional or local functions to assist with citizenship registration, including meetings or citizenship drives.



The Genealogy Research Centre (GRC) holds an extensive collection of resources available to assist Métis individuals in completing their family tree. The GRC provides invaluable resources when helping people determine their historic Métis ancestry. The GRC also attends several cultural events throughout the year. Moving forward, we would like to incorporate workshops and partner with various groups to educate youth and showcase our unique culture.

The Métis Nation of Alberta Registry continues to promote, identify, and register our Métis citizens. We welcome the increase in applications from 2017-18 and in the coming year. MNA Registry will continue to meet and exceed the needs and aspirations of our applicants and citizens, whether they may have an educational, housing, business or athletic opportunity.

We look forward to providing direction and guidance to the Métis Nation Registry staff and continuing to be the leading registry among our counterparts across Canada.

## Governance Report

Beginning with the birth of the Métis Nation in the early 1800s, in what would eventually become Canada, Métis people have fought to exercise our inherent right to self-determination and self-government. We organized ourselves to govern our bison hunting expeditions, we declared provisional governments to defend against the colonial invasion of our Homeland, and in 1928 we formed what would become the MNA. The MNA stood to defend our rights, our lands, and our nationhood. For generations, Canada and Alberta denied our assertions and, at times, our very existence. This is changing.

The Métis Nation of Alberta is galvanizing our nationhood with a constitution for our people, by our people. We are on the verge of being recognized as a fully equal order of government—an Indigenous government—whose jurisdiction flows from our inherent rights as an Indigenous people and our deeply rooted connection to our Homeland. This recognition is what we have been fighting for since the birth of our nation.

The Métis Nation of Alberta signed framework agreements with both the Government of Canada (November 17, 2017) and the Province of Alberta (February 1, 2017). These agreements allow for formal negotiations towards government-to-government, nation-to-nation relationships. As such, the MNA is asking our Métis citizens for their perspectives on self-government and the creation of a constitution. The MNA is galvanizing our Nationhood in the form of a constitution. Engaging citizens is central to creating the constitution and their input is guiding the entire process; starting from the initial discussions on the best engagement strategy to the results captured in this report.

Engagement with Métis Nation of Alberta citizens regarding self-government and a Métis Nation constitution is founded on a participatory process. The purpose of the recent engagement events, outlined in this report, was to receive input from citizens about key values and principles related to self-government they would like to see reflected in a constitution. Through this direct input at workshops, gatherings, and online feedback, citizens are creating their constitution and taking ownership in the future direction of the Métis Nation government in Alberta.

## Engagement Timeline

As we work towards a constitution, the MNA is undergoing a series of citizen engagement opportunities. Here is a summary of the Self-Government Citizen Engagement Process Timeline:

### *Phase One – Development of Citizen Engagement Process (December 2017 – January 2018)*

MNA began reaching out to MNA citizens, leadership and staff to support the development of a meaningful process for the future constitution.

- December 18, 2017 – MNA leadership and staff engagement to inform the engagement goals. This session generated understanding and identified needs to inform the development of a self-government engagement plan.
- January 20, 2018 – During the Youth and Seniors' Symposium, 400 citizens gathered for a workshop to rank their preferences around how best to be engaged, when, where, how to be recognized, and how best to be informed.

### *Phase Two – Seven Regional Workshops (February – March 2018)*

MNA hosted engagement sessions in communities throughout Alberta. The workshops incorporated presentations on self-government and the basics of building a constitution and allowed citizens to offer input on their values and principals regarding self-government. MNA Affiliates and other departments were also present to inform citizens on programs and services.

- Saturday, February 24, 2018 - Calgary: Four Points by Sheraton Calgary Airport
  - Open House: 8:00am – 3:00pm
  - Self-government workshop: 12:00pm – 3:00p.m.
- Tuesday, February 27, 2018 – Grande Prairie: Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre
  - Open House: 11:00am – 8:00pm
  - Self-government workshop: 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Friday, March 9, 2018 – Lac La Biche: Bold Center
  - Open House: 11:00am – 8:00pm
  - Self-government workshop: 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Saturday, March 10, 2018 – Bonnyville: ACFA De Bonnyville Cold Lake (French Cultural Centre)
  - Open House: 8:00am – 3:00pm
  - Self-government workshop: 2:00pm – 3:00pm

- Wednesday, March 14, 2018 – High Prairie: Peavine Inn & Suites
  - Open House: 11:00am – 8:00pm
  - Self-government workshop: 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Saturday March 17, 2018 – Lethbridge: Holiday Inn
  - Open House: 8:00am – 3:00pm
  - Self-government workshop: 12:00pm – 3:00pm
- Saturday, March 24, 2018 – Edson: Friendship Centre
  - Open House: 8:00am – 3:00pm
  - Self-government workshop: 11:30am – 3:00pm

### *Phase Three – Self-Government Engagement Workshop (May 26, 2018)*

A full-day workshop with the goal of reporting to citizens what we heard throughout the first two phases. Further delved into key concepts, values, and principles related to self-government and a future constitution.



### *Phase Four – Report to AGA (August 10-12, 2018)*

- 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly - Lac La Biche
- Report initial phases of citizen engagement at the 2018 Annual General Assembly and seek direction to initiate draft constitution process with Métis citizen engagement.

### *Phase Five – Draft Constitution (Fall 2018)*

- Incorporate the information collected, to date, into a draft constitution reflective of the values and priorities of citizens.

### *Phase Six – MNA Constitution Draft Review*

- Further engagement with Métis citizens on draft constitution.

### *Milestone – Constitution Ratification and Adoption*

Before it is adopted, MNA citizens vote on their new constitution through a province-wide referendum.

## Justice Report

The Métis Nation of Alberta Ministry of Registry, Governance, and Justice has been very active in pressing MNA interests within the justice arena. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year the MNA provided policy advice on important Federal government decisions relating to Indigenous programs under Justice Canada.

The Ministry also felt it was important to continue with research into various “boots on the ground” programming that may work for our Métis citizens and to continue to support existing Métis justice programming like the Region 3 Métis Legal Clinic.

### Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 Legal Clinic

On the fourth Friday of each month, MNA Region 3 and Calgary Legal Guidance (CLG) offer free legal information clinics on all matters of law to Indigenous people. The clinics are drop-in and held at the Region 3 offices.

Since the partnership's inception, in 2012, the Clinic has served over 350 clients on matters ranging from:

- Landlord and Tenant Issues
- Human Rights Complaints
- Traffic Court
- Criminal Court
- Civil Court

For more information, contact the MNA Region 3 office at 403-569-8800 or CLG at 403-234-9266

The MNA continues to explore justice programming and what it might look like within our governance structure. Justice initiatives, like the Region 3 Legal Clinic, requires support so it may be replicated in other Regions or communities.

### Court Challenges Programme – Federal Government

Two of the Government of Canada's departments, Canadian Heritage and Justice, are working together to modernize a previously closed program; the Court Challenges Program. The purpose of this program was to financially support court cases, of a national interest, to help advance and clarify constitutional and quasi-constitutional rights. The program requires no previous answer from the courts on the question at hand.

Previously, the program only funded two streams:

1. Official languages
2. Equality rights

In the new program, the government is looking to expand the funding to eligible rights sections under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms when protecting

fundamental freedoms. In the languages stream, the scope has been expanded to the rights protected under the Official Languages Act.

To accomplish this task, the Government of Canada appointed a committee to select candidates to sit on two expert panels: one for official languages and the other for human rights. Each panel is comprised of seven members, serving a two-year minimum term. Diversity amongst the panel was encouraged by the Government of Canada. The panels will be tasked with assessing applications for funding court cases. The University of Ottawa was selected to support the program and the expert panels.

On September 1, 2017, the Government of Canada announced five designates to sit on the selection committee to determine the members for both the Languages Panel and the Human Rights Panel. President Poitras was honoured with an appointment to serve a one-year term beginning July 31, 2017. She, along with the other members of the selection committee, undertook the massive process of narrowing down the candidate pool to 14 representative members from the many qualified applicants. There were two rounds of interviews with qualified candidates, after which the selection committee made their recommendations to The Honourable Minister of Canadian Heritage, Pablo Rodriguez, who will soon be announcing the selected panelists.

### Community Program – Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service

The Edmonton Drug Treatment Court serves drug addicted individuals who are committing crimes to support their drug abuse habit. The clients of the program come from all walks of life including women with children, indigenous people, youth age 18 to 25 and other long-term drug addicted adult offenders who are wanting to rebuild their lives.

The clients are supported to improve every dimension of their life including housing, physical health, mental health, education, employment, and giving back to the community through volunteer hours and community involvement. Drug Treatment Courts have been proven to illicit the most effective and cost-efficient results for offenders who are drug dependent and at risk of failing in less intensive rehabilitative programs. The clients of the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court are graduating as healthy productive members of society.

#### *Anna Courtorielle's Story*

On June 6th, 2018 a Métis woman Anna Courtorielle successfully graduated from the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service program. On December 16,





## Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3 and Calgary Legal Guidance

### Offering Free Legal Advice and Outreach

**Do you have a legal question?**

**Do you need legal advice?**

Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3 (MNA) and Calgary Legal Guidance (CLG) are offering free legal information clinics\* on all matters of law to Indigenous persons.

**When:** Friday, September 22

**Time:** 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

**Location:** Metis Nation Office

1415, 28 St NE

For more information contact **MNA at 403.569.8800** **CLG at 403.234.9266** or  
visit the **CLG website at [www.clg.ab.ca](http://www.clg.ab.ca)**

\*This is a drop-in legal clinic





2016 Anna, age 56, entered her guilty pleas and was facing a lengthy jail sentence for her criminal charges. Anna's childhood was filled with physical, mental and sexual abuse. Anna knew violence, hunger and hatred but longed for this fantasy life she saw on television filled with happiness, good food and love. At a young age Anna started to drink and use drugs as her escape and a means to cope with her reality.

Anna started to sell drugs and commit crimes to survive and support her addictions. Anna had been taught at a very young age to be a criminal and an addict. As she got older her drug use became more predominant, her addiction more intense and her life was out of control. Anna had small grandchildren who were in the care of Children's Services and her only hope was that she could one day obtain custody of her grandchildren and offer them the childhood she had always dreamed of having. Anna's hope became a reality came when she entered the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court program. Instead of being sentenced to custody, the Judge accepted her guilty plea and delayed her sentence until she had successfully completed the requirements of the program.

Anna had no idea at that time that entering this program meant she would have to eventually become abstinent from all drugs, face the demons in her past and build an entirely new life. Anna was angry and the tears she shed daily were from shame, pain and all the hurt she had built up throughout her life. Anna's lifeline was the dream that she would have her grandchildren come home to her and that she could one day rebuild her relationship with her daughter.

18 months later this dream would become a reality because Anna was willing to do the very difficult work required to graduate from the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court program. Today Anna has custody of her grandchildren and is raising them in a healthy positive home. Anna completed intensive addictions treatment, ongoing psychological and therapeutic treatment, participated in countless programs and courses and now actively participates in a life of sobriety every day.

### What It Is

- A program designed to help individuals who commit crimes to support their drug abuse habit
- It is contained within the criminal justice system and operates within the same legal framework that governs all adult criminal court proceedings in the Provincial Court of Alberta.
- Operates on the basis of a guilty plea with a delayed sentencing process (s.720 (2) of the Criminal Code) with entry being dependent on the consent of the Crown, Court, and the Accused.
- Is founded on national and international principles for drug treatment courts

- Is committed to community justice and community restoration
- Is a support service program under the direction of the Edmonton John Howard Society

### Who It Serves

Adult male and female individuals who are committing crimes against society to sustain and support their drug abuse habit. Eligible applicants are:

- Facing a 1 to 4-year custodial sentence (early case resolution offer) for their drug related offences
- Addicted to illicit drugs including heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, crack, fentanyl, or any opiates. (marijuana and alcohol only addictions are excluded)
- Do not have a recent history of violence or gang involvement or affiliation
- Are high risk with respect to their level of addiction, risk of relapse and risk of continuing in a life of crime

### How It Works

The operation of the Drug Court is based on a multi-disciplinary team concept that is comprised of the Judge, Provincial and Federal Crown, Alberta Legal Aid Duty Counsel, Community and Social Services Social Worker, and an Edmonton Police Service liaison. Program services are delivered through the Edmonton John Howard Society Drug Treatment Court Support Service team. Those services include case management and probation supervision, case coordination, drug tests and peer support mentors (long term graduates of the Drug Court).

The multi-disciplinary team works collaboratively with the clients by way of intensive judicial supervision that includes weekly court appearances, addictions treatment, community recovery involvement, regular and random drug screens and community restoration. The program provides the clients with the opportunity to obtain housing, address medical and mental health issues, gain education and employment, and reintegrate into their community.

Drug Court takes place every Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in court room 267 at the Edmonton Court House.

Successful clients will graduate after a minimum of one-year active engagement and participation in the program, completion of their Individual Treatment Recovery and Community Reintegration Plan (ITRIP), substantial clean time, and evidence that they have contributed to the community through volunteer involvement.

Unsuccessful clients will be returned to the regular court process.

## Proof That It Works

Research and evaluations have been ongoing throughout the 25 year history of Drug Courts in the United States and Canada. Drug Courts are based on best practice and research that continues to prove that Drug Courts save money and save lives. The Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service Program has had on-going evaluations since the inception of the program in 2005 through the Addiction and Mental Health Research Laboratory, University of Alberta. In July 2015, the Provincial Crown's office completed a data roll up of Edmonton Drug Treatment Court graduates and results showed that over 70% have not had any new convictions. Stories of graduates who have continued on the road of recovery and now live productive lives are the ongoing evidence that Drug Courts have proven success.

## Funding

The Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service (EDTCS) is a federally and provincially funded program of the Provincial Court of Alberta and commenced operations in December 2005.

## Cost Analysis

Average annual cost to house a federal male offender in a correctional facility is approximately \$110,000.00

Average annual cost for one offender to participate in the Drug Treatment Court program is \$23,350.00.

Average annual savings is \$86,650.00 per one offender annually.

The program currently has capacity for 20 offenders. With a cost of \$2,200,000.00 to incarcerate 20 offenders annually and \$467,000.00 for drug treatment court to accommodate 20 offenders, the minimal annual cost savings is \$1,733,000.00

The social return on investment is substantial. The cost avoidance is even more substantial.

Cost avoidance is clearly defined through the story of a current Métis Drug Court staff Pamela Spurvey (Peer Support & Mentor) who is also a previous graduate of the program. Her children were apprehended by Children's Services when she was arrested and subsequently landed in jail facing a 3-year sentence. As a result of her completing the drug court program 10 years ago she was able to regain custody of her children and be their full-time parent. Two of her daughters are now in university and her 11-year-old son is playing soccer, going to school, and doing what an 11-year-old should be doing. These children would have been raised in the child welfare system if their mother had not had the opportunity to recover from drug abuse and rebuild her life.

Due to budget cuts in March 2015 the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service now operates with an annual budget of \$367,000.00 from the federal and provincial government. With program model restructuring and

additional private donations, we are currently able to serve up to 20 clients; 10 of those clients are funded by Justice Canada and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and the other 10 are funded with donations from Elvis Iginla & Company. The program experiences ongoing demand for service.

## Conclusion

The Drug Treatment Court Program continues to experience ongoing demand for service. Due to limited funding the capacity to offer this program to drug addicts who are committing crimes to support their addiction is minimal while the demand is high. Drug Courts overall have been proven to illicit the most effective and cost-efficient results for offenders who are drug dependent and at risk of failing in less intensive rehabilitative programs. The Drug Treatment Court program continues to offer an opportunity for clients to break the cycle of addiction and crime, become contributing members of society and make our community a safer place to live.



Anna Courtorielle

(Quote from Anna: "The Edmonton Drug Treatment program saved me because of the Program I have a new beginning and a better chance at life. Today I am a proud Métis woman with much spirituality and hopes for a drug free life.")

(Quote from Alex Courtorielle: "We worked hard in trying to steer Anna away from the drug life she was living, without success. We had no idea what the Drug Program was about and how Anna would respond to it. We observed Anna while she worked through this program for 18 months. She committed herself to many programs, meetings, court appearances, drug testing and still finding time to spend with her family and most importantly her grandchildren. We watched Anna go from a person who couldn't talk to us without crying, develop into a confident, positive and solid role model for her family and for the Drug Court Program. Support is paramount for individuals going through struggles in their lives. We are exceptionally proud of Anna for what she has accomplished.")

**Marlene Lanz & Carol Ridsdale**

Co-Ministers of Registry, Governance, and Justice





*Indigenous Peoples Day*



# MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



**Audrey Poitras**

*Co-Minister of Housing  
and Homelessness*

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Co-Ministers responsible for the Ministry of Housing and Homelessness are the MNA President, Audrey Poitras, and MNA Region 4 President, Cecil Bellrose. The MNA is the shareholder of Métis Urban Housing Corporation and Métis Capital Housing Corporation. Each of the six MNA Regions appoint a Director for the Board to oversee the governance of both MUHC and MCHC. The current Board of Directors are:

- Region One Representative – Brenda Bourque-Stratichuk
- Region Two Representative – Isabel Myshaniuk
- Region Three Representative – Jeannette Hansen
- Region Four Representative – Doreen Poitras-Hays
- Region Five Representative – Geraldine Decoine
- Region Six Representative – Benita Galandy
- MNA Co-Minister of Housing and Homelessness – Cecil Bellrose
- Interim Chairperson – Audrey Poitras

## Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC)

MUHC was created on November 26, 1982 to provide affordable, adequate, and suitable housing to low and moderate income Indigenous families. MUHC currently has 507 units in 14 urban centres, under the Urban Native Housing Program funded through the Alberta Seniors and Housing Ministry of the Government of Alberta (GOA).

The 507 housing units under MUHC were initially subsidized through financial transfers from the federal government and are now funded by the GOA through the Department of Seniors & Housing. These financial transfers allow for low to moderate income Indigenous families to have subsidized rental rates based on 25% of their gross household income.

The bulk of MUHC houses are in Edmonton and Calgary with additional units in 12 smaller communities across Alberta. Over the last two-years, occupancy rates have improved, however, 24% of the units remain vacant due to the need for extensive renovations before they are habitable. Between 2017 and 2018, over 200 units have been or are scheduled to be renovated using outside contractors and our in-house maintenance team.



**Cecil Bellrose**

*Co-Minister of Housing  
and Homelessness*

In 2018/19, MUHC is planning to repair/renovate 125 units. MUHC is currently finalizing its plans to replace 14 units in Fort McMurray with up to 40 new units. The 14 units being replaced are either older or were destroyed in the May 2016 Horse River Wildfire.

MUHC is also finalizing a capital plan to replace up to 30 units that are either not repairable or require excessive repairs before they are rent ready.

A key focus of the Board and MUHC staff has been ensuring a positive working relationship between MUHC and its funders; Alberta Seniors and Housing Ministry of the GOA. The waiting lists for MUHC continues to grow and currently exceeds 1,330 families; bringing the total to almost 6,000 individuals in need of subsidized housing.

### **Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC)**

MCHC was created in 2007 and has 354 units in 5 urban centers in the province, the bulk of these units are in Edmonton and Calgary.

MCHC operate an Affordable Rents Program with units 20% less than the average market rents. MCHC also oversees the Family Reunification Program (FRP), Nighi Seniors Lodge, and Renaissance Tower in Edmonton.

The FRP reunites Indigenous mothers, fathers, and their children by providing housing placements for up to three years. The program's mandate is assisting with the reunification of children in care and their families in a safe and secure environment.

MCHC is providing the program in cooperation and agreement with the GOA's Ministry of Human Services. The program participates in the Edmonton Police Service's Crime Free Multi Housing Program.

The FRP provides families with a wide range of support services including:

- 24-hour support to families, as required;
- Parenting skills development;
- Employment and educational planning; and
- A mentorship program to build self-esteem, confidence, and role models for children and youth.

The Nighi Seniors Lodge is a 40-unit, fully-serviced, assisted living facility in north-central Edmonton. Meals, laundry, and cleaning services are provided to its residents.



*Nighi Seniors Lodge*



*Rennissance Tower – Barrier free suite*

The Renaissance Tower is a 90-unit apartment building for Métis seniors and peoples with Physical Disabilities. There are 30 one-bedroom, barrier-free suites and 60 two-bedroom suites. MCHC works with the MNA to provide temporary residence for Métis citizens requiring temporary accommodations while receiving medical treatment.

The MNA's Ministry of Housing and Homelessness is actively involved with the federal and provincial governments in developing National and Provincial Housing Strategies. This important work is reflected in three key initiatives being announced by both the federal and provincial governments.

Provincially, the Alberta government has launched the province's first program to build affordable homes directly designed and owned by Indigenous governments. The program is worth \$120 Million over five years and will increase the supply of affordable homes for Métis people across the province. The MNA is well positioned to capitalize on this program and looks forward to working with the GOA.

Federally, the Government of Canada is committed to working with the MNA on a government-to-government basis. The MNA has made great strides in the areas of reconciliation and pushing a Métis Nation specific approach on the development of programs and services.

Our efforts are reflected in two key Federal Budget announcements benefiting Métis citizens in need of adequate housing. In the 2017 budget, Canada announced \$225 million investment, over the next 11 years, to provide financial support to housing providers serving Indigenous peoples not living on-reserve. In the 2018 budget, Canada announced another \$500 million, over 10 years, to support Métis Nation specific housing.

The MNA is currently co-developing, with other Métis National Council governing members and the Government of Canada, a National Housing Accord. Signing this Accord will be legally binding and guarantee funding to ensure the housing needs of Métis citizens in Alberta are being met.

***Cecil Bellrose***

Co-Minister of Housing and Homelessness



# MINISTRY OF MÉTIS RIGHTS AND ACCOMMODATION



**Karen Collins**

*Co-Minister of Métis  
Rights and Accommodation*



**Bev New**

*Co-Minister of Métis  
Rights and Accommodation*

As the Co-Ministers of Ministry of Métis Rights and Accommodation, we are pleased to respectfully submit this report on the 2017-18 activities of the ministry to the Métis Nation of Alberta 90th Annual General Assembly. Our portfolio is supported by the Department of Métis Rights & Accommodation (MRA):

## Métis Rights and Accommodation – Operational Model

As shown in the Red River cart wheel illustration to the right, the MRA department has three separate business streams flowing from two divisions:

1. Intergovernmental Relations
2. Lands and Sustainable Development

The ministry's priorities come from our Métis citizens, through policy direction received at our Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Annual General Meetings, and through MNA elected officials who identify needs and goals relating to the Métis Rights & Accommodation portfolio. The department leads work on provincial initiatives, and can provide support to MNA regions or MNA locals upon request.

The Métis beading motif to the right illustrates how this relationship is defined with intricate processes designed to maximize the current capacity within the MRA department.

The Métis Rights & Accommodation portfolio supports the following MNA strategic priorities:

1. Effective & Accountable Governance
2. Advancement of Métis People
3. Positive & Productive Relationships
4. Economic Partnerships
5. Policy Participation

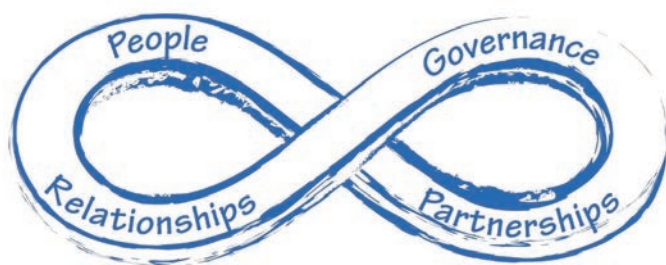




This year the department was heavily involved in meeting with our Métis citizens. It was important for the MNA to engage with each of our six (6) regions, and travel into our communities to gather input and feedback into important policy initiatives the MNA is currently involved in. We would like to thank our members who participated in the harvesting, climate change, and constitutional engagements.

The feedback you provided has been summarized into “What We Heard” documents directly informing MNA’s direction and government policy. There are copies of the harvesting engagements “What we Heard” document available, separate to this report, at the MRA information table/booth.

In the coming year, we will continue to seek your guidance and input into major policy advancements, as we continue to pioneer the MNA’s path to great governance, great relationships, great partnerships, and making the Métis Nation great with a sustainable future.



## Métis Rights and Accommodation Portfolio – Director's Message

It is with immense pride and humility that MRA submits this report on the department’s accomplishments over the 2017-18 fiscal year. Our motto this year has been to continue making the Métis Nation great – to champion sustainable development that will fund our self-government today and well into the future. All the work we undertook this year was to that end: A great Métis Nation in Alberta.

Métis people have always been resourceful people – from the days of the fur trade and buffalo hunts – Métis have survived on their ingenuity with inventions like the Red River cart and the Métis long boats. That resourcefulness still exists today. Your resilience was never more evident, as witnessed by the many Métis businesses and entrepreneurs that attended the MNA’s Annual Business Mixer this year. Métis people working together, supporting each other, and contributing to healthy communities while supporting the Canadian economy.

The MNA believes that investing in our Métis citizens, and their ideas are the keys to making the Métis Nation great.

Here are some highlights showing the difference being made in 2017-18:

- **Métis Consultation** – Advancements with federal and provincial negotiations
- **Métis Harvesting** – Advancement with provincial policy negotiations (Federally with Parks Canada)
- **Métis Constitution** – 1<sup>st</sup> round of engagements complete
- **Métis Environmental Policy Input** – OSM, Caribou range planning - ongoing
- **Climate Change** – MNA Climate Change Action Plan, Community-based monitoring
- **Sustainable Development** (Various Economic Opportunities)

MRA team members are genuinely committed to finding the common values among our stakeholders, our partners, and other governments as we proceed into the MNAs’ future.

We are proud to serve the citizens comprising the Métis Nation in Alberta – indeed, you are the reason we come to work every day.

We are truly humbled to support you and our Co-Ministers Bev New and Karen Collins in their leadership of the Rights & Accommodation portfolio.

I encourage you to read this report fully, and I make myself available for your queries.

Thank you and God Bless,

**Bruce Gladue**

## Intergovernmental

The Intergovernmental stream is responsible for providing technical and directional support to the Métis Nation in the areas of consultation, harvesting, governance, and rights. This team is working diligently to address existing gaps in policies, to establish the policies and frameworks identifying the rights of the Métis Nation and our citizens, and consistently seeks opportunities to further Métis rights in Alberta and Canada.

## Consultation

The Consultation branch is responsible for ensuring adequate and responsible consultations and negotiations are taking place between the MNA & our regions, communities, and industry, as well as the Governments of Canada and Alberta.

## MÉTIS RIGHTS & ACCOMMODATION

### Bruce Gladue, Director

#### INTERGOVERNMENTAL

##### Tyler Fetch, Associate Director

##### CONSULTATION

Centre for Excellence & Region 6 Office  
Regional Consultation Protocols  
Provincial Consultation Policy  
Federal Consultation Agreement  
iRM software (Industry Relations Management)

##### HARVESTING

The Way Forward Agreement  
Métis Harvesting Advisory Committee (MHAC)  
Engagement sessions  
What We Herd Document

##### INTERGOVERNMENTAL

Tripartite  
Federal Framework Agreement  
Provincial Framework Agreement  
Constitutional engagements  
Métis 101

#### LANDS & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

##### ENVIRONMENT

CEM (Cumulative Effects Management)  
Oil Sands & Community Based Monitoring  
Bills C-68 & C-39  
Land Use Planning Métis Working Group  
Caribou Range Planning  
Endangered Species Conservation Committee

##### ENERGY

AER Integrated Decision Approach (IDA)  
AER projects: TransCanada White Spruce Pipeline & Heartland Pipeline  
AUC projects: ATCO Jasper Interconnection Project and Transmission Line L57  
Federal projects: Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Program, Kinder Morgan TMX  
CEAA Project Environmental Impact Assessments  
Relationship Agreements: TransCanada, ATCO

##### CLIMATE CHANGE

Community Engagement Workshops  
Ordinary Resolution #1 --> Climate Change Action Plan  
Climate Leadership Summit & Apex discussion tables  
Indigenous Governance Technical Working Group (IGTWG)  
Indigenous Electricity Technical Working Group (IETWG)  
Métis Nation - Canada Joint Table on Clean Growth & Climate Change

##### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Mixer, Seminar & Contractor Database  
MNC-GoC Technical Working Groups  
REP2 (Renewable Energy Production Round 2)  
Equity purchase in ATCO Alberta Powerline  
Investment research for federal MEDS fund  
Métis Nation Economic Development Strategy  
Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre

The branch is also responsible for negotiating a provincial MNA consultation policy and a federal Métis Consultation Protocol agreement. As part of the implementation of the MNA Regional Consultation Protocol process, the branch is establishing consultation offices in each of the MNA regions that have signed a consultation protocol.

To date we have offices in Region Six, Region Five, and will soon have offices in Region Three and Region Two. MRA will continue to work with Region Four to operationalize their agreement in this fiscal year, and will continue to work with Region One on concluding a protocol for that area of the homeland.

As part of Métis education and awareness, MRA has provided several presentations to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and member companies on the history of the Métis Nation in Canada, and the Métis Nation of Alberta in its governance representative role for Métis in Alberta. The presentations also included Tom Isaac, a special representative on behalf of the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and his report: A Matter of National and Constitutional Import, concluding with a legal presentation on the duty to consult, as it applies to Métis Nation in Alberta.

#### *Federal Consultation*

The MNA has been engaging with the federal government on a Federal Métis Consultation Agreement. An agreement will give the MNA the ability to build consultation capacity, within our governance structure, to effectively engage with federal departments and agencies, including providing support for federal consultation activities.

We have drafted an agreement, which we hope to have ready for the 2018 MNA's Annual General Assembly (AGA).

During the 2016-17 fiscal year, the MNA established the Métis Centre for Consultation Excellence. This startup, although quite modest, has gained the support and expertise required to conduct consultation with Alberta's Métis when required, and we have increased our ability to hold proponents accountable in lieu of a provincial consultation policy.

One major tool we have acquired to further support our capacity development to address consultation needs is a project management tool: Indigenous Resource Management (iRM). This product facilitates the aggregation of geospatial information, and was designed around industry consultation with Indigenous nations.

With the lack of a Métis consultation policy in Alberta, the primary means of limiting the impact of development to Métis rights is through a regulatory process of statements of concern, or the like.

Currently, proponents are not directed to, and not obliged to engage with the MNA, and are able to submit project information to the MNA via iRM. Some of the features of iRM are:

- Automatic identification of MNA regions
- Changed user permission hierarchy of users in multiple regions
- Ability to filter and search for specific projects
- Incorporation of Traditional Land Use points
- Implementation of heatmaps and geo-masking for industry view of submitted projects
- iOS app to capture TLU points in the field
- New tools for managing projects, timelines, and associated deadlines
- Improvements to software flexibility and workflow
- General bug fixes and improvements to usability

The unit also remains active in collecting and inputting Métis historical and contemporary land use data into the system, preparing to engage when proponents and government are required to consult.

### *MNA Region Six Métis Consultation Office*

Thanks to the extra financial support by Canada, and the support of the leadership of Region Six, in January 2018, the Region Six Consultation Office pilot was created, consisting of a full-time consultation coordinator and support for the receptionist for the regional office. Immediately, they began engaging with proponents and seeking opportunities for engagement on land resource development in the Region Six area. Because the Government of Alberta (GoA) does not fully recognize the obligation to consult with the Métis, outside of the Métis settlements in Alberta, the MNA actively seeks projects and activities with potentially adverse impacts on the ability of Métis people to exercise rights. This work has been a large part of the Region Six consultation coordinator's role to date. This model has already proven successful, and is being used to set up other regional consultation offices with protocol agreements. MRA will be working to have all six MNA regional consultation offices and protocol agreements operational, as soon as possible.



*Métis trappers' tent*



### Provincial Consultation

On October 2015, the Alberta Minister for Indigenous Relations received cabinet approval to develop a Métis consultation policy with the MNA for “non-settlement Métis communities.” The MNA has been engaged with the GoA in developing a provincial consultation policy for Métis in Alberta since. There are a lot of facets to this topic, and we have been putting forward a strong position and solid evidence to support a Métis Nation policy. We are continuing the discussion and are hoping to report positive news at the AGA.

In advance of the provincial policy, the MNA has been working diligently and tirelessly to establish six regional consultation protocols. The protocols will be a key part of the eventual provincial policy, and define the roles and responsibilities of the MNA’s Provincial Council, regions, and locals in conducting consultations and negotiating accommodations. It is important all levels of MNA governance work together, and the process is clear, consistent and ensures the impacted rights-bearer is represented by a duly authorized body. This clarity is what governments and industry seek when consulting with the Métis Nation of Alberta.

The different levels of Métis governance must effectively work together, if Métis rights are to be advanced through the consultation process. To support consultation in each region, as is required via the Regional Consultation protocols, we are hiring consultation coordinators in each of the regions with signed protocols.

### Traditional Ecological Knowledge Policy

The Government of Alberta is developing a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Policy to guide its utilization of TEK in decision-making. The MNA has been participating in a TEK Joint Technical Working Group developed by the Government of Alberta.

### Government of Canada’s Environmental and Regulatory Reviews Discussion Paper

At the Government of Canada’s request for input on its 2016-2017 Environmental and Regulatory Reviews Discussion Paper, the MNA submitted a response in August 2017 detailing our perspective on Métis interests and concerns.

### Harvesting

Over the past year, we have been in negotiations with the Government of Alberta on harvesting. The MNA does not support the original Harvesting Policy unilaterally implemented by the Government of Alberta in 2007. This year, we have had meaningful discussions with the GoA on the deficiencies contained in their policy.

The collaborative review of the Government of Alberta’s Métis Harvesting Policy stemmed from their commitment made signing the February 1, 2017 Framework Agreement. This agreement facilitates “the recognition and respect of Métis rights in Alberta that upholds the honour of the Crown and advances reconciliation” by pursuing “collaborative discussions with the Ministry of Environment and Parks with respect to Métis harvesting rights.”

This commitment was bolstered by a further agreement signed by the Honourable Shannon Phillips, Honourable Richard Feehan, President Audrey Poitras, and MNA Co-Minister of Rights and Accommodation Karen Collins, in August 2017, titled *A Way Forward: Métis Harvesting in Alberta* (the “Way Forward Agreement”).

The *Way Forward Agreement* sets out a process for a collaborative review of key elements of the Métis Harvesting Policy. Over the past several months, Alberta and the MNA have worked together to produce a number of promising options for a new Métis Harvesting Policy, and better reflect the regional nature of Métis communities and Métis traditional harvesting practices.

The work within the *Way Forward Agreement* produced some immediate changes in the collaborative, including:

1. Allowing for Métis trap-lines to be passed down to family members;
2. Eliminating the need for Métis trappers to fulfill fur quotas;
3. Allowing Métis harvesters to use their preferred means of angling; and,
4. Enabling effective communication and exchange of information between the MNA and Alberta regarding Alberta’s internal process for reviewing potential harvesting charges involving individuals identifying as Métis.

We are happy to report these areas have proven successful and are already seeing positive changes.

Complimentary to the collaborations with the Government of Alberta, a Métis Harvesting Advisory Committee (MHAC) was formed with representative harvesters from each MNA region. These harvesters are providing ongoing feedback and advice to technicians working on the file.

Under the *Way Forward Agreement*, the MNA agreed to conduct collaborative engagements with the people who the Province’s harvesting affected the most – the harvesters.

We hosted eight (8) harvesting engagement sessions across Alberta with a total registration of 800 participants. Seven (7) of these engagements were co-hosted with



the Government of Alberta. The Government declined to attend our Lethbridge engagement session, citing limitations pertaining to southern Alberta due to their interpretations of the Hirsekorn case.

Complimentary to the engagements, MRA used an online and paper survey, which garnered 757 responses. The survey was intended for those who could not attend the engagement sessions, but still wished to provide input. The valuable feedback we received from harvesters through the engagement sessions and surveys helped inform new policy options and complimented the research and negotiations, which took place at the technical working group level under the *Way Forward Agreement*.

Once the engagements were completed, all the feedback was themed, and a “What We Heard” document was developed, which is now available to all citizens. The “What We Heard” document reflects the voices and feedback of harvesters, and will continue to be valuable in guiding the implementation of the new Harvesting Policy. Once the feedback from the engagements was compiled, we provided our position on policy options to the province.

While some critical issues remain outstanding due to the Government of Alberta’s interpretation of case law including, in particular, Métis harvesting rights in southern Alberta, further collaborations are required to address them satisfactorily. The MNA believes tremendous progress has been made.

Our collaborations have led to options for a new provincial Métis Harvesting Policy reflecting Métis rights and values and advancing reconciliation between the Métis Nation and Alberta. We have urged the province, throughout our ongoing discussions, to adopt a new Métis Harvesting Policy the MNA will be able to support.

The agreement will commit the Government to continued engagements aimed at resolving outstanding concerns regarding the recognition and accommodation of Métis harvesting rights. We have identified several issues requiring further collaboration, including:

- The recognition of Métis harvesting rights in southern Alberta;
- Commercial harvesting;
- Parks and protected areas;
- The requirements for Métis domestic fishing licenses;
- Implementation of the new Métis Harvesting Policy; and,
- Regular collaborative review of the new Métis Harvesting Policy.

Should the Government of Alberta cabinet choose not to accept a policy option including all of Alberta, we will not proceed until there is a solid commitment, in writing, within the revised policy to continue the work around southern Alberta.

In the work under the *Way Forward Agreement*, the Government has indicated a phased approach with Phase One providing considerable changes to the existing policy, including large regional harvesting areas vs. 160 km dots on a map. Phase Two will be a commitment to ongoing conversations, additional research, and a longer-term solution for Métis harvesting in southern Alberta.

The Government of Alberta has acknowledged hearing, from Métis harvesters, that to reconcile with the Métis, any harvesting policy has to recognize the rights of Métis throughout the entire province.

### Intergovernmental Relations

The Intergovernmental Relations role is to facilitate engagements with government on behalf of the other Rights & Accommodation streams and other MNA departments. We implement the Federal and Provincial Framework Agreements, and carry the Tripartite file.

We support negotiations on Métis Rights including, but not limited, to the Harvesting file, and provide Métis 101 presentations to industry and government regarding consultation and authorized representation.



### *Exploratory Discussions – Federal Framework Agreement*

Last year, at this time, we were talking about the MNA/Canada exploratory discussions and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Advancing Reconciliation. The MOU set the stage for the development of a framework agreement serving as a basis for negotiations to advance reconciliation with Métis in Alberta.

On November 16, 2017, the MNA and Canada signed the Framework for Advancing Reconciliation between Métis Nation of Alberta and the Government of Canada (“the framework”). The framework identifies the process and key considerations in the negotiation of mutually-agreeable arrangements, or agreements that will determine, recognize, and respect Métis Section 35 rights, and work towards further reconciliation of outstanding claims and grievances of the Métis Nation in Alberta. Central to the negotiation is the interest-based and results-oriented process ensuring identified outcomes grounded in the interests and needs of the nation.

The framework also identifies achievable outcomes for the first year of the agreement, such as: an agreement recognizing self-government for the Métis Nation in Alberta; a consultation agreement; an agreement for no-fee access to National Parks within Alberta, and to discuss other matters relating to National Parks; engagement with Northern Affairs Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to ensure the unique Métis housing needs are better met, and; negotiation to establish an agreement between the MNA and Employment and Social Development Canada, for the funding of the next Indigenous labour market strategy.

Since the November 2017 signing, discussions have been on-going, and progressing well. The MNA is very optimistic we will see our first agreement directly resultant from the framework in Fall 2018. The result of this work will be recognition and expression of the Métis Nation government in Alberta, and an identified pathway to settling outstanding claims the MNA has against the federal Crown. An example of these outstanding claims includes the scrip process utilized by Canada in an attempt to extinguish Métis aboriginal title.

### *Constitutional Engagement Presentations*

Throughout February and March 2018, the Métis Nation of Alberta held the first phase of engagement with our members on the development of a constitution for the Métis Nation of Alberta.

The engagement efforts were to receive citizen input about key values and principles related to self-government, in order to guide the next steps of creating a draft constitution.

Events were held in Calgary, Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche, Bonnyville, High Prairie, Lethbridge and Edson. The MNA's registry team attended each session, processed completed applications and assisted citizens. MNA's affiliates, Rupertsland Institute and Apeetogsan, were also sharing information about the programs and services they offer.

The new constitution must be developed and ratified by the Métis citizens, which is why the MNA undertook extensive consultations throughout each of the six MNA regions. The MNA heard from over 800 people and each interactive workshop combined technology and traditional methods to gather valuable perspectives. Short videos were shown at the engagement events about Métis self-government and the constitution.

Next steps for the MNA are to take the feedback received during the sessions and compile a “What We Heard” document highlighting key discussions of the events. This work shapes the development of the draft constitution for citizen review in the near future. The schedule and dates for the next set of engagements on this topic are not set yet, but stay connected via Facebook or our website, to find out how to participate during the next phases of engagement.

### *Provincial Framework Agreement*

On February 1, 2017, the Government of Alberta and the MNA signed a ten-year Framework Agreement.

In the agreement, the Government of Alberta recognized the MNA's role as a representative of its citizens and committed to working with the MNA on a nation-to-nation basis with a stated priority of developing a “whole-of-government” approach to Métis issues. This approach will be culturally relevant, it will rely on evidence-based and informed strategies, and will enhance the socio-economic well-being of Alberta Métis.

We have completed our 2018 Framework Agreement Final Report and are now looking to identify and begin working on sub-tables with five priority areas identified in the report (Environment and Climate Change, Education and Training, Housing and Infrastructure, Health and Wellness, and Children's Services), as well as identifying opportunities with the Government of Alberta to develop working relationships via sub-tables in other areas.

To facilitate the agreed upon outcomes of the framework, the agreement contains mechanisms to ensure decision-makers and leaders meet regularly to evaluate the progress.

Specifically, this means that the President of the MNA and the Deputy Minister for Indigenous Relations of the Government of Alberta meet quarterly, and the President of the MNA and the Premier of Alberta meet annually to





## Lands & Sustainable Development

The Lands and Sustainable Development division is responsible for supporting consultation by translating technical information from policies and notification. The branch also supports incorporating traditional knowledge into policies, processes, and initiatives concerning the environment and energy opportunities with the top priority being the interests of Métis citizens.

Lands and Sustainable Development continually seeks sustainable economic opportunities to advance the priorities and interest of the Métis, and bolster community. As well, this branch deals with MNA climate change initiatives to achieve a collective understanding for meaningful Métis participation. The branch also facilitates a consistent understanding of “sustainable development” as it relates to Métis culture in Alberta.

### Environment

The Environment team is responsible for reviewing project impacts to Métis rights, providing technical support to Métis leadership, and providing capacity for Métis participation in industry regulatory processes. This year, Environment has been working on various projects including Cumulative Effects Management, the Government of Alberta's Regional Land Use plans, Caribou Range planning, Oil Sands Monitoring, and federal projects including reviews of Federal Bills C-68 and C-69.

Canada and Alberta have been engaging with the MNA regarding policies at both federal and provincial levels, relating to land use planning and endangered species. Environment has been facilitating the provision of feedback on the proposed policies and initiatives relating to land use planning and species at risk.

### Cumulative Effects Management

Cumulative effects are the changes to the environment that are caused by an action in combination with other past, present, and future actions. As a result of development and industry within Alberta, there have been extensive cumulative effects on the landscape, many directly impacting Métis citizens.

The MNA has been engaging its citizens on Cumulative Effects Management (CEM), with the intent of developing its own Métis-specific framework. Beginning with informal interviews, with MNA citizens at the annual general assembly (AGA), we gathered the input from our citizens on cumulative effects, the management of them, and environmental changes more broadly.

In addition to informal interviews, we conducted six focus groups of 4-8 participants, one in each of the MNA regions, with citizens appointed by the regional leadership. Based on the information from these discussions, the MNA has drafted a recommendations

report on the considerations for the eventual development of an MNA CEM framework. This report will eventually be used to develop a framework for CEM.

MRA has completed phase one of the CEM framework. Additionally, the MNA also provided feedback on the Alberta Energy Regulator's CEM Framework, identifying key challenges and solutions in the framework. Phase one of our Cumulative Effects Management (CEM) framework has been completed.

### Métis Land Use Plan

The provincial government Land Use Framework (LUF) sets out a new approach to managing Alberta's land and natural resources. The LUF establishes seven new regions and calls for the development of a regional plan for each. Environment has been attending the Land Use Planning Métis Working Group sessions for the Lower Athabasca and North Saskatchewan regions. We have been working with the Government of Alberta and Métis Settlements, as well as in conjunction with the First Nations Working Group, to develop a fourth Indigenous pillar to be included as part of the regional plan, in addition to the economic, social, and environment pillars.

### Endangered Species Conservation Committee

The Government of Alberta has restructured their Endangered Species Conservation committee to increase Indigenous representation on the committee. The committee's objective is to advise and make recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Parks on the necessary legal designations and protections for threatened and endangered species, recovery planning, and efforts for prevention of species becoming endangered or threatened. The MNA has appointed Jason Ekeburg, Region One representative on the Métis Harvesting Advisory committee, to be the sitting member with Roger Bellrose as an alternate. Environment will also provide technical support to the sitting member and alternate.

### Caribou Range Planning

Under the direction of the federal government, the province is in the midst of creating Caribou Range plans. These plans will specify the measures required to restore habitat in order to ensure the persistence of caribou in Alberta. Environment has attended engagement sessions to actively advocate for Métis interests to be included in range planning activities. The Government of Alberta released its draft *Provincial Caribou Range Plan* in December 2017 and hosted several multi stakeholder meetings, which our team attended. Additionally, Environment is looking to utilize funding from the province, when it becomes available, to collect and document traditional knowledge to contribute to range planning activities.





*Woven infinity sash at Métis Crossing*

### *Oil Sands Monitoring*

We are continuing to provide technical support to political leadership to inform decisions and participate in initiatives including the Oil Sands Monitoring Leadership Initiative, and the Oil Sands Advisory Group Emissions Limit engagements. The MNA has been supporting incorporating Indigenous communities in a meaningful way, when working with the Government of Alberta, to coordinate technical and governance meetings. We also monitor for impacts, and make sure all regions impacted are being represented, namely Regions One, Two, Five, and Six.

### *Bills C-68 and C-69*

The federal Bills C-68 and C-69 were introduced into Parliament in February 2018, and propose a series of changes to the National Energy Board (NEB), Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Fisheries Act, and Navigable Waters Act. The MNA, through both the Environment and Intergovernmental Relations branches, has engaged on several of the proposed changes and is looking to meet with representatives from the federal government on the proposed policy and regulatory changes as part of the implementation of the acts.

Bill C-68 would create several changes to the Fisheries Act, including changes to the definitions of fish habitat, new considerations in decision making for traditional knowledge and community knowledge, and for the application of Indigenous laws in cases where they are equivalent to the federal law. The MNA participated in the review of the Fisheries Act and submitted a formal response via the established methodology. In the same vein as the Fisheries Act, the MNA participated in the review of the Navigation Protection Act and submitted a formal response to Canada in accordance with the established methodology.

Under Bill C-69, the NEB, which is the federal body regulating pipelines and powerlines that cross provincial and national borders, and oil and gas exploration and production activities, is proposed to be replaced with the Canadian Energy Regulator. The Canadian Energy Regulator would be a lifecycle regulator with the same responsibilities, but would have new governance mechanisms to attempt to ensure more predictable and timely decision making, safety and environmental protection, as well as more inclusive engagement processes.

Bill C-69 will also affect the Navigable Waters Act by incorporating an expanded scope of the definition of navigable waters to include waters used by Indigenous peoples for the exercise of their rights. The proposed changes would also require the minister to consider the impacts to the rights of Indigenous peoples that any decisions may have.

Additionally, Bill C-69 would replace the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency with the Impact Assessment Agency, which would conduct environmental, health, social, and economic impact assessments for projects. The Impact Assessment Agency aims to have early, inclusive and meaningful public engagement including Indigenous people and would take into account Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge, rights and culture.

Here are some of the smaller and shorter-term projects that Environment has been supporting its regions with:

- Alta Link 526L Relocation Project
- Processing regulatory notifications
- Jasper National Park East Gate Redevelopment project
- Ribbon of Green
- Valley Line LRT Community Monitoring program
- LRT Expansion
- North East River Crossing
- Fort Edmonton Park Expansion project
- Groat Road Bridge Rehabilitation project
- Exhibition Lands Redevelopment

Environment also assisted with the greenhouse project for Aurora Middle School in Lac La Biche, and attended the Water Keepers Gathering in Fort Smith, NWT, which was a conference that focused on threats and solutions regarding water, with a particular focus on the Mackenzie River Basin.

### *Energy*

Currently, Environment is also covering the Energy portfolio, which engages with industries in the energy sector, as well as both the provincial and federal government through various agencies and on various projects. Our role is mainly to engage with a technical perspective in mind. This year, MRA has been facilitating information support for the provincial and regional offices for major projects. Energy has been involved with provincial and federal engagement, supporting the Trans Mountain Pipeline Project, a relationship agreement with ATCO, and Alberta Energy Regulator's Integrated Decision Approach (IDA) and area-based regulation.

### *AER (Integrated Decision Approach-Liability Management and CEM Framework)*

The Alberta Energy Regulator's new Integrated Decision Approach (IDA) for energy development will be changing the way development projects are approved in the province of Alberta. Environment is currently reviewing the IDA to determine the impacts for Métis consultation, as there was inadequate consultation with the MNA during the development of the IDA.



Throughout the year we have submitted concerns on Liability Management, the Integrated Decision Approach, and the Cumulative Effects Management framework.

### *Provincial Engagement*

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) regulates the utilities sector, comprising the natural gas and electricity markets. Current projects that the MNA is involved with include the ATCO Jasper Interconnection Project and Transmission Line 6L57, and in the future, will be including the Brazeau Dam Expansion project.

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) regulates the energy sector to allow for the safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible development of energy resources. Currently, the MNA is involved with the TransCanada White Spruce Pipeline and Heartland Pipeline projects.

### *Federal Engagement*

The National Energy Board (NEB) regulates pipelines and power lines crossing provincial or international borders. The current projects the MNA is involved with include the Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Program, the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Expansion Project, and many smaller scope projects.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) is responsible for the administration of the federal environmental assessment process, except those governed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission or the NEB. It is the body responsible for integrating the Government of Canada's Aboriginal consultation activities into the environmental assessment process. So far, the MNA has been reviewing Project Environmental Impact Assessments for sufficiency.

In May 2018, the President of the MNA, Audrey Poitras, met with the Government of Canada in Ottawa to demonstrate support for the Trans Mountain Pipeline Project.

As well, we have signed another relationship agreement with a top industry player, ATCO, as is discussed further in our Economic Development section.

Our department aims to create relationship agreements that will help find opportunities with industry, to ensure adherence to our regional consultation protocol process, and to assist MNA provincial office, regions and locals with meaningful and effective land resource development consultation capacity.

As was mentioned earlier, we have been updating our iRM (Indigenous Resource Management) software. For project specific reviews we can now review the geospatial information, using iRM, and incorporate it into our review process as an important tool.

With iRM we are able to develop capacity to preform our own cartography work in place of maps provided by the

Government of Alberta. We are using this for management notifications when it comes to energy development, which will then trigger consultation.

### *Climate Change*

Climate change impacts all living beings on Earth in numerous ways—including our Métis people. Our traditional Métis way of life is being impacted; thus, the MNA must take up this cause, act now, and act on climate change.

In Spring 2017, the MNA engaged with our Métis citizens throughout Alberta in a series of 18 Climate Change Community Engagement Workshops. Strong interest was heard from our citizens stating they would like to learn more about climate change and to become more informed. Active participants in initiatives related to climate change, including energy efficiency and renewable energy. They also expressed desire for the MNA to take a leading role in climate change.

During the summer of 2017, the 89th MNA Annual General Assembly voiced full and unanimous support for Ordinary Resolution #1, a resolution on climate change and the environment. This resolution directed the MNA to “undertake climate change initiatives including actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increasing Métis involvement and awareness of climate change, while creating capacity and economic opportunities for Métis citizens.” In response, the MNA has developed the MNA Climate Change Action Plan.

### *The MNA Climate Change Action Plan*

The MNA Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) is a collection of climate leadership initiatives aimed to fulfill five overarching goals.

#### *MNA CCAP Goals:*

1. Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions;
2. Create opportunities for the MNA (such as income, equity, cost savings);
3. Create opportunities for MNA citizens (such as income, jobs, training, cost savings, careers);
4. Increase MNA capacity to implement climate change programs; and
5. Increase understanding of climate change.

The MNA is currently working in the following MNA CCAP initiatives designed to help fulfill our CCAP goals.

1. **Capacity:** A main CCAP goal is to increase climate education and awareness for youth and Métis citizens. A regional climate leadership coordinator (CLC) will join each MNA regional office by mid-2018, to help with programming, funding, and engagement opportunities. The MNA provincial office is designing online and physical resources for regional CLCs to help with their work. These resources will also

be available to MNA citizens and will help citizens learn more about climate programs and initiatives available around the province. The regional CLCs will also allow for a more local approach to climate leadership implementation.

2. **Energy Efficiency:** This initiative aims to assess the current energy use and energy cost of MNA and MNA-affiliate owned buildings, provide energy conservation measures (ECMs) to reduce energy use and cost, and quantify capital costs and savings. During 2018, the MNA started by completing energy efficiency assessments of 13 buildings, including MNA or MNA affiliate-owned regional and affiliate offices, and large residential buildings owned by Métis Capital Housing Corporation. For the year 2018, the MNA is proposing to expand this initiative to assess the over 700 residential units Métis Capital Housing Corporation and Métis Urban Housing Corporation operate. In the end, this initiative will provide a financial analysis and plan for implementation of the retrofit costs, as well as related energy savings and expected returns.
3. **Solar-Micro:** MRA has proposed to install micro-generation solar PV systems in MNA-owned buildings including MNA, MNA-Region and MNA affiliate offices and MCHC/MUHC homes. The project is currently in the proposal stage.
4. **Large-Scale Renewables:** The MNA has started a pre-feasibility study regarding the installation of a large utility-scale renewable energy project at Métis Crossing to significantly reduce the MNA's carbon footprint and move the MNA closer to carbon neutrality.
5. **Community-Based Climate Monitoring:** The MNA seeks to document climate change impacts of significance to Alberta Métis. MRA has developed a Community-Based Climate Monitoring (CBCM) plan to monitor climate indicators, providing data required to identify climate change impacts and inform adaptation actions for our Métis citizens. The MNA CBCM plan is currently in proposal stage.

#### **MNA-Government Engagement Tables on Climate**

The MNA has actively participated in Indigenous leadership discussions on climate change, including the Indigenous Climate Leadership Summit in February of 2018, and the All-Indigenous Leadership Apex on Climate in March 2018.

The MNA is also in discussions with the Indigenous Governance Technical Working Group (GTWG) and the Indigenous Electricity Technical Working Group (IETWG)

and will continue working with these groups, as directed by Indigenous leaders, after the Apex.

The GTWG is working on the development of an all-Indigenous leadership model for climate programming in Alberta. Currently, the funding for many of the MNA's initiatives comes from the Alberta Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative (ICLI) programs, administered by Indigenous relations in the Alberta government. This group is discussing ways for all Indigenous peoples in Alberta to take ownership of the initiative. These discussions are currently ongoing.

The MNA has been an active participant since the inception of the IETWG. The IETWG is tasked with advising the Government of Alberta on ways to increase Indigenous participation (specifically Métis participation in the case of the MNA) in renewable energy developments. Discussions at the IETWG have led to significant developments in Alberta's renewable energy market, such as the minimum 25% Indigenous equity ownership requirement by the Alberta Electric Systems Operator (AESO) to proponents for round two of the Renewable Energy Program (REP 2). As Economic Development has also been involved with this, it also discussed in our Economic Development section.

The MNA has also engaged with the Government of Canada through the Métis Nation-Canada Joint Table on Clean Growth and Climate Change. Joint-table discussions have included multiple initiatives. Examples include Pathway to Canada Target 1, community-based Indigenous climate monitoring, and green infrastructure, among others. Through these mechanisms, the MNA has provided Canada with input, direction & guidance in developing initiatives related to climate change that best work for our Métis citizens.

#### **Economic Development**

The Economic Development branch deals with industry relations with focus on the economic benefits it may have for the MNA and MNA citizens. This year, Economic Development organized the very successful 5<sup>th</sup> annual business mixer, launched the contractor database, was involved in negotiations with the Alberta Powerline (APL), signed agreements with ATCO and TransCanada, researched investment options for the Métis Economic Development Strategy, and was also involved with the Indigenous Electricity Technical Working Group & Indigenous Governance Technical Working Group, and REP 2. Economic Development also supported the MNC with their meetings in Ottawa, and supported Métis Crossing.





*5<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Mixer  
President Audrey Poitras and Cpl. Wayne Howse*



*Contractor Database registration*

### *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Mixer*

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual business mixer was our largest yet and a tremendous success. Despite not holding the Youth and Seniors Symposium at the same time, we saw increased participation and growth while covering 100% of the expenses. There was an increase from 400-450 people in the trade show foot traffic last year, to approximately 500 this year. The amount of tradeshow tables increased from 42 to 63 tables, and an increase of 18 to 35 Métis tradeshow tables. Furthermore, our gala attendance last year was 320, which also included our Youth and Seniors Symposium, while this year it was independent and reached 426 people in attendance. 68% of attendees made at least one business connection they consider useful. We anticipate even more growth for the sixth annual business mixer and have begun to consider a larger venue.

### *Contractor Database*

At our 5<sup>th</sup> annual business mixer, we launched our contractor database, which was developed in partnership with TransCanada. In it, we currently have over 40 Métis businesses, and we are partnering with industry for procurement purposes. Additionally, updates and changes are being made to the database to improve usability, and a marketing plan for the database is currently under development, including a search for names in the database.

### *Alberta Powerline Project*

The MNA will continue pursuing negotiations with APL regarding an equity purchase in the Fort McMurray West 500kV Transmission Project. It is anticipated an equity purchase agreement would provide a sustainable 30 -35-year income for the MNA, impacted regions and impacted Métis locals.

### *Métis National Council (MNC)*

The MNC and Government of Canada are in a working relationship regarding economic development on a nation-to-nation basis. The MNA has been providing technical support for their meetings in Ottawa. There are four technical working groups in the process of being developed: Access to Capital, Procurement Modernization, Clean Growth and Infrastructure, and Alignment with Federal Economic Development Agenda.

### *MNA Industry Partnerships*

We have signed a Relationship Framework Agreement with ATCO in March 2018. This was a consultation and relations piece, outlining how issues will be moved forward in the future, as well as a stepping stone to further agreements. This agreement established a working relationship between the MNA and ATCO, and will enable the MNA to secure the financial resources to support MNA initiatives for the benefit of Métis citizens.

As well, this means both parties will support each other in their desire for community development and participation in mutually beneficial business opportunities.

With TransCanada we have an evergreen (forever) agreement to be reviewed every five years. Currently, we are working on renewing our agreement with TransCanada, while building a positive relationship. We are working on further relationship agreements with other industry partners in order to foster positive relationships, which can lead to increased benefits for Métis people.

### *Indigenous Electricity Technical Working Group & Indigenous Governance Technical Working Group*

We are working in partnership with the Government of Alberta, the Government of Canada, all First Nations groups in Alberta, and the Métis settlements, along with the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) to form positive relationships through the use of working groups,



Relationship Framework Agreement Signing with ATCO Group President Audrey Poiras (left) & Lillian Hvatum-Brewster (right)

such as the Indigenous Electricity Technical Working Group (IETWG) and the Indigenous Governance Technical Working Group (IGTWG). The IETWG helps provide feedback to the AESO on future large-scale energy projects, which have an effect on Alberta's economic activities and the environment. The IGTWG is a joint venture with the Government of Alberta, and is trying to make a model for the equitable distribution of funds from the government to Indigenous groups.

### **Renewable Energy Program (REP) Round 2**

REP is a competitive program offering a guaranteed buy price for energy produced by large scale renewable energy projects. The procurement target for REP 2 is 300 MW. The recipients of REP Round 2 will receive a 20-year contract with the AESO on the guaranteed price. REP Round 2, unlike other rounds of REP, has a minimum 25% Indigenous owner equity requirement which is a pass/fail. The MNA is planning to submit a bid in REP 2.

Renewable energy programs have the potential to generate significant benefits in the form of long term revenues to communities. A large-scale renewable energy project would have a very large impact on the goals of greenhouse gas emissions reduction and economic opportunity building of the MNA Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). As well, revenues from the renewable energy project may be able to fund a multitude of MNA initiatives and programs.

### **Métis Economic Development Plan**

A five year provincial economic strategy is in the process of being developed for the MNA. The economic development strategy is provincial in scope and it is going to be working with the MNA regional offices, Indigenous business associations, the MNA contractor database, affiliates, and individual Métis businesses that we connect with, in order to maximize economic growth opportunities for Métis people.

We intend to begin with a seven-step process over the next year. Our first step will be a situational assessment of the MNA and all associated entities. This work will include traveling to and interviewing each organization to determine their current capacity for economic development, what projects they have underway, and any strategic plans for future community development.

Next will be a capacity assessment of the MNA to look at its governance model, labour force, and socio-economic benefits from secondary sources. By conducting these two steps first we will have a clear idea of where the MNA currently sits, and determine a path forward. After collecting background information for the MNA, we will conduct a series of cluster assessments on the economic opportunities in Alberta using a focus on identifying future areas of opportunity.

Once the research component is complete, we will conduct a market match to identify clusters best matching the MNA's capacities. Finally, with this information we will create a five-year implementation plan.

The MNA's proposal directly supports the following goals of the Government of Alberta's Department of Economic Development and Trade and directly supports and furthers section 2.4 of the 2017 MNA – Alberta Framework Agreement, which is considered a priority action. This strategy will solely focus on shaping the future economic development strategy for MNA provincial leadership and the MRA Economic Development branch.

To develop the strategy within the timeframe, the MNA is looking at hiring an outside consultant to assist with capacity. As well, this strategy will provide the MNA with a vision and a mission for future economic development to be shared with the community, as well as goals and objectives on community economic development activities, and the building of community economic capacity.

This strategy will provide direct engagement and feedback from the community on the existing needs and desires regarding economic development.

### **Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre Development**

In March 2017, the Métis Nation of Alberta signed a contribution agreement with Infrastructure Canada for \$3.5 million launching the development of the Métis Crossing Phase 2 Cultural Gathering Centre.

At the same time, the Province of Alberta committed \$1 million to this exciting new project. Shortly thereafter, a development manager was hired, and a Métis Crossing Advisory Committee (MCAC) was appointed to guide the development. The MCAC members include President Audrey Poiras, Region Two President, Karen Collins, Culture Co-Ministers, Duane Zaraska and Dan Cardinal, along with Art Cunningham and Andy Popko.



The Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre will be slightly over 10,000 square feet, and is detailed throughout with elements of Métis culture and craftsmanship including dovetail joinery, artistic beading patterns, and of course the infinity symbol. The large gathering hall has a stone fireplace to share stories and warm chilled feet after snowshoeing or trapping courses.

The classroom and meeting spaces will be ideal for school field trips and corporate workshops. Spaces for travelling exhibits provide people a reason to return every year to learn something new. The large deck overlooking the river also provides an ideal transition between the indoor and outdoor cultural experiences for visitors to learn about Alberta's Métis.

Our groundbreaking celebration occurred at Métis Crossing on May 14, 2018. Throughout the design and bid processes, the MCAC has been diligent to ensure that opportunities for Métis entrepreneurs, contractors, and suppliers are maximized. As construction of the new facility is scheduled for completion late summer 2019, we are excited to report these preliminary numbers in the next report to the Métis Nation of Alberta Annual General Assembly in 2019. Please see the full Métis Crossing report.

As mentioned in our Climate Change section, funding has been received, and work has begun to complete a Pre-Feasibility Assessment on the potential for a large scale renewable energy project at Métis Crossing.

If fruitful, this green energy project will supply Métis Crossing with all its electricity needs and possibly MNA earnings through excess electricity sales to the Alberta electrical grid.

#### *MNA Equity Partnerships*

The MNA has a \$5-million agreement with the Government of Canada for Métis Economic Development Strategy (MEDS) Funding. The funds are split evenly between Apeetogosan and the MNA.

Apeetogosan's portion is used to create opportunities for small Métis businesses and entrepreneurs in the form of loans and grants. The MNA is looking at various opportunities of larger project type investments for its portion of the funds.

#### *Karen Collins & Bev New*

Co-Ministers of Métis Rights and Accommodation



*Métis Crossing groundbreaking celebration*



# HEAD OFFICE REPORT





# COMMUNICATIONS AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

## Overview

The Communications and Citizen Engagement department has grown from a staff of two in 2017, to the current team of eight. This growth better equips us to handle the exponential growth in workload. Since January 1, 2018, we have worked on almost 200 projects with approximately 50 active projects at any one time. Our team supports other MNA departments (e.g. Health, Children, and Youth, Registry, and Métis Rights and Accommodation), MNA Affiliates (e.g. Métis Crossing, Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research, and others), our Regional Offices (promoting their materials and events), and citizens on special requests (e.g. a poster to start a new local).

Since introducing the new Director of Communications and Citizen Engagement in September 2017, we focused on creating internal processes and formalizing branding for the MNA before expanding the Citizen Engagement initiatives.

Below are highlights of the key developments for our team since the last Annual General Assembly.

## Internal Procedures & Controls

### Formalizing brand standards for the Métis Nation of Alberta

- Rebranded MNA collateral such as business cards, general and departmental letterheads, job postings, PowerPoint template, and email signatures.

### Instituting procedures and controls for internal & external communications

- Weekly tracking of projects including start dates, milestones, project leads, and resources.
- Assigning communications liaisons to other departments to participate in team meetings, stay aware of emerging projects and support requests, and liaising back to the rest of the communications team.

- Instituting communications templates and procedural documents to build consistency and ensure critical discussions on projects. These documents include an outline for communication support, a detailed procedure for ordering marketing collateral, and a template for requesting a radio advertising campaign.

## Communications With Citizens

### Theming the Otipemisiwak Magazine on key issues within the MNA

- Fall 2018 edition will focus on Métis Health and Wellness;
- Winter 2019 edition will focus on Métis Rights, Governance, and Identity; and,
- Spring 2019 edition will focus on Métis Tourism.

### Revising Otipemisiwak Express

- The Otipemisiwak Express is a document sent to new citizens with their new MNA Card, to highlight information about MNA services, programs, upcoming events, bursary programs for education, and more.

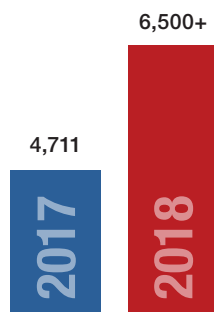
## Social Media

- We have been increasing our communications on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. In 2018, we introduced new LinkedIn and YouTube channels. You can connect to each of these by visiting our main website ([albertametis.org](http://albertametis.org)).
- Building MNA's online presence and voice. For example, our November 2017 Framework Agreement Signing video had over 3,800 views and was shared 63 times on Facebook. A 73-second video job description posted on Facebook on January 29 has almost 800 views and was shared 20+ times in 48-hours.

## Facebook Growth

30% 

Our Facebook community has grown over 30% since October 2017



Focusing on tactics to reach rural, older citizens (e.g. radio) and younger, urban citizens (e.g. social media)

### Marketing Personas

Having conducted and compiled research from several projects, we are trying to better understand who you are. We drafted composite outlines of key segments of our audience; you! Based on those imaginary backgrounds we strategically create content and marketing plans to best communicate with you; we use this work to decide what content is most relevant to your interests and how best to share it.

For example, meet Linda:

- Linda is 63 and retired
- She lives in a small community in rural Alberta
- She actively volunteers in her community
- She has 5 grandchildren
- She is a regular at the local Métis Senior Centre and takes part in programs and services there, attends regular events and is informed of the upcoming events through the centre's staff.
- Her grandchildren recently showed Linda how to use Facebook and other online tools to get some of the information she needs on her iPad, however she found the MNA website wasn't mobile friendly
- She prefers face-to-face communication
- She appreciates events where she can bring her grandchildren and they have activities to enjoy

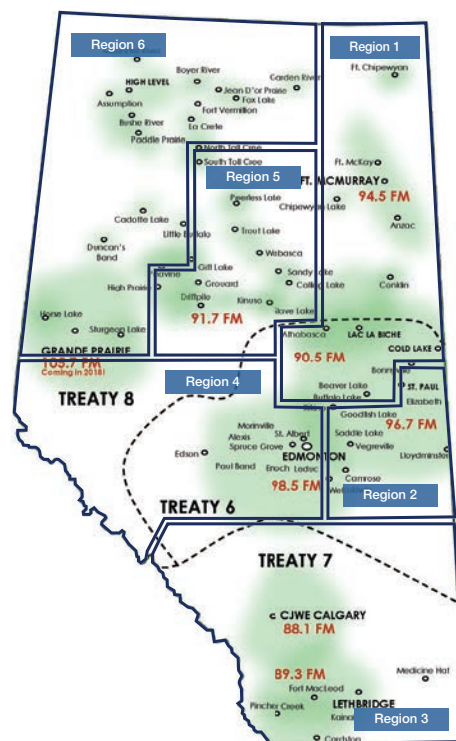


### Radio

To reach rural and older citizens, we built an aggressive radio advertising campaign with CFWE Radio. Our radio ads have covered engagement sessions, harvesting, golf tournament, pancake breakfast, naloxone training, citizen

registration, and other initiatives. CFWE is Alberta's only Indigenous radio station and rebroadcasts to over 85 communities throughout the province.

Here is a map outlining their coverage throughout Alberta.



### Email Database

In the 2017 Annual Report, the MNA reported a database of 10,128 contacts. In 2018, we have more than doubled that to over 26,000! We are also segmenting our email database by region. So, for example, if there is a workshop being held in a certain region, in addition to mass communications about the event (on social media, posters, and emails), we can target every single citizen in that region that shared their email with us. Each time we send an e-newsletter to our entire list over 11% open them and 10% of those people click through on the links. That's over twice as much as the industry standard of 4.19%.

## Growth of Email Contacts

2017  
10,128 Contacts

2018  
26,000 Contacts









## Citizen Engagement & Self-Government

After signing landmark agreements with Canada and the Province of Alberta, the MNA launched a multi-phased approach to engagement on self-government with citizens at the 2018 Youth and Seniors Symposium in Edmonton. This initial workshop, of over 400 people, helped the team understand preferences regarding best tools for communications and engagement.

The next phase occurred throughout February and March 2018, when the MNA held engagement events in Calgary, Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche, Bonnyville, High Prairie, Lethbridge, and Edson. The locations of the events were chosen by provincial council members in each region. The MNA's registry team attended each session, processing completed applications, and answering any questions about citizenship. MNA's affiliates, Rupertsland Institute and Apeetogsan, were also in attendance. They used the opportunity to share information about their programs and services.

The purpose of Phase Two was to gather citizen input about key values and principles related to self-government to guide the next steps for constitution creation. We talked to over 260 people in this phase.

Phase Three was a one-day workshop in Edmonton held on May 26, 2018. The workshop provided foundational information on constitutions and self-governance for the almost 100 participants who had not attended previous sessions and reflected on the key themes revealed through earlier phases of community engagements.

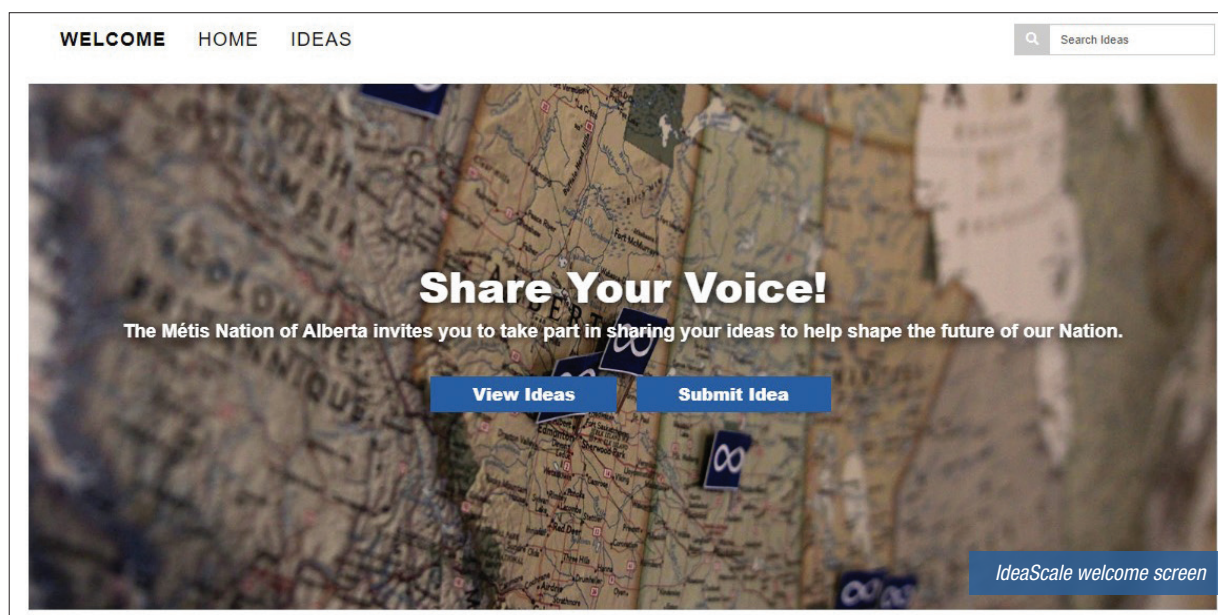
The next phases will include a report back to citizens at the Annual General Assembly in August 2018, and will seek direction to draft a constitution based on the results

of our report. Following that, we hope to continue with online engagement (see below for more information) and additional town-hall type workshops around the province in Spring 2019.

## Online Engagement

- On May 26, 2018, the MNA launched an innovative online engagement tool, IdeaScale, to gather input and feedback from citizens. With this tool, Métis people can share and collaborate on ideas, ask questions, and get responses from other citizens and/or MNA staff. People can also vote on citizen-generated ideas to show their support. Through comments, feedback, and voting, the wisdom of the people refines and prioritizes the crowd-sourced ideas. The most popular ideas rise to the top and the insights of MNA citizens will be extracted for evaluation.
- We also launched a new self-government website on May 26, 2018. The website includes: an interactive timeline offering background information on the milestones in Métis history; an explanation of where we are in the process of negotiating with the Government of Canada; information about what a constitution is and why we need one; and, helpful resources like videos, documents, and websites.

Stay connected with us on our Social Engagement website ([metis.ideascale.com](https://metis.ideascale.com)), our MNA website ([albertametis.com](https://albertametis.com)), our self-government website ([albertametisgov.com](https://albertametisgov.com)), and our social media feeds. The MNA is committed to continuing these discussions and working towards a strong, united Métis government in Alberta.





## What's Next

Our online marketing (e.g. ads and social media), newspaper and radio advertisements are all driving traffic to our website ([albertametis.com](http://albertametis.com)). Since our last AGM, we've had over 75,000 distinct users visit our website (over 80% of those were first time visitors) for an average visit of almost two and a half minutes. Over 61% of our users are females and 52% of all our visitors are between 25-44 years old.

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**75,000+** distinct users  
since last AGM

↳ **80%** were first time visitors



**61%**  
of users are female



**52%**  
of users are aged 25-44

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In 2018/2019, we hope to redevelop our MNA website. We want our website to be mobile friendly, to have a tool for registering for our events, to introduce an online store for purchasing Métis-related and branded items and, of course, to be much easier to find the things you, the citizens, are looking for.

Our team's goal will be continuing to share information about upcoming events, programs and services, as well as providing means for you to have input on the initiatives we are working on.

We encourage you to sign-up for our newsletter and get connected on our social media. Go to our website ([albertametis.com](http://albertametis.com)) to learn more.



*Voyageur Days at Métis Crossing*

# 90 YEARS OF MÉTIS NATIONHOOD

## A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

From humble beginnings in 1928 to today; the Métis Nation of Alberta has a strong history of nationhood. For 90 years we have fought to ensure our way of life, identity, and rights are recognized and together, we will continue to tackle difficulties and celebrate triumphs with one common goal, to propel the nation forward.

### 1928: Association de Métis Alberta et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Métis in the Cold Lake area organize after the federal government transfers control of natural resources to the province. Concerned about the impact on Métis living on Crown land, they form the Association des Métis Alberta et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. In 1932, the Association is organized more formally and becomes the Métis Association of Alberta (MAA).



### 2006: New MNA Membership Cards

The MNA issues its first new membership card, based on the requirements of the National Definition of Métis for Citizenship within the Métis Nation, to MNA President Audrey Poitras.



### 1991: The Métis Nation of Alberta

The MAA officially becomes the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNA). The name change is an unambiguous assertion of Métis nationhood.

1920

1970

2010

### 1938:

#### Métis Population Betterment Act

Alberta adopts the Métis Population Betterment Act, creating the province's 12 original Métis colonies (now known as Métis Settlements).



### 1982: Constitution Act, 1982

After intense consultations with the MAA, led by President Sam Sinclair, Premier of Alberta, Peter Lougheed, proposes the final wording for what would become s. 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982: "The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed." "Aboriginal peoples of Canada" is defined to explicitly include the Métis.

### 1987:

#### MAA-Alberta Framework Agreement

The MAA becomes the only Métis government in Canada to have a framework agreement with a provincial government. The agreement provides the MAA with stable funding to pursue the priorities of the Métis Nation within Alberta.



### 1961: Métis Association of Alberta is formally registered

Under the leadership of Adrian Hope (President 1961-67), the MAA formally registers as an association, giving it access to federal funding.



### September 19, 2003: R v Powley

The Supreme Court of Canada confirms that s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 protects Métis rights.





### April 14, 2016: Daniels Decision

The Supreme Court of Canada confirms the federal government is responsible for dealing with Métis issues.



### February 1, 2017: MNA-Alberta Framework Agreement

Alberta and the MNA sign a renewed 10-year Framework Agreement, in which Alberta "recognizes the MNA's representative role on behalf of its citizens." The Framework Agreement includes commitments to deal with Métis harvesting, consultation, and other rights related issues.



### August 7, 2016: New Objective: Negotiating a Modern-Day Treaty

The MNA Annual Assembly votes to amend the MNA Bylaws to include negotiating a modern-day treaty on behalf of Métis in Alberta as one of the MNA's objectives and to adopt a new Oath of Membership.



### April 13, 2017: Canada-Métis Nation Accord

Canada and the Métis National Council and its governing members, including the MNA, sign the Canada-Métis Nation Accord.

2011

2018



### January 30, 2017: MNA-Canada MOU on Advancing Reconciliation

Canada and the MNA sign the Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation (MOU), putting the MNA on track to negotiate a modern-day treaty for Métis in Alberta.

### November 16, 2017: MNA-Canada Framework Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation

Canada and the MNA sign the Framework Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation. This marks the beginning of formal negotiations towards the recognition of Métis rights, resolution of long-standing grievances (such as those relating to the scrip system), and the establishment of modern self-government for the Métis Nation of Alberta.



### July 19, 2018: MNA-Canada Consultation Protocol Agreement

Canada and the MNA sign the Consultation Protocol Agreement. It outlines clear roles, responsibilities, and a method for consultation between the MNA and Canada.





## REGIONAL REPORTS



# REGION ONE



**Diane Scoville**

*President, Region One*



**Dan Cardinal**

*Vice President, Region One*

## President's Message

Tansi elders, leaders, and members!

I would like to acknowledge our elders who provide guidance and wisdom for us all when we need it, or not, and to the youth who are our future. I would like to send my condolences to all the families of our Métis communities who have passed this last year. Further, I would like to acknowledge that our region is on Treaty 6 and 8 territory and Métis homeland where some of our relatives came to settle and build families. I am pleased to report on the Region's annual activities.

This year has been very busy at the regional level. We have had several regional council meetings on how to move forward with industry. We have built strong relationships and continue with our ongoing dialogs with both federal and provincial governments.

## Regional Leadership

Region One encompasses the North-East part of the province, including Ft. Chipewyan, Ft. McKay, Ft. McMurray, Anzac, Conklin, Lac La Biche, Boyle, Athabasca, and the Métis settlements of Buffalo Lake and Kikino.

## Recognized Regional Council Board of Directors:

- Athabasca Local 2010 – Ron Donald
- Conklin Local 193 – Shirley Tremblay
- Fort McKay Local 63 – Ron Quintal
- Fort McMurray Local 1935 – Gail Gallupe
- Buffalo Lake Local 2002 – Joe Bylan
- Lakeland Local 1909 – Melina Scoville
- Fort Chipewyan Local 125 – Cameron McDonald
- Owl River Local 1949 – Jack Quintal
- Willow Lake Anzac Local 780 – Stella Lavallee

## Building Industry Relations

This year has been a busy one at the regional level.

We have had several regional council meetings and made decisions on how to move forward with industry with a strong focus on building government to government relationships.

We have been negotiating with Teck Resources on their Frontier project. Frontier is a proposed truck and shovel oil sands mine located between Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan in northeast Alberta. The project is advancing through a joint federal and provincial regulatory review process.

## Teck

Teck is committed to developing Frontier responsibly, incorporating best practices for environmental protection, tailings management, water use, and managing greenhouse gases.

If approved, it is estimated the Frontier project will directly employ up to 7,000 people during construction and up to 2,500 people during operation.

The region and several locals have been meeting with Teck to sign agreements that empowering both the residents and the region.



MEG Energy has started the regulatory review process for its May River project with Alberta Energy Regulator (AER). May River is located just west of MEG's Christina Lake facility and has an ultimate design capacity of 160,000 bbl/day. The facility will employ steam assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) technology to extract bitumen from the McMurray Formation.

If all approvals are received on time, construction could begin as early as 2019 with first steam anticipated around 2023. MNA Region One is negotiating with MEG on this project and will be doing a Traditional Land Use (TLU) study on members that don't belong to any Métis locals.



MNA Region One has also been talking with Devon Energy Canada on the Pike Project, which will conduct additional delineation drilling and 3D seismic acquisition work on the Kirby-Pike acreage beginning in the fourth quarter of 2010. Ultimately, Devon Energy will develop this acreage through multiple phases similar to Jackfish. Devon's SAGD projects burn natural gas to produce steam that is injected into the reservoir.

*Business starts with great relationships!*

## Scholarships & Graduations

Every year, the Region provides scholarships with the support from Devon Energy Canada. This past year we have awarded seven Métis members with scholarships to advance their education in their chosen field of study. Additionally, the Region participates in grad ceremonies from Head Start to grade twelve, annually.



## Métis Nation of Alberta Region One Sponsored Community Events 2017

### Aurora Middle School Greenhouse Fundraiser

MNA Region One donated to help the Aurora Middle School Students get their greenhouse project started. The project consists of installing a greenhouse at the school, which was appreciated by the community and students. This project will teach the students how to grow and attend the many aspects of gardening. Grades 4-7 science classes will use the facility for circular learning, as well as offer additional classes for the greenhouse. I would like to thank Dianne Ludwig, the kohkom at the Aurora Middle School in Lac La Biche for her wonderful efforts and for introducing us to Rob Wicker, the principal.

### Aurora School Field Trip Sponsorship

Region One sponsored grade 7 students at Aurora School in Lac La Biche on a field trip to Elder Walter Quinn's trap line. The students learned how to set snares for rabbits and other small animals, how to track animals, and gain insight into their behaviors. Walter talked about respecting the animals in their habitat. They also skinned and cooked rabbit over an open-pit fire that Walter taught them to make.

Later that day, Walter talked about the Métis culture and how to be proud of "WHO YOU ARE."



## Annual Barbque

For two years, Region One has hosted a BBQ after the annual Lac La Biche Pow Wow. This BBQ is organized to help get our youth and elders together to enjoy the festivities as a region. We have been successful and brought in a large number of people who enjoy music and dance.

## Alberta Day in Batoche, Saskatchewan

Last year, Region One hosted Alberta Days in Batoche, SK. We sponsored the back-up band for the Métis Child and Family Services Dances. Accommodations and travel are provided to the sponsored band. Métis dance is a huge part of our tradition and culture and we strive to keep this alive. This celebration is over 50 years old with Métis across the homelands gathering annually to celebrate and participate in many events.

## Participation in National Indigenous Peoples Day

For the third year, Region One participated in National Indigenous Peoples Day held at Métis Crossing. Métis Crossing is a diverse and unique place offering more than just camping and historical site tours. This 512-acre site near Smoky Lake is home to a Métis cultural centre and historical village with costumed interpreters who share the story of life in this Métis community during the late 1800s. Region One sponsored Métis Child and Family Services youth dancers for the Aboriginal Day entertainment.

## Elders Wood Program

Region One has been receiving wood from ALPAC. The wood is distributed to elders in need and still burning wood for heat in their homes. The Elders who receive the wood have been extremely grateful and we hope that this is something we can continue to do for our members. A special thanks to Jason Ekeberg from JMS Ltd. for kindly distributing the wood to our members.

## Métis Nation Region One Cree Language

Region One has been offering Cree classes every Monday and Wednesday evening. This program started in February of 2016 and has been a huge success.

The region has provided their board room as space and 20 plus students come in to participate in the art of learning the Cree language. Vice President Daniel Cardinal teaches this class and brings his many years of experience on both speaking and writing the language. He also tells the stories of “long ago Kayas” and brings in many elders and their teachings. This year, a BBQ was held at Beaver Lake Campground for all participants.

## Congratulations

### Esquao Awards

I would like to congratulate Rose Aastveit and Diane Ludwig, both recipients of the 2018 Esquao Awards. Métis Nation of Alberta Region One nominated Rose for the Culture category by practicing and preserving cultural practices and way of life, and Diane for the Education category for her achievements in the educational system.

The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) is a non-profit organization and the Esquao Awards recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Aboriginal women. The Awards have grown to be the single largest recognition event of Indigenous women in the country and this event shines a light on women who serve their community, and also highlights the significant contributions of Indigenous women in the development of healthy communities.

### Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards (RARA)

I would like to thank President Stella Lavallee for giving me the opportunity to present the Trappers Award at the 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards (RARA). The RARA acknowledges people the impacts they make in their communities and the precedent they set for other Indigenous people climbing to excel. Many of these people have been through struggles, pain, discrimination, alcohol and drug use, family break-ups and more; but from adversity can come great accomplishments.



Grade seven students from Aurora School at Elder Walter Quinn's trap line



*Diane Ludwig – 2018 Esquao Award recipient*



*Rose Aastveit (right) – 2018 Esquao Award recipient*

## Sixties Scoop Apology Engagement

Phil Johnson, Chief of Staff, from the Honourable Provincial Minister of Indigenous Relations, Richard Feehan's office invited me to participate in one of the engagement sessions the government held regarding victims and families of the Sixties Scoop. The Sixties Scoop refers to a period in Canada when an unknown number of Indigenous children were taken from their parents and communities, by child intervention services, and placed with mostly non-Indigenous families. I am honoured to have I attended this very important session.

Many children lost touch with their families, communities, culture and traditional language. This caused lasting negative issues with mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical health and well-being. Survivors and their families are still feeling the effects of the Sixties Scoop today. Listening to the heart-felt stories was incredible in bringing awareness to our Aboriginal communities.

I have seen the difference by sharing and having compassion to really feel for the victims and their families. It is "our right to be heard."

## Culture and Community Events

Every year we are invited to various community events. I attended Fort McMurray's Local 1935 celebration and this year, they have out done themselves. We commend the organizers of the local to make this event so memorable for all who attended. The fish fry and fried le bays were awesome. The band, Nicely Put Together, was great and there were many performers and jiggers to help entertain the crowd of 1,500 elders, guests, and youth.

The region participates and helps organize Lac La Biche's Alberta Cultural Days. We hosted a talent show, which was a huge success and invited the Métis Child and Family Dancers from St. Albert to entertain. It is always our pleasure to promote such a talented group who have a such a passion for our Métis culture.

## Thank You for Your Support

The only way we'll be able to take advantage of the great opportunities before us is to work together as one. I would like to thank the sponsors who have contributed to our AGM: TransCanada, Syncrude, Willow Springs Solution, Jason Mobile Steam, and Teck.



**Teck**

I look forward to continuing to collaborate, as a team, as we make this vision a reality and continue to accomplish goals on behalf of the region and our people.

Merci! Hi Hi! Thank you!

**Diane Scoville**

President, Region One

**Dan Cardinal**

Vice-President, Region One



## Region One Community Photos





# REGION TWO



**Karen Collins**

*President, Region Two*



**Duane Zaraska**

*Vice President, Region Two*

## Tansi and Greetings

This has been a year of many positives for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), and Region Two is very proud to be a part of the nation building! The MNA is celebrating 90 years of moving forward for the benefit of our citizens, and for this we can all hold our heads high knowing that progress is being made.

Throughout the various reports provided to the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly, you will read that all regions have been very active, all ministries have been very busy, and the MNA affiliates continue to succeed! For this we can all be proud!

Region Two council continues to have a local in Bonnyville and has worked with citizens in Cold Lake to try and get a local started there. We encourage any community wanting to start a local to be in touch with our office, we will assist however we can to start the process. Albeit, there are many citizens in the nation participating through other means. They are the folks attending the engagement sessions, the workshops, focus groups, and meetings that providing direction and feedback for the larger Métis Nation positions on any given topic. Thank you everyone for your participation and valued input.

It truly is an exciting time for the Métis Nation in Canada! As we progress in Alberta, the other Métis governments also are embarking on paths of success with various agreements, implementation of new policies, and developing programming to meet the needs of their respective citizens. All the while being very conscious of the window of opportunity for our collective movement for Métis people in this country.

The opportunity for developing what the Métis in Alberta envision as our Métis government is our chance to set the foundation for future generations. This work will determine the way we work together as MNA citizens, other levels of government, and others wishing to engage and work with the Métis Nation in Alberta. The process must be inclusive and open for all opinions. You as citizens must participate and have your input to the various components required in our constitution, governance structure, and direction. I encourage you to be a part of our collective nation building exercise. If you are unable to attend in person, then participate online, or in writing via email, as there are a number of ways for your voice to be heard. This activity is crucial for our advancing Métis rights in this province and country. Thank you to all in Region Two who have participated thus far, and I look forward to hearing from you who will engage in the upcoming activities planned for the next round of constitutional talks.

There are many individuals within our region participating on various committees (advisory and standing), boards, and focus groups. We are grateful for your



representation and expertise. These are voluntary positions, so your time and energy is appreciated as it benefits all within our region and has participation at the tables. It is of utmost importance that Métis are consulted, and we contribute to discussions on matters affecting or having impact on our lives. There are various pieces of legislation, policy, and plans of provincial and federal governments requiring a Métis perspective. To name a few, Region Two is either currently participating in, or has participated with:

- North Saskatchewan Regional Plan
- Lower Athabasca Regional Plan
- Fisheries and Oceans Act
- Canadian Environment Agency
- Navigable Waters
- Oil Sands Monitoring
- Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative

Within the Métis Nation government, our region has had input to:

- Harvesting Workshop
- Consultation policy and protocols
- Harvesting Advisory Committee
- Constitutional and Self Government
- Special Assembly addressing the Métis Judiciary Council
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Métis Nation of Alberta Business Mixer
- Youth and Seniors Symposium
- Climate Change
- National Indigenous Child Welfare Symposium

Region Two is also part of the Heart of Treaty Six Reconciliation table. This table has participation of neighboring First Nations communities, and a number of various municipal governments, community service organizations, and educational institutions from the Lloydminster area. A signing ceremony was held, whereas all participating entities signed a declaration for reconciliation and worked together to address the many issues surrounding the process.

At a regional level we continue dialogue and maintaining positive relationships with the surrounding oil and gas industry proponents. With the downturn of the economy, it has taken some time to rebound to the prior pace of activity. Nonetheless, there are ongoing development projects, and the duty to consult is an ongoing requirement for the life of the project. We look forward to the future discussions once a consultation policy is introduced by the Government of Alberta for the Métis Nation.

Our communication and participation continues with surrounding educational institutions and school boards, community agencies, Métis Settlements, municipal governments, community groups, health centre, Bonnyville Indian Métis Rehabilitation Centre, Lakeland Industry Community Association, City of Cold Lake, sports teams, and others. Through these relationships we participate at events, graduations, workshops, and do presentations on Métis culture, tradition, lifestyle, rights, government, or whatever we are requested to present on. Many thanks to Linda Boudreau who readily attends, as per the requests made to have a Métis elder give presentations to elementary schools. She now has a number of schools in the region that she presents to annually.



The following is a brief list of some of the events the region participates:

- National Indigenous Peoples Day in St. Paul
- Flag raising ceremony with Lloydminster Catholic School Board
- Cold Lake First Nations Treaty Day
- Blue Quills University Graduation
- Cold Lake Aqua Days
- Métis Crossing events
- Fishing Lake Métis Settlement Remembrance Day
- Batoche celebrations

Yes, we are members of the Bonnyville Bingo Association! The funds received from hosting a monthly bingo are expended on various needs of our citizens. As Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) governs these expenditures, they determine what we can fund and to what level. Through the “Bingo Fund”, a number of citizens families, seniors and children were supported. We want to extend our heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who give their time to work the bingo, so others can be helped. Without these dedicated folks we would not be able to keep the bingo nights going! It is appreciated.



*Andie Marchand – North American Indigenous Games, Toronto 2017*

We have just recently started, once again, attending meetings with representatives from the town of Andrew, regarding the cemetery, other issues respecting the history of the community, and the Métis that lived there. More meetings are scheduled for further discussions of the history and background of the Town of Andrew.

The Andy Collins Golf Tournament, held this year on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Centre Golf and Country Club, was once again well attended. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny, fun-filled day of golfing, lots of laughs, and a hearty meal. Student bursaries are dispersed from the funds raised, and this year we assisted three students to offset some of their costs. Thank you to those who contributed to the event, those who attended and played, and to the volunteers who made the day a success! Don't worry golfers – there is still time to register!

For more than 30 years, the Annual Family Boxing Day Talent Show has been held in Bonnyville. However, for Canada 150 we added a special feature of a Métis Fiddle Fest! The talent show was well attended by a number of awesome singers, Red River jiggers, and fiddlers. Also, we invited well-known fiddlers from the surrounding areas to showcase and strut their unique styles by fiddling a few traditional tunes! Everyone truly enjoyed the display of talent! Our thank you to Osum Oil Sands, who willingly contributes for the meal each year, and to TransCanada who graciously provided the funds for the Fiddle Fest. We have CDs of the Fiddle Fest and DVDs of the Talent Show for sale. If anyone is interested in purchasing, please contact our regional office.

As many are aware, the Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Project begins in Hardisty, which is located within the regional boundary. We have been engaging with Enbridge on this project for at least 3 years. Through this, we are represented by Kirk Poitras from Region Three at the Indigenous Monitoring Advisory Committee, which works with the National Energy Board and the Natural Resources of Canada personnel for Line 3. We were able to secure funding for preparations for participation on the project for potential work and for environmental monitoring. This committee work is ongoing during the construction of the pipeline, as well as the life of project, in some respect. Through this initiative, we held a successful business mixer where updates to the project and deliberations on contract work were provided. We were also able to begin inputting names to the database of regional businesses, contractors, tradespeople, and individuals.

The relationship that began some years ago with Major Projects Group, Sean Mooney, led to a joint venture called MPG (Major Projects Group). We were successful in securing a five-year contract with Exxon Mobile for labour brokering to Imperial, Canada-wide and Syncrude, Fort McMurray. We are entering our 3rd year, and have now advanced the initiative to a place where we will be receiving a dividend for our portion of the joint venture. There are plans in place for creating a society responsible for dispersing funds for nation building initiatives within our region. MPG has also partnered with Poundmaker Cree Nation (PCN), which is located on the Saskatchewan side of the Enbridge Line 3 project. With this partnership, we have worked with Enbridge and their prime contractors to prepare MPG for contracts on the various pieces of work. This has proven to be a very interesting process to secure a position for even receiving requests for proposals (RFP) and bids for scopes of work. We have learned immensely from this exercise and are now at a place where we have been successful in being awarded work on the Line 3 project! The partnership with PCN has also led us to do a joint application to Western Economic



Diversification (WED). This cross-border, interprovincial initiative is still underway, and we continue to work with the WED representatives to ensure the project application is a success in the next round of project application intake for WED. Our consortium of industry business partners continues to grow with an array of services and areas of expertise.

The regional leadership also has the responsibilities at the Métis National Council and Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council level, where the greater Métis Nation in Alberta benefits from the work carried out in the ministries of our Métis government. Duane is the Co-Minister of Culture and Veterans, and I am the Co-Minister of Métis Rights and Accommodation, as well as serving as the Secretary on the Executive Committee. With respect to the work done at that level, you can read the reports provided from our respective ministries.

I would like to thank our citizens and those we work with in our communities for their understanding and support through the difficult times this spring when illness, grief, and loss of loved ones had affected our office. To those in the nation that have also lost loved ones this year, I extend my sincere condolences and prayers.

We look forward to the work ahead in moving our Métis Nation forward at all levels, as this is an exciting time to be a Métis citizen in Canada!

God Bless and keep you and your families safe.

Respectfully submitted,

***Karen (KC) Collins***

President, Region Two

***Duane Zaraska***

Vice-President, Region Two



Métis Child Welfare Conference



Flag raising ceremony



Region Two Elders

# REGION THREE



**Marlene Lanz**

*President, Region Three*



**Lawrence Gervais**

*Vice President, Region Three*

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards

### Entrepreneurial Leadership Award

- Lane McKay – Steel Reef Infrastructure Corp
- Gil J Ostrom – The Truck Store, Lethbridge

### In Recognition of Your Success in the Corporate World

- Jennifer Houle – Famakinde

### In Recognition of Your Success and Contribution to the Métis Business Community

- Carl Jerome – Out West Woodworks
- Denis Briere – Métiphsical Art
- Laurie Oullette – Sunworks Inc.

### In Recognition of Your Contribution and Support to the Métis Community

- Apeetogosan Development Inc.

### In Recognition of your Support and Service to the Métis Community

- Louis Riel Institute

### Youth Achievement Award

- Brett Chernow

### Mixers

The monthly Business and Professional Mixers are going well with 30 to 60 people attending each one. They are also helpful to our starting entrepreneurs as they get to talk to the more experienced business people.

## Industry Relations – Region Three Activities

### Enbridge Line 3 project

Region Three has been chosen to represent the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) at the table for the Indigenous Advisory Monitoring Committee (IAMC), which includes First Nations and Métis from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

Funding has been provided to Region Two and Three. Region Three funding supported a mixer, office upgrades, and a new printer.

We have been working with the committee on filing reviews, monitoring, community building, and relationship building with First Nations, and other Métis elected officials from other provinces.



## TransCanada Pipeline (TCPL)

### *Sundre Crossover*

TCPL has been very active in supporting the region when possible. 2021 TCPL has asked for the region to propose a budget for a traditional land use (TLU) study.

### *Keystone*

TCPL has asked for the region to provide information with the possibility of funding.

### *Husky*

We have been working with Husky to maintain relationships and to keep up-to-date on possible projects in our area.

### *ATCO*

We have built and are maintaining our relationship with ATCO on all levels and groups: energy solutions, power, pipelines, electric, group, structures, and logistics.

### *Capital Power*

89 wind turbines are being built in southern Alberta in the Medicine Hat area. Region Three has been in contact with Capital Power and are currently talking about funding opportunities and inclusion.

### *Springbank Off-stream Reservoir*

Region Three has been involved on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) with the proponent Alberta Transportation.

### *Stantec*

Proponents consultation firm and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA).

### *City of Calgary*

#### *Bonny Brook Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade*

The City of Calgary and their consultant Stantec have engaged the region on the upgrade of the facility –

currently the region has a historical land use proposal in with the city and are waiting for approval.

### *Glenmore Reservoir Upgrades*

Preparing another request for funding via the City of Calgary.

### *City Parks*

Region Three has been approached to build a working group to help the city understand Métis interests in the city. Funding will be made available via this working group.

### *Bragg Creek Flood Mitigation Project*

Region Three is preparing a request for funding.

### *Climate Change Initiatives*

Region Three has asked for funding to install solar panels at our Tail Creek Campground, along with upgrading the existing electrical system. This project will reduce the cost to supply power to individual stalls and allow for the possibility of providing access to the grid.

### *Other*

Region Three and MNA have requested for funding on all the provinces grant programs.

A geographic information system (GIS) has been installed. The system will house our proprietary information including traditional knowledge sites without exposing our site to the public. This system will help manage or streamline our consultation process.

Region Three worked with Mosaic Communications on the contractor database. We have the program and are looking for Métis owned businesses to promote. We continue to work and keep TCPL in apprised of the data base.

Region Three supported two citizens in the new Pipeline Monitor Certificate program at SAIT. I am happy to report we now have two graduates, and may be looking for more as SAIT expands its courses.



19<sup>th</sup> Annual Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards

Region Three was involved in the Fort Macleod water intake line, but only once Métis items were found by an archaeologist. The region is still working with Culture and Tourism on the impact.

Culture and Tourism is working with the region on possible signage for historical sites like Tail Creek Campground.

### Tail Creek Campground

We are working under the climate change initiatives to do a pre-feasibility study and move forward on a solar program.

### Local 87 Calgary

We are working under the climate change initiatives to do an efficiency study and a solar program.

### Youth

#### Empowering our Youth through Mentoring and Culture

Since being handed over to the Friendship Centre, we now just have the mentoring program.

- The youth group have anywhere from 8 to 15 youth attending group mentoring meetings once a week. They have role models and resource people come to speak to them about career choices, what it takes to get into certain careers, and life skill type workshops.
- The youth made their own beaded moccasins.
- We had some of our seniors and entrepreneurs come to the youth group to share the culture and knowledge.
- Many field trips were taken in the summer months, such as the zoo and heritage park, and the youth volunteered at many events. The groups focus on culture.

### Dancers

Region Three supported the Calgary Métis Cultural Dancers who performed at open houses, Métis week flag raising, social functions, and traveled throughout the region to perform at Big Valley, Lethbridge, Rocky Mountain House, the Stampede, and other parades. The youth attended and competed in the Back to Batoche Celebration.

### Métis Week

During Métis Week we had various cities in the region celebrate the beginning with flag raisings: City of Calgary and Calgary Police Service; Lethbridge; Medicine Hat; Red Deer; and Pincher Creek. Marlene and Lawrence alternated locations to attend.



Métis Week celebrations

### Open House

There were open houses at Miywasin Center, Red Deer Local 492, Lethbridge Local 2003, Aboriginal Friendship Centre in Calgary, Métis Calgary Family Services, and Rupertsland Institute.

### Senior Dinner

Two major senior's dinners in Calgary and Medicine Hat took place. The Calgary event was at maximum capacity, and the Medicine Hat one was well received.



### Family Fun Day

There was a Family Fun Day at the Crossroads Community Center in Calgary with contests and prizes for the whole family. It was followed by a traditional Métis supper and dance that was filled to capacity.





Family Fun Day

### Hills Are Alive

The Métis Local #8, and the Miywasin Society put on the "Hills Are Alive" Culture Celebration, which is a teaching celebration where you can learn to play fiddle, guitar, bagpipes, banjo, keyboard, beading and moccasin making, hand weaving, drum making, and dance lessons. They offer youth programs, jigging, seniors events and activities, among others, and are a strong advocacy for Métis cultural retention that continues to be offered in Medicine Hat. The celebration in June was a great success.

### Hivernant Rendezvous, Big Valley continues to be a big success

We also assisted with the Hivernant Cultural Society's Métis Celebration in Big Valley on August long weekend.

The society is in negotiations with the Village of Big Valley to develop a permanent Métis Village. They now have the Red River Cart mounted on display at the Métis Village Site and the Métis flag flies proudly.

Lethbridge Local 2003 monthly pot lucks are going well and are still in partnership with Family Ties.



Hills Are Alive





*Hivernant Rendezvous, Big Valley*

## Share The Spirit Christmas Dinner

Thank you to everyone who came out and to our volunteers!

## To market Métis Region Three people, business, and culture to the general public

We continue to send out our "Who Are The Métis" brochures to all municipalities, town and city offices, friendship centers, career centers, agencies, and local businesses.

## Tourism Development

We continue to operate for the Métis Nation of Alberta at the Tail Creek Campground near Stettler and many tourists and visitors continue to return for their annual vacations. We were fortunate to receive a grant to do a business plan for Tail Creek. We are pleased to announce we were successful in receiving the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) to build a three part building with living quarters, office space, concession, and interpretive Centre. We also received Canada 150 money to put up story boards. A sample of one of the boards is on the next page, and we will have 24 of them. We also had our annual Spring Clean Up at Tail Creek.



*Share the Christmas Spirit dinner*





The Métis Interpretive Program started in 2004 at the National Historical Site in Rocky Mountain House and was handed over from the region to Local 845 in 2008. Included in the offer was teepee camping at the Riverside Campground, and there are traditional Métis tents available for groups and families. Proceeds from the campground benefit Local 845. Contact Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site for information. They also hosted a Métis Celebration "Bastion & Bones", which we assisted with and participated in.

We refer elders to speak at schools, etc. Presentations continue to be done by Marlene and Lawrence, as well as elders Faye Beazley and Doreen Bergum, and local representatives at colleges and local events throughout the region.

### Veterans and Seniors

- We have bi-weekly senior's lunches, where we have from 30 to 60 seniors come out to the regional office to enjoy a home-cooked meal, friendship, and fellowship.
- Métis veteran Bob Gray is a dedicated and strong advocate for the Métis veterans and can be seen delivering food and other essentials to the veterans.
- Bi-weekly seniors cribbage tournaments in partnership with Métis Calgary Family Services (MCFS), and they are held at the Native Network (Ephram Bouvier ) building.

Seniors picture perfect garden project went well; although, the gardens didn't grow very much the seniors learning how to use a camera and tips on how to take pictures was very well received.

Sorry no pictures.

### To transfer and preserve Métis elder knowledge and wisdom to current and future generations

- The Youth Mentoring Program utilizes elders, and other people of knowledge.
- We had the elders come to our youth group to share their knowledge and cultural teaching.
- We had taped some elders' stories, which we now have the CDs for sale in our office, for those who want them.
- We have Michif language tapes and materials for all to use in our library.
- We have sashes and other Métis resources for sale in our office.



## Yearly Activities

- We have many volunteers including elders, seniors, and business people supporting our events and activities. We appreciate everyone's dedication within the region.
- We receive and respond to numerous phone calls, especially on harvesting rights and membership issues.
- We had our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Region Three Golf Tournament June 22. As usual it was a great success.
- We had our 3rd Stampede Pancake Breakfast on July 13, 2017 it was a huge success.
- Make referrals to other agencies.
- Provide advice on programs within MNA, as well as within Region Three.

- Region Three participated in Alberta Cultural Days
- We attend functions to promote the Métis at the Calgary Stampede, such as cooking bannock in the coop kitchen. Doreen Bergum did that for us in 2017.
- Family Picnic MCFS.

The AGM was held at Albert Park Community Hall, and we had a good turnout as the hall was filled to capacity

Our annual "Joe Hourie" volunteer awards happened, in conjunction with our AGM.

**Marlene Lanz**

President, Region Three

**Lawrence Gervais**

Vice-President, Region Three



16<sup>th</sup> Annual Region Three Golf Tournament



Family picnic



Stampede pancake breakfast



## Annual General Meeting



Lawrence Gervais (left) &amp; Larry Nolan (right)



Doreen Bergum

Marlene Lanz (left), Dorothy Hourie (middle),  
& Lawrence Gervais (right)





*Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
with the Federal Government  
Signed January 30, 2017*



*Métis Nation of Alberta signed a new 10-year  
framework agreement with the Honourable Rachel Notley  
Signed February 1, 2017*



*Métis Nation Accord signed in Ottawa  
April 23, 2017*



# REGION FOUR



**Cecil Bellrose**

*President, Region Four*

## President's Message

Thank you to Region One and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) staff for hosting this year's Annual Assembly in Lac La Biche. It is my privilege to continue to represent the members of Region Four. I would like to take a moment to thank the locals and members within our region contributing to building our nation.

We have been working hard in Region Four to progress the objectives set out in our business plan. We continue to work with government, industry, and Métis individuals to build relationships, partnerships, and ventures that will be long term and beneficial to everyone. Throughout the last year we have seen progress with the government in moving towards our goals of one day being able to work with them on a government to government basis. It is imperative we continue working as a nation to address issues benefiting future generations.

It was my honour to witness the Sixties Scoop apology from Premier Rachel Notley in Edmonton. It was a day filled with emotions, but it was a step in the right direction for our people to be acknowledged for the pain and suffering they had to endure, and the challenges they had to overcome as a result of the Sixties Scoop.

If any individuals who live in our region have an interest in the issues or activities we are involved with, we welcome you to contact us. We are often looking for volunteers to help guide the direction in many of the portfolios in our province.

Just a reminder that it is election year, and I encourage all members to vote.

I look forward to seeing you all at this year's events.

Respectfully,

*Cecil Bellrose,*  
President, Region Four



**James Atkinson**

*Vice President, Region Four*

## Vice-President's Message

Welcome to Lac La Biche, and the 90th Annual Assembly hosted by Region One of the MNA. Having been swamped with meetings, we are excited to have the opportunity to highlight the business of the past year and come together as a community to celebrate our Métis culture with family and friends.

We've experienced exciting times with construction starting on the new Cultural Gathering Centre at Métis Crossing, and are thrilled with new opportunities to have our voice heard in the City of Edmonton.

Thank you to all staff and volunteers for their hard work in making sure this assembly goes off without a hitch, and thank you to everyone else for coming here this weekend to be a part of this assembly.

Respectfully,

**James Atkinson,**  
Vice-President, Region Four

## Region Four Vision (Our Inspiration)

“Together we will continue to build a strong Métis Nation”

## Region Four Mission

“On behalf of all Métis people within Region Four, our office is responsible for advancement of the rich Métis culture and ensuring the social, economic, and political well-being of all Métis people.”

## Jurisdiction

Region Four Regional Council is the representative body for all Métis residents within the geographical territory of west-central Alberta, including and west of Edmonton, north of Rocky Mountain House, south of Valleyview and east of the Alberta-British Columbia border.

## Métis Regional Council – Region Four Board of Directors

### *President*

Cecil Bellrose

### *Vice President*

James Atkinson

### *Executive Secretary*

Shirley Armstrong, A/President  
Edmonton Local #2085

### *Executive Treasurer*

Melanie Omeniho, President  
Edmonton Local #1886

### *Region Four Elder*

Gloria Laird

### *Alice Berger, President*

Drayton Valley Local #888

### *Mary Ann Stepien, President*

Parkland Local #1116

### *Tom Ghostkeeper, President*

St. Albert/Sturgeon County Local

### *Al Findlay, President*

Grande Cache Local #1994

### *Murleen Crossen, President*

Gunn Métis Local

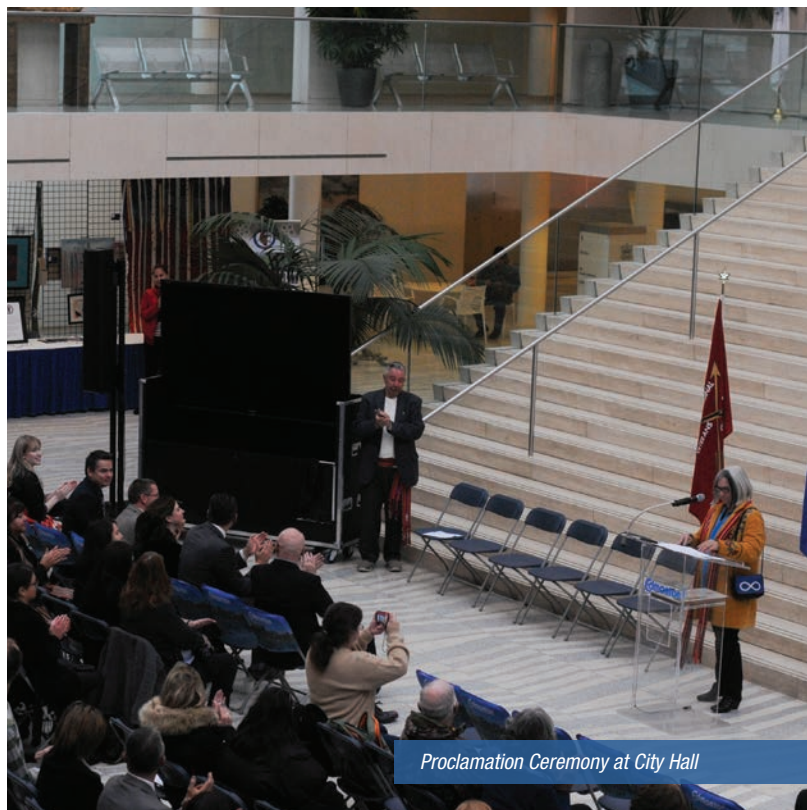
## Overview of Region Four Association

Region Four Métis Regional Council includes local presidents that sit on the regional board along with an elected president and vice president. The president and vice president of Region Four sit on the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta, along with the presidents and vice presidents of Regions One, Two, Three, Five, Six and the president and vice president of the MNA.

## Actions in Relation to our Governance Role

Continued involvement in Métis Nation of Alberta and its governing structures:

The elected president and vice president of Region Four participated in all provincial council meetings and were involved in their provincial portfolios. Throughout the 2017–18 year there have been workshops that the president and vice president have participated in, including but not limited to: self-governance, climate change, and child and family safety.



Proclamation Ceremony at City Hall

## Métis Community

Métis Regional Council works with several industrial developments to represent the interests of the Métis community throughout our region.

We hosted Métis activities throughout Métis Week in November that highlighted a proclamation ceremony at



City Hall to start the week with a beautiful performance by Miss Sarah Wolfe, who sang the National and Métis Anthems. We are proud to announce that the Métis Flag will not only fly at City Hall in Edmonton during Métis Week, but year round.

We continue to participate with the Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage each year in hosting a Métis Mass. The pilgrimage committee is looking for individuals interested in coordinating the Métis Mass each year.

The Region Four office hosted moccasin making workshops and will be hosting life skills workshops during the summer.

## Industrial Engagement

We continue to work closely with Métis Rights and Accommodation. Through activities with industry we have been involved or engaged in several meetings and discussions in an attempt to ensure Métis interests are addressed and opportunities are available in the future for our communities.

We continue to receive numerous emails and mailings from companies in relation to pipelines, gas lines, etc.

The Region Four office has been working closely with the MNA Head Office to work towards being as energy efficient as possible.

## Communication

We strive to keep members informed via email and referral to the updated Métis Nation of Alberta website at [albertametis.com](http://albertametis.com). We ask that all members of Region Four send us an email to make sure we have you on file, so that we can send out all proper documents, posters, newsletters, and announcements to make sure our communities stay informed. We encourage ideas and recommendations on new communication strategies.

## Harvesting

Through continued determination we are no longer dots on the map. The MNA hosted several harvesting seminars throughout the province to get feedback from harvesters on what we need to move forward. There are meetings with the cabinet at the end of June, and another meeting in July. There continue to be ongoing discussions about many things, including the exclusion of Southern Alberta.



Métis Veterans – Proclamation Ceremony at City Hall



Moccasin making workshop



Harvesting engagement session

# REGION FIVE



**Bev New**

*President, Region Five*



**Elmer Gullion**

*Vice President, Region Five*

## President's Message

This year has been very busy in Region Five. We have had a significant increase in membership in 2017. Emma attended to many communities to ensure our Métis people had the opportunity to apply for membership to the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

Our Rupert's Land Institute (RLI) has also been busy. Hilda has worked with Region Five members at the office and traveled with the RLI mobile office to several communities. We also have an endowment fund with Northern Lakes College for Métis students attending the college.

The focus for our office has been ensuring that the 2018 election, there are no outstanding costs. EVERYTHING is paid off, we own it, and it's in good shape. The office will last for many years without repairs or worries for the leadership of our region. We hope Region Five members will never sell our building. It took several years of good management to have it paid off, and it has been a big accomplishment led by myself, supported by Vice President Elmer Gullion, and regional council.

Region Five is involved in S-11 Logging. There are three partners to S-11 Logging, including us. We work in partnership with the communities of Peerless and Trout Lake First Nation in S-11. I worked on saving us a wood quota in developing a partnership with West Fraser who has been contracted to do the logging. Our company is doing well. We now have a contract, for the next 10 years, with West Fraser. There are opportunities for our citizens to work with West Fraser. Region Five receives some funding from this partnership, and we will continue to operate under the contract for the next 10 years.

We have helped our elders attend the MNA Annual General Meeting. Every year, we pay for 10 rooms to ensure elders can participate without personal costs to them.

We have also assisted citizens offering a hotel room or funds for gas when traveling for medical appointments. We've helped to support Métis youth in sports. We also donated to the Slave Lake Native Friendship Center to assist with the homelessness program in Slave Lake. We try to help where and when we can. I hope the next leadership of our region will continue assisting our members through this initiative, as it is a direct benefit to our members.

As President for last 19 years (1999-2018), I would like to thank the citizens for your support in working together over the past years moving our Métis Nation forward. We did it together! I would also like to say thank you to Elmer Gullion, our Region Five Vice President who has supported our joint work and efforts.



I would like to thank our staff for all their hard work as well. It takes a team to bring positive change. I'm honoured to have been part of a great team for the last 19 years. Even further back, from 1996-99 I would like to thank everyone who worked in the employment centers and the Rupertsland Institute. As manager of these two facilities, it was a great learning experience for me, and I'm honored to say thank you. From 1993-1996, I was the executive secretary/executive director for Region Five. I would like to acknowledge Paul Sinclair for his years of service to our Métis people, and also the late Peter Campiou, who dedicated many years to Region Five. I want to acknowledge our elders for the last 25 years I've been there. Herb Anderson has been our elder more than 10 years now. We never forget the late Mabel Courtrielle and the late Lloyd Norris who were wonderful, kind, and wise people. We move forward with their guidance and thank the families who are part of the fabric our great Métis community of Region Five.

Thank you.

Make every day, your Métis Way!

## Capacity and Community Investment

Some of the funds we have were utilized in administrative costs for operating and maintaining the Faust Métis Center (Faust, Alberta) to establish the local cultural facility. We repaired the roof and did other maintenance tasks at the facility. The inspection authority also had to license the facility for public use. We are also putting a new roof on the Region Five office in Slave Lake, and it will be completed soon by a Métis contractor. The main office is fully-owned and mortgage-free thanks to Region Five citizens.

We are dedicated in moving our MNA Region Five forward. We owe much of our success last year to our community elders, the great office staff, Vice President Elmer Gullion and to the many volunteers who have worked with me throughout the year.

## Culture and Heritage

The Faust Métis Center has been used for seven funerals for Métis people and others in the community at no cost to the families. Four quarterly dances with local artists have been held quarterly at the center throughout 2017. We've had two poker tournaments and several family reunions at the Faust Métis Center.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, we held a Fish Scale Art session in Slave Lake.



Workshop artists in Slave Lake

## Seniors and Elders

We have been assisting our elders with applications for the senior's benefit program, as well as tax preparation, and senior's programs. We have stew and bannock every Wednesday of the month and elders and youth come to the Slave Lake office for lunches, where many play cards and cribbage. Our elders are able to visit, share stories, and get the help they need at the office.

## Youth recreation

The executive director opened the gym 3-4 times a week for the youth of Faust to attend the Faust Métis Centre Gym Facilities to play volley ball, hockey, basketball, and many other sports. Collett Raymond volunteered her time in fundraising approximately \$2500 to purchase the equipment. Thank you Collett.



Youth playing volleyball in Faust

Each year we celebrate Métis week. We held our Annual Open House in November 2017, in partnership with Rupertsland Institute (RLI) hosting events at our office where we shared lunch, shared stories, and held a crib tournament with our elders. We had the Honorable Danielle Larivee, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake in attendance with her assistant Cathy Cox to speak with citizens. Also, Delores Pruden, the First Nations, Métis, Inuit Director from the High Prairie Public Schools came with some of her staff, as well as local high school students joined us. We had 25 visitors that day.

We also partnered with RLI on this initiative and have the Métis Training to Employment Centre with the ever-cheerful Job Coach and Hildy Lambert working in our Region Five office.

During June 2017, we hosted our first annual Métis National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration at our Métis Centre in Faust. We came together to celebrate with good food, family-friendly relay games for all ages, and outdoor adult games including a crib and horseshoe tournament with prizes for all participating teams. Throughout the day we had over 150 people in attendance. For the evening, we had a dance with a traditional fiddle, old-time rock and roll, and country music. Many had fun and were delighted to share in the day's events. It was refreshing to share stories, good fun, dance, jigging, and great times with many of our people. We also had a wonderful Valentine's Day dance in 2017.



## Métis Citizenship

During 2017 and 2018, we have been meeting with our communities with Citizenship Intake Officers from the MNA Provincial Office several times to ensure our people have updated MNA membership cards. Region Five office staff, through Emma's great efforts continue working with many people assisting them in getting their information, so they can apply and obtain their Métis card. Our own oral knowledge and local history shows that Region Five has many historic Métis families. Many of our people's ancestors worked in the fur trade, as far back as the early 1800s. Because of our hard-working efforts in partnership with the MNA, we now have an additional 360 members in Region Five who are now official members of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

## Métis Rights and Accommodation Co-Minister

I've been very happy to be working with the Ministry of Métis Rights and Accommodation team who have been working with the Government of Alberta on the development of a harvesting policy and consultation policy for the Métis. The ministry has been the lead on the MNA/Canada Reconciliation table where we are discussing how we will implement self-government, and at the current time we are consulting with our Métis provincial members on how the governance of our nation will be applied. We will soon be signing a consultation agreement with Canada and Alberta directing the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta on how we would like to be consulted. I have been very busy undertaking this important work over the past several years.

Our Ministry also works in the areas of environment and climate change where we are engaging with Alberta to develop a climate change program for Indigenous communities in Alberta. We are leading the charge for Métis specific climate change initiatives. We are also working to ensure that Métis are included in the initiatives, engagements, and consultation the government holds for Indigenous people in Alberta. We want Métis needs and concerns to be heard in the Métis National Council, the Canadian House of Parliament, and the Alberta legislature. It has been time consuming and hectic for MNA President Audrey Poitras, my Co-minister Karen Collins, and me but we know how important the work is, for the whole Métis Nation.

## Industry Work and Business

A final TransCanada/Nova Gas Grand Rapids project update will be held late summer 2018. Location is to be announced. TransCanada has done many workplans and initiatives with the Region over the past five years. All the projects were completed in 2017.



Here I am, in 2018 meeting with TransCanada representative Peter Knight and Walter Andreeff.



*Bev New (middle) with Peter Knight (left) and Walter Andreeff (right)*

We have also supported our Region Five contractors (photos right) and recognize their hard work. Here is some of our local Region Five contractors from the MNA Entrepreneur Award held during MNA annual business mixers in 2017 and 2018.

### Métis Consultation and Climate Change

Walter Andreeff, a proud Métis man, has been hired to work full time out of our Slave Lake office, as of June 1, 2018. He works for the Region Five people as the MNA point of contact on climate change and environmental-related programs. He manages the Métis consultation process with our staff in the Provincial head office to work with industry and governments. Walter has over 20 years experience working in business, with the last seven years running his own business. He was previously employed in the petroleum industry for BP Canada and Husky Oil. For many years Walter has been involved in MNA rights initiatives and is a climate change communicator. If you have any questions about environmental impacts or Métis consultation issues, please call Walter at the office or email him at [wandreeff@Métis.org](mailto:wandreeff@Métis.org).

We hope you like our report on the Region Five 2017-18 activities.

Please call me at the office if you have any questions. You can also email me at [Bevnew11@outlook.com](mailto:Bevnew11@outlook.com).

Cordially,

**Bev New**

President, Region Five

**Elmer Gullion**

Vice-President, Region Five



*Bev New (left) accepting the 2017 Community Development Award*



*Elmer Gullion, Bev New with Brice Ferguson & Gordon Ferguson (left to right)*



*Elmer Gullion & Bev New with owners of Marczyk Stake & Lath (middle)*





*Bev New (right) with MNA President Audrey Poitras (middle) & Federal Minister Carolyn Bennett Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations (left)*



*Row One: Bev New, Elmer Gullion  
Row Two: Emma-Lee New, Hilda Lambert  
Row Three: Walter Andreeff, Herb Anderson*

## The MNA Region Five Team

We also wish to thank all our wonderful volunteers who have put in countless hours of work for our community and our citizens.

**Herb Anderson**

MNA Region Five elder.

**Hunter Lacombe**

Métis youth representative.

**Geraldine Decoine**

Métis Housing representative.

**Nora Chapdelaine**

Métis Health representative.

**Pearl Sandor**

New Dawn Métis Women Society representative.

## Contact us

Métis Nation of Alberta Region Five

353 Main Street NW

Slave Lake, AB, T0G 2A0

Phone: 780-849-4654

Fax: 780-849-2890



# REGION SIX



**Sylvia Johnson**

*President, Region Six*



**Carol Ridsdale**

*Vice President, Region Six*

Region Six Métis Nation of Alberta, located in the northwest territory of the province of Alberta has been representing its membership since 1985. The steadfast growth since the beginning has seen it grow from a non-profit society to an association to the nation we are today. Nation-to-nation, government-to-government is the process today for negotiating framework agreements and partnerships with the federal and provincial governments. With the recognition of the Métis, alongside with First Nations and Inuit has determined our future as one of the Indigenous groups in Canada. This acknowledgment has increased our position with industry as a recognized key player representing a nation of people. This work positions us in key areas of employment, ability to train our citizens, and obtain opportunities to work with our partners in the oil and gas industry.

Increasing Region Six's capacity is an ongoing, daily commitment. The dream of fair and equal treatment is now a reality we are beginning to experience. Face-to-face meetings with The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau and his cabinet members to negotiate our position as an Indigenous group is also a dream come true.



*Region Six office staff*

Region Six has always led the way with innovative ideas and programs, and a willingness to move forward. This year, we are happy to announce that we have increased our capacity by being the first to hire a Regional Consultation Co-ordinator; Garrett Tomlinson. This progress gives us the ability to look for new opportunities and work more closely with our established agreement holders within industry. The regional consultation process is driven by the framework agreement with the federal and provincial governments. The Regional Consultation Committee is our Region Six council.



Consultation is administered by the regional consultation co-ordinator working together with the president. We are waiting for our protocol agreements to increase our industry engagements. Currently, we are only engaging with a few industry companies.

Notable projects for 2018 are with TransCanada Pipeline on the B.C. border, and the west-side border of Region Six are with Elmworth, Wapiti Crossing, Northstar, National Energy Board and general consultation.



Through our Métis Nation portfolios such as Health, Education, Economic Development, Climate Change, and Housing we are moving closer to that goal. The citizens already have the opportunity to engage in cultural programs for youth, elders, and families. We have increased citizenship, which we are proud of, as we know each citizen has proven the right to hold a card and passes that on to other family members. The region wants to bring more capacity to the community level, and we have done that through our partnerships with TransCanada, Bison Contracting, and DMI. Our locals, youth, elders, children, and members have all benefited.

Our students have received bursaries from both our office and Rupertsland Institute.

In 2017, \$10,000 was awarded from our office. The Marina Brothers Bursary Fund and Nesokmahtan Bursary have been given out every year since 1999.

We have four locals in our region that received ongoing dividends and support from our regional office. Grande Prairie Local office also receives money to assist with taking citizenships. This is the Region Six membership funding from the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) that we share.

Presently, there are two requests to assist with elder housing in Fort Vermilion and Grande Prairie. Region Six Métis Nation is proud to have the ability to grant funding

from our own dividends and industry relation agreements. Presently, there are federal and provincial funding grants for senior Indigenous housing also.

We would like to congratulate Region Six youth representative, Dusty Gauthier, and his partner Savannah, on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Hazel, born on Mother's Day.

As we acknowledge our youth, we are proud to support them going to college through sports and high achievements. Through our health programs, we are able to ensure youth have a healthy future and cultural opportunities throughout the region. Métis students are identified and recognized through teachings and activities helping them learn their culture and heritage.

The Métis are gaining worldwide recognition as a People, as I was asked to attend two world health conferences as Minister of Health for the MNA. The Stockholm, Sweden Conference was last October, and the Edinburgh, Scotland Conference was held in May. Never before, have the Métis been included and asked to contribute to worldwide health events. We have made significant advances in health and our voice is finally heard.

Another place our voice is being heard is in the nation's capital. Health benefits, education, housing assistance, as well as harvesting are now federal considerations and have Métis specific funding attached to them.

Every year, Region Six has honored their members at the MNA business mixer. This year's recipient of the "Métis Business Man of the Year" award was Walter Andreeff. At the MNA assembly in Peace River we honored Bill Downing and his work as manager at DMI. Melva Cardinal received one of the Seven Sacred Sacraments on National Indigenous Peoples Day in Grande Prairie.





## Our Great Kids

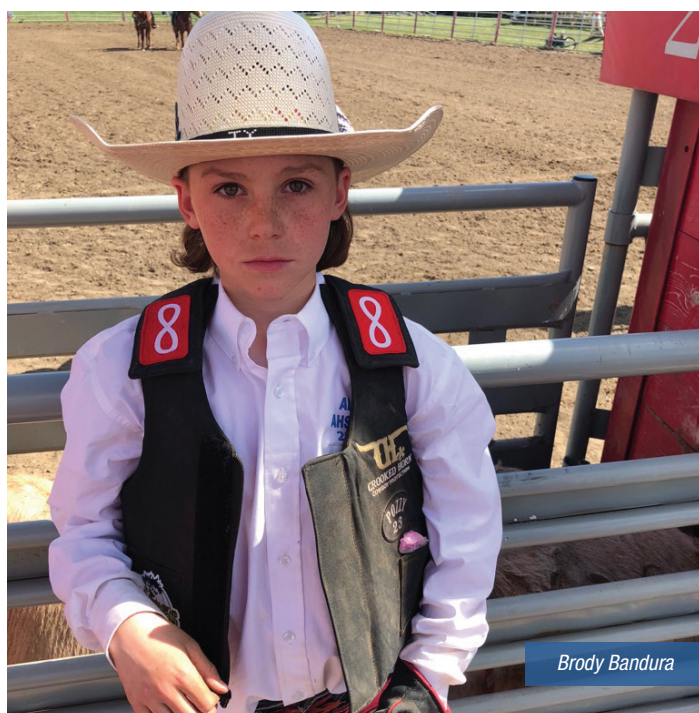
We have also assisted “Our Great Kids” of Region Six by helping them achieve their goals through scholarships, travel, accommodations, and more. These are hockey stars playing in the Native provincials. Brody Bandura, Jr., bucking bronc rider from Peace River placed first, as well as third overall in the province, at the junior rodeo finals. He is competing nationally at the end of July. We are proud of this Métis young man, as also he is an excellent hockey player.

Boston Lafferty from Berwyn Alberta, proudly wears his Métis sash as he receives his diploma. Boston was valedictorian for Grimshaw Public School. He is working this summer for Sagitawa Friendship Centre, and then

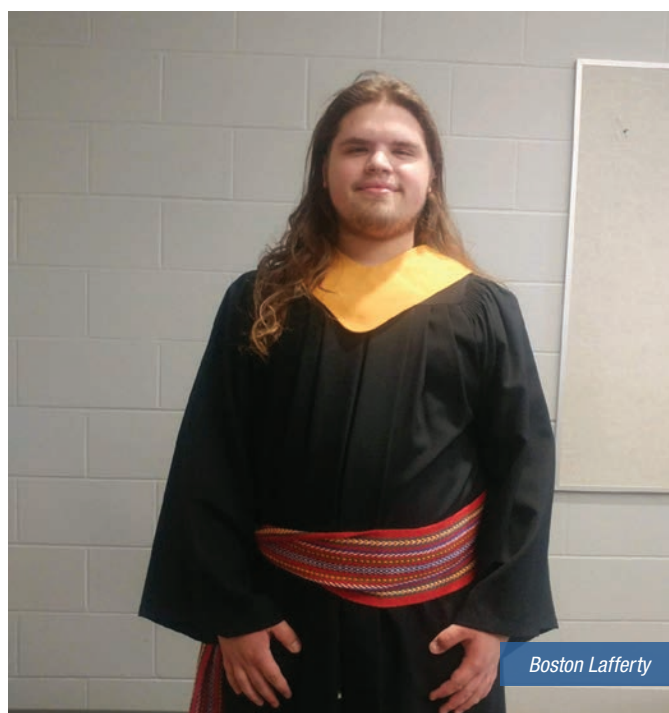
in fall he is heading to the University of Victoria where he will be taking Humanities and History with a minor in Indigenous Studies. His goal is to be a social studies teacher. We are very proud of Boston.

Taya Lamabe went to tryout in Winnipeg to compete in a North American Hockey Classic. Region Six Métis Nation was proud to assist this strong young woman pursuing her dreams. What a great experience for this Métis.

Brittany Gillespie began her unique journey with a company called Living Different. She tours Indigenous schools throughout Canada and speaks to the junior high and high school students. They talk about mental health and how to live in a positive way. She was stationed out of Toronto and will be starting her second year this August.



Brody Bandura



Boston Lafferty



Taya Lamabe



Brittany Gillespie



This has been a banner year of success for Region Six Métis Nation, especially since we have been included in the federal and provincial constitution and rights, the region has taken advantage of every possible opportunity presented. In other words, nation building. A significant meeting was recently held in Fairview, Alberta with the Honourable Richard Feehan, Minister of Indigenous Relations. Here we learned that the harvesting for Métis is moving forward, and we will be able to harvest throughout Region Six. The good news is the 160-km radius is no longer going to be in effect, and we will not have to harvest where our family comes from.

Another significant benefit for Region Six members is that through the MNA's Health department you are now able to receive funding for travel and rooms in Edmonton for medical appointments.

In closing, Region Six Métis Nation has worked hard to achieve its milestones. There is still a lot of work to continue leading our people into the next round of talks concerning the rights of Métis people.

We want to continue hosting town hall meetings throughout the region to make sure our members are updated on Métis constitution, Region Six operations, consultation, climate change, harvesting, health, membership and more. We still take the time to talk and listen to our members through our open door policy at the office. No officials or staff is ever too busy to see you, greet you, and visit with you.

We also would like to take this opportunity to thank the MNA for their support, the people who come in and visit, the new citizens who now have a Métis card, especially our elders, and of course, our youth and children. Together we are moving forward, gaining momentum, and are a force to be reckoned with in the spirit of reconciliation.

**Sylvia Johnson**  
President, Region Six

**Carol Ridsdale**  
Vice-President, Region Six





## Region Six Community Photos





## AFFILIATE REPORTS



# APEETOOGOSAN (MÉTIS) DEVELOPMENT INC.



## History

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. (AMDI) was created in 1984 under a Federal Government contribution agreement with Native Economic Development Program, an initiative promoted by Industry, Science and Technology. The total committed funds for the creation of AMDI was \$8.8 million.

In 1988, AMDI commenced operations by providing commercial financial services and business management advisory services to Métis Entrepreneurs throughout Alberta. Under the original Federal Government Contribution Agreement, \$800,000 was expensed on the initial start-up costs while the capital pool of \$8 million was disbursed in stages.

Since 1988, AMDI has lent over \$70 million and helped in the creation of over 1,100 Métis owned businesses throughout the Province of Alberta, while maintaining our capital base of \$8 million. Our success is largely due to our clients who have successfully capitalized on their opportunities. We know we have succeeded when many of our clients transfer their loans to banks or credit unions only to regret later that they should have remained with us. The purpose of AMDI is to help Métis

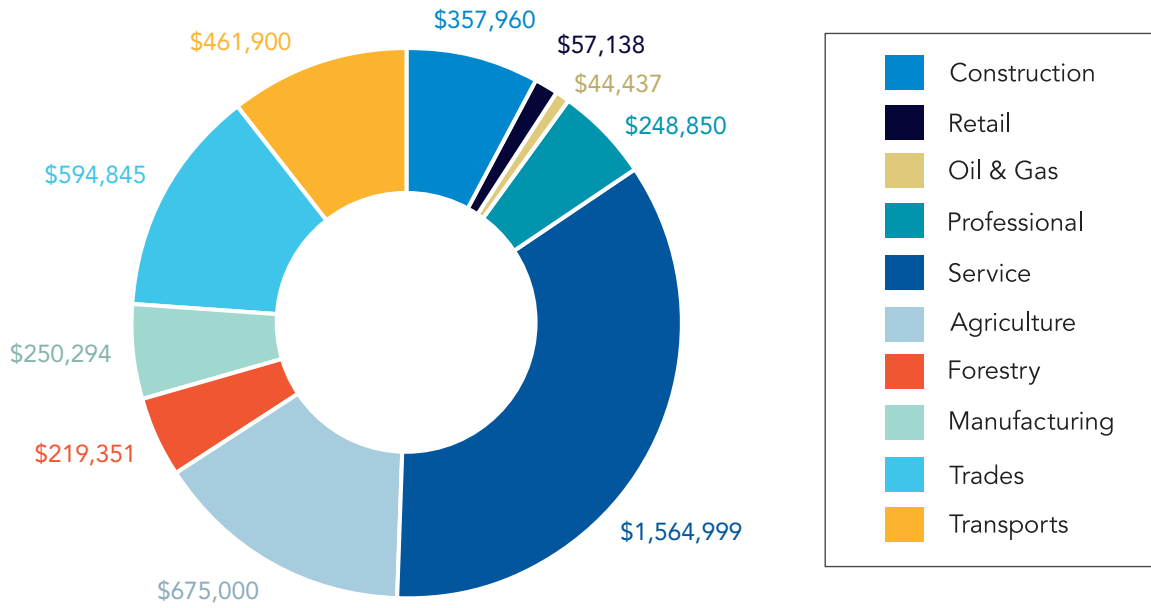
Entrepreneurs start or expand their business ideas and it is our hope that our clients, past and present, pass on their experience with us to other Métis entrepreneurs who may be considering first steps to becoming owners of their own business.

## Report on Operations

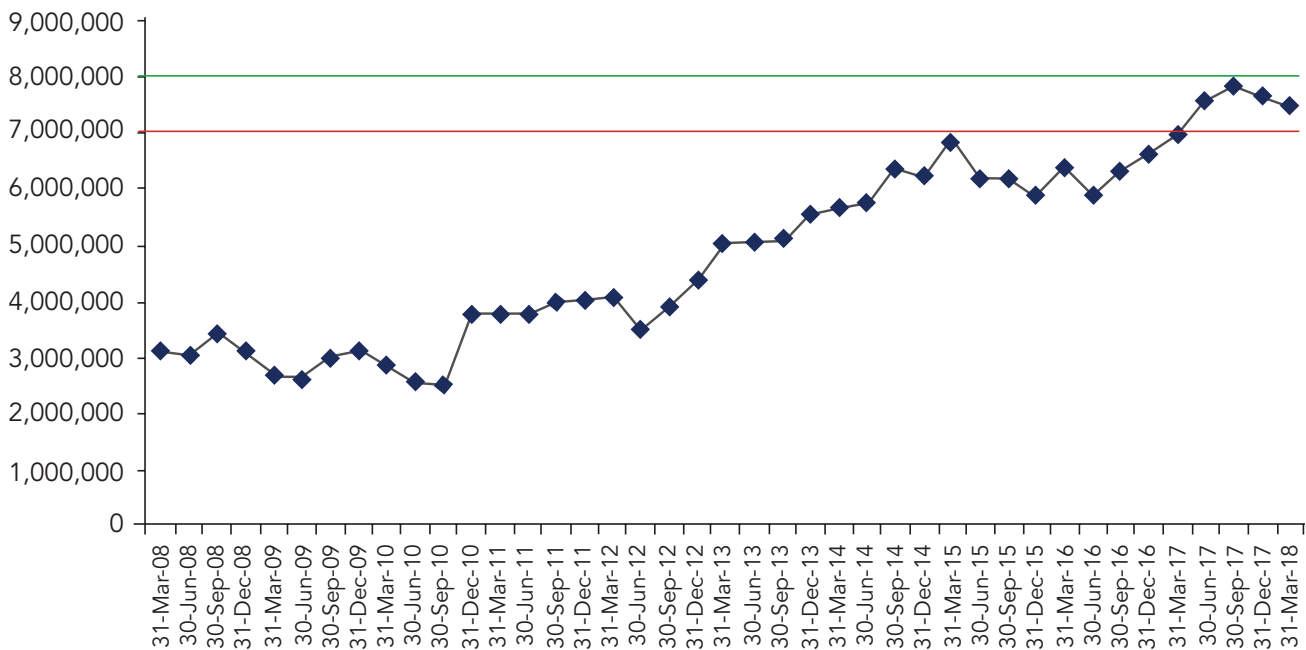
During the period April 2017 to March 2018, AMDI approved \$4.5 million in funding assistance to new and existing business drawing even to last year's record performance. Growth in loan demand continued unabated from what we experienced in 2016 -17. The economic activity is not focused in any one particular industry – it is from all sectors of the economy, a reflection of a healthier economy recovering to a massive commodity price correction in late 2014 -15. During that commodity price correction, the rural communities of Regions One, Two, Five, Six, and Calgary (Region Three) were hit the hardest. Notably, Region Three has seen the most activity in terms of recovery. As usual, most of the new loan applicants this year took advantage of the Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (MEAP) as the contribution serves to substantially reduce debt servicing costs associated with acquiring assets required for the business's operations. Loans to businesses included, but were not limited to construction, retail, agriculture, professional and service based businesses, as well as some tourism, and transports. There has been some uptick in oil and gas based initiatives, but in general, this industry remains soft relative to other investments with Métis entrepreneurs.

Service-based businesses and agriculture projects, for example, combine to represent 50% of this year's loan growth and we expect this trend to continue. The Trades sector also remains a strong component of what we do and represents a low-risk profile to our portfolio, as well as compliments a longstanding training initiative of the Rupertsland Institute.

## Total New Loans Year to Date by Industry



## Gross Loan Portfolio





As we continue to diversify away from the volatility inherent in the oil and gas space, we are entertaining unique, interesting, and very sophisticated projects. Métis entrepreneurship in Alberta is very much alive and well, we are excited to contribute to these endeavors. This shows in our loan portfolio, having grown from \$6.9 million in 2016 -17, to \$7.5 million in 2017 - 18. Durable opportunities continue to flow into our office. Our current work-in-progress as of April 1, 2018 was \$4.5 million and 40 clients— up 28% from April 1, 2017 measure of \$3.5 million.

## Other Investments

### Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (MEAP) Renewal

For over 25 years, Apeetogosan has provided external delivery services to Aboriginal Business, Canada's business development program. As part of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC) new Aboriginal Economic Development Framework, one initiative is to increase the delivery capacity of its external partners. As a consequence of this relationship, AMDI continues to serve as Program Delivery Partner to INAC's small business development program. For the 2017-18 fiscal year, AMDI will be responsible for direct delivery of \$2 million in equity, the result of a one-year renewal of INAC's equity program. Now called the Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (MEAP), AMDI provides a single window of access to equity and commercial finance capital to all Alberta Métis entrepreneurs. This program ensures better service to our clients and solidifies expectations on timing and capital availability. During the 2017 - 18 fiscal, AMDI helped Métis clients access \$1.5 million, duplicating last year's record year for grant distributions assisting well over 30 clients, and forging new relationships.

This year is no different as the demand for the program is outstripping available funds; however, we are working diligently to rectify this problem with INAC and NACCA, calling for a redistribution to reflect the demand we are experiencing from the Métis in Alberta. Accordingly, the door remains open to all Indigenous entrepreneurs in Alberta. We will find the funds.

### Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.

Pinnacle staff provides applicants an opportunity to access government programs available through INAC and NACCA, as well as loan financing from AMDI by assisting the client in developing their business opportunity into a plan of action. The primary role of the Pinnacle Business consultant is to assist clients in assessing their opportunities, including identifying areas of weakness and exposure to risk, and what may be required of clients to mitigate such risk. To this end, Pinnacle Business Services

assists clients in evaluating whether their business opportunities have a reasonable chance of becoming successful small business ventures.

The follow-up work to assessing an opportunity is developing a plan of execution demonstrating the opportunity and its implementation. Pinnacle assists clients in formalizing their plans by helping the client develop a well-prepared business plan. The business plan becomes the presentation document to financiers illustrating the integrity of the client's proposal and includes an assessment on commercial viability, capital cost, financing requirements, and the client's ability to competitively deliver the product or service.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. assisted in the development of 33 business plans for clients of which 30 attracted commercial financing from AMDI while 3 leveraged commercial financing from another financial institution. The direct involvement of Pinnacle helped support a total of \$4.5 million in new term loans to AMDI for the year.

Aftercare is another services Pinnacle provides, ensuring clients have the appropriate accounting and bookkeeping systems in place, adequate training, and appropriate internal controls. During the year under review, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. provided after-care services to 50 clients. Our consulting arm's commitment to aftercare in the projects we contribute to is integral to the success of both our clients and our own organization.

### Alberta Métis Entrepreneurship Workshops & AMDI's Partnership with Rupertsland

Spearheaded by the Rupertsland Institute in partnership with Ballard Consulting Group, Settlement Investment Corporation, and Apeetogosan, we delivered 10 two-day entrepreneurship workshops during 2017-18, and with thanks to Rupertsland we will be providing an additional 10 throughout 2018-19. During the 2016-17 fiscal year, Rupertsland experienced a substantive increase in demand for counseling services related to entrepreneurship and self-employment, where AMDI received many referrals through the Rupertsland office. Recognizing that, they had the foresight to approach AMDI to take on a more active role in supporting their initiative to offer counseling and business support services to clients seeking assistance with establishing or expanding their business endeavors.

As it happens, there was no better time for two affiliates of the Métis Nation of Alberta to coordinate resources that has enhanced both the training and services each affiliate offers. We have always been passionate about the entrepreneurship course. We designed the workshop around the idea of demystifying entrepreneurship through

a highly interactive approach, while focusing on the fundamental attributes of entrepreneurship such as defining what an opportunity constitutes, demonstrating commercial viability through the market's willingness to pay, and recognizing that accommodating incentives are key factors to successful entrepreneurs. We also provide attendees with a break-even tool they can readily use to evaluate any opportunity they might consider – a skill they can understand, use, and forever have with them – beyond the workshop classroom. As the workshop focuses on education and training, Rupertsland saw this as an excellent opportunity to team up with AMDI, learn a little more about what AMDI does, and in turn, we learned a little more about Rupertsland. What a great partnership this has turned out to be.

In addition, as AMDI exhausted its MEAP commitments early this year due to the rapid and huge surge in demand, Rupertsland has again stepped up to help fill the gap by augmenting the MEAP program, and for that AMDI is incredibly grateful. It has helped maintain client service, while ensuring the gaining momentum in AMDI's loan growth continues. We have established new reporting measures for Rupertsland to help their organization understand where the needs of Métis entrepreneurs are most prevalent, and also help Rupertsland coordinate their resources in an effort to provide better service to what is clearly becoming a dominate force in Métis economic activity. We thank both staff and management of the Rupertsland team for their commitment and enthusiasm in supporting Métis entrepreneurship, as the Métis in Alberta are increasingly looking to self-ownership as an economically viable and realistic alternative to employment.

Like the year previous, participants are put through a rigorous investigation of their own potential projects they may be considering – and they love it. At the same time, they learn more about the training and education available through the Rupertsland Institute, as well as the financial services available at Apeetogosan. Course reviews and comments state the workshop is “engaging”, “useful”, “inspiring”, “unintimidating”, and “really helped to equip me with tools that I could easily use and understand.” We have been conducting these workshops for a few years now and we believe they are the best workshops on entrepreneurship being offered.

## Closing Remarks

Overall, it was a great year for AMDI with loan growth increasing our portfolio to \$7.5 million. AMDI continues to demonstrate its own durability, bouncing back from a difficult year in 2015-16. On a consolidated operating basis, AMDI achieved another milestone on net operating income during the 2017-18 fiscal year, recovering

confidently from a \$250 thousand loss two years prior. We remain in the top five of overall performance across all Indigenous financial institutions across Canada. Most importantly, we continue to remain relevant to the Métis community.

As a result of the 2015-16 recession, our role continues to evolve as our clients make the transition to a new and challenging economic environment, and it is equally challenging to our business model. We have increased flexibility in financing terms offered to Métis entrepreneurs, enhanced repayment options, and have increasingly been asked for a more active role in providing advice and counseling to both prospective and existing Métis entrepreneurs. It is a demonstration of our commitment to positioning AMDI as the preferred lender among increasingly repeat Métis business. Of course, the economy will be what it will be, and we will remain a reliable source of financial and business support to all Métis.

In the meantime, we continue to take advantage of and contribute to the development of new program initiatives with the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association (NACCA) and the Federal government, while fostering new relationships with Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs). These initiatives will serve to enhance and compliment AMDI's long-term growth strategy providing further sustainable and durable support to Métis entrepreneurs seeking to capitalize their commercial endeavors in Alberta.

We have streamlined the application process and revamped our web page to make it more interactive, more user-friendly, and hopefully, more efficient. It is a work-in-progress as we develop our own in-house, on-line solutions. We encourage you to take a moment and have a look to see a more modern and hopefully, useful on-line presence.

The staff of AMDI continues to work well together and have established a very efficient office driven by a commitment to client service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work this past year - challenging in many respects – and to thank the board of directors for their commitment and numerous contributions in ensuring AMDI continues to play an integral role in the growth of the Métis Nation of Alberta.





# MÉTIS CROSSING



Métis Crossing is open to the public from May long weekend to Labor Day long weekend. Visitors can visit the site, explore original river lots, and some of the buildings early Métis families called home. The site is designed to be interactive in telling the story of the Alberta Métis. Métis Crossing hosted numerous events over the 2017-18 season. Educational tours, weddings, music festivals, National Aboriginal Day, Rendezvous, and Voyageur Days all made for a busy and fun-filled season. Over 11,800 visitors came to Métis Crossing during the 2017 season.

## Métis Crossing Special Events

### National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration

This celebration is produced in partnership with Heritage Canada, the County of Smoky Lake, and the Métis Nation of Alberta and attracted over 350 people to Métis Crossing. Highlights of the event included a music jam and concert led by Nicely Put Together Band and Métis Child and Family Jiggers, fish fry, bouncy castle, genealogical display, and cultural tours. This all-ages, family-friendly event continues to grow, as it becomes better known as a mainstay annual event.

### Voyageur Days

This annual event celebrates the beginning of Métis Crossing and the life of the Voyageurs. The event attracted 300 people to Métis Crossing over three days. It had not happened for a few years but on August 25, 2017 Métis Crossing re-launched the event. Activities included a music jam, dance, jigging contest, horseshoe tournament, and Voyageur games. Métis Crossing plans to continue hosting Voyageur Days to re-establish it as an annual event.

### Victoria Trail Voyageur Experience (VTVE)

This experience was piloted during Voyageur Days 2017. A partnership between Métis Crossing, Haskin Canoe, and Victoria Settlement, VTVE is creating an authentic and immersive program where participants gain insight into Métis culture, the roles they played in Canadian society, and who they are today. For the 2018 season, the VTVE is being offered 13 times and aims to become a flagship Indigenous tourism product available to the international market.

### School Tours

Métis Crossing continually offers curriculum based educational tours to schools. Between 2017 and 2018, hundreds of students attended Métis Crossing gaining a deeper understanding of the Métis People, their history, and their culture. Developing educational programming is an ongoing endeavor and we look forward to further developing this aspect of our operation.

### Meet the Métis Gathering for Educators

In partnership with the Learning Network Educational Services, the third annual gathering brought together teachers from across Alberta. Designed as a retreat experience, the gathering provides educators with an extended relational space for personal and professional learning, sharing, and reflecting.



## Employment

### Summer Students

Métis Crossing continues to create employment and mentorship opportunities for Métis youth by taking advantage of Rupertsland Institute and Government of Canada youth employment programs. For the 2017 summer season, Métis Crossing hired two students and for the current 2018 season we have employed six students.

## Accommodation

### Comfort Camping

In July 2017, a comfort camping prototype was constructed. The concept has been well received and with support from the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada and the Métis Nation of Alberta Culture Youth Camp, a total of 10 comfort camping offerings have been constructed. These accommodation offerings provide an authentic Métis experience and helps increase revenues.

## Métis Crossing Venue Rentals

### Canada 150

July 1, 2017 marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada. Métis Crossing hosted the Fort Edmonton Voyageur Canoe Brigade and the Canada 150 Voyageur Rendezvous, a 1600 kilometer canoe race from Rocky Mountain House, AB to The Pas, MB. Hosting these events highlights the importance of our unique location on the North Saskatchewan River and demonstrates the potential for us to participate in larger initiatives involving canoeing and the North Saskatchewan waterway.

### Music Festivals

The infrastructure and setting of Métis Crossing makes it the ideal location to host a music festival. The 2017 season saw four festivals; each driving revenues and attendance allowing the site to attain self-sufficiency. Some Festivals of note are Fozzy Fest (4500 attendees) Odyssey Gathering (1200 attendees), and Reign Bough Fiddle (1800 attendees)

### Family Reunions and Weddings

Two prominent Métis Families with ties to the Victoria District National Historic Site held their family reunions at Métis Crossing. A Métis wedding was also hosted providing a beautiful backdrop for the young family's special day.

## Community involvement

In efforts to build stronger ties to the community around Métis Crossing, members of the management team joined different boards sharing a common goal of developing and sharing historic, heritage, and cultural assets.

The boards joined:

- Director, Smoky Lake County Heritage Board
- Associate Officer, Victoria Home Guard
- Participated in the Smoky Lake Canada Day Celebration

## Tourism Industry participation

- Growing Rural Tourism Conference
- Alberta Tourism Information Service (ATIS) training
- Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) Conference
- Collective Marketing Agreement with Victoria Settlement and Travel Alberta

In conclusion, we look forward to continuing to expand the operational capacity of the site as phase II development begins to unfold. Finding synchronicities within the MNA and other organizations is key to achieving the goals set out in our mandate. Developing a broad range of programs appealing to the educational, tourist, and corporate markets is key in sharing the Métis story with visitors. Acting as a venue to host functions will help achieve self-sustainability. By continuing to be a place for Métis to gather and celebrate heritage exemplifies the values that define Métis Crossing.



## Métis Crossing Phase II Cultural Gathering Centre Development Report

First a little background, Métis Crossing has been a dream of Alberta's Métis for decades as a place to celebrate the Métis culture and people. As a major initiative of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Crossing will be the premiere centre for Alberta Métis cultural interpretation, education, gatherings, and business development.

We have four main objectives:

- To share the Métis story with all people;
- To be a gathering place;
- To achieve financial self-sustainability; and
- To minimize capital debt.

Situated within the Victoria District National Historic Site, this location has significance to Canada, to the Province of Alberta, and to the growth of Alberta's Métis Nation. The setting is ideal for us all to take steps towards reconciliation. It is a place where people can safely ask questions, and develop better understandings of the Métis people.

In 2005, Métis Crossing celebrated a Centennial Opening for which we restored two Métis homesteads, built a heritage village, an outdoor stage and a small campground. We have been offering programs and festivals at our site from May – September since. In May 2018, we began our 13th year of seasonal operation. The Phase One developments were a \$3.2 million investment from the following:

- \$1 million Centennial Legacies Grant (Government of Alberta)
- \$1.2 million corporate contributions
- \$1 million Métis contributions from individuals, businesses, in-kind donations, and the Belcourt Brosseau Foundation

In 2016, the Métis Nation of Alberta embarked upon planning for Phase Two with the signing of a \$3,500,000 Building Canada Fund contribution agreement with the Federal Government, and another \$1,000,000 grant from the Province of Alberta! We need to repeat the success of the Phase One fund development program to raise another \$5,500,000. Fund development is underway and we are actively building relationships with many potential corporate partners. We also invite Métis citizens and friends to participate in our "Buy a Board" program for our Infinity Boardwalk to help build Métis Crossing.

In September 2017, a Métis Crossing Development Manager was hired, and shortly after, the Métis Crossing Advisory Committee (MCAC) was appointed. The MCAC members include Provincial President Audrey

Poitras, Region 2 President Karen Collins, Culture Co-ministers Dan Cardinal and Duane Zaraska, along with Art Cunningham and Andy Popko. Manasc Isaac Architects have been retained to continue their work from Phase 1 and design the new Cultural Gathering Centre. Together this team has been working to design the new facility.

The MCAC and the Development Manager have outlined a number of project objectives:

- Construction process will provide opportunities for Métis citizens and contractors;
- Contract bid process will be fair, competitive, transparent and consistent with value for money principles;
- Facility will be designed to maximize operational and energy efficiencies;
- Facility will instill a strong sense of Métis presence and pride; and
- Facility will provide year-round opportunities.

The Métis Crossing's Cultural Gathering Centre design was launched publically at the MNA Business Mixer in Edmonton in March 2018. We received some very insightful feedback, which has since been integrated into further design. At the same time, we started the call for interest from Métis individuals, general contractors, sub-contractors, and suppliers who want to participate in the construction of the new facility. To date, we have gathered the names of over 40 Métis individuals, businesses, and organizations – this list has since been shared with the General Contractors (GC) invited to bid on the construction. Three of the seven General Contractors invited to bid were majority Métis owned businesses. At the time of writing this report, the GC contract had not been awarded, but each bid will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Company experience;
- Team experience;
- Métis involvement; and
- Price.

The Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre will be a 10,000 square foot facility with a large gathering hall, travelling exhibit spaces, a classroom, a meeting room, and an open kitchen. The south side of the building has a large deck with direct access to our trail system and the North Saskatchewan River to facilitate outdoor programs such as canoeing, snowshoeing and trapping. Details both inside and outside the facility highlight Métis arts and craftsmanship including dovetail joinery, beading patterns and of course, the infinity symbol.





Interior view of Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre



Front view of Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre



Back view of Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre

While this facility will be beautiful on its own; it will be absolutely breathtaking when it is filled with people. Concurrently with our building project, we are actively working with the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, Travel Alberta, Indigenous Tourism Alberta, Alberta Culture and Tourism, along with the Smoky Lake Region, and many small business operators. Our goals are to facilitate the growth of Métis Crossing as a major tourism destination, and to stimulate tourism growth in northeast Alberta.

With this addition, Métis Crossing will become a year round operation with the capacity to offer educational

programs and more outdoor activities. Our goal is to make Métis Crossing the destination of choice for all regional schools. Educational programs are being developed with direct links to the enhanced Alberta curriculum with renewed focus on reconciliation.

Métis Crossing is growing quickly. Construction will begin as our operational season ends. The new facility is scheduled for completion August 2019. We invite you to watch the MNA website ([www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com)) and the Métis Crossing website ([www.metiscrossing.org](http://www.metiscrossing.org)) for regular updates on development progress.





# MÉTIS NATION HOLDINGS

In 1997, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) took an inactive but current company, called Métis Nation Productions, and renamed it Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. The MNA holds 100% of the shares. This entity holds title to the MNA Provincial Office property on Kingsway Avenue and 50% of the Inglewood Centre property on 111 Ave in Edmonton. The Inglewood property is held in partnership with Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. The holding company allows for arms-length lease transactions and limited liability. The Board of Directors for the Métis Nation Holdings is the same as the MNA Executive.

## **MNA Provincial Office, Delia Gray Building** **11738 Kingsway Avenue**

In January 1997, the building that the Métis Nation leased on St. Albert Trail was sold. Shortly after taking possession, the new owner proposed doubling the rent, which drew grave concern from the MNA.

In response, the MNA Provincial Council issued direction to explore the purchase of our own building. It was reasoned that purchasing our own building would create program stability and potential for gain, and would meet the office needs of the MNA. The parameters of the purchase were that ownership should cost no more than the proposed lease and no MNA program funds could be used in the purchase.

After several months of research, a deal was concluded on the purchase of the building on Kingsway Avenue, now occupied by the Provincial Office. The MNA acquired the building by assuming the existing mortgage without having to make a down payment. The MNA now holds clear title to the Delia Gray Building after paying off the mortgage in September of 2004. Renovations undertaken in February and March of 2005 have increased the amount of office space usable for program delivery and

created more hospitable and welcoming space for our members and guests. Modest renovations continued during 2006-2007 designed to provide more efficient file storage and additional office space. During 2007-2008 building modifications were begun with a view to energy efficiency. 2008-09 saw the completion of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning repair & replacement as well as the beginning of the final phase of office modifications designed to maximize the available office space within the building. During 2010-2011 renovations were completed. The 2011-2012 fiscal year saw modest upgrades to the building exterior as well as the ongoing operation and maintenance. 2012-2013 continued with the exterior upgrades program, paint and finish within the interior, some modifications to the air conditioning for the Server room as well as ongoing operation and maintenance. Similar to the preceding year, 2015-2016 saw exterior and interior upgrades as well as ongoing operation and maintenance. 2016-17 has seen significant renovations to both floors of the Delia Gray building. An open area concept has been implemented to improve both the aesthetics and functionality of the building space as well as accommodate a significant growth in program staffing. In 2017-18 the open area concept was further developed to accommodate additional growth and increased program responsibility. Common areas and washrooms were renovated to handle increased staffing.

## **Larry Desmeules Building** **11922 – 121 A Street**

On May 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings completed the purchase of the building occupied by Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC). This purchase was prompted by the proposed sale of the building by the previous owners. Due to the foresight of the MUHC Board, the MNA was provided the right of first refusal. The building was financed through the assumption of a



mortgage and a loan to Métis Nation Holdings from the Royal Bank. Once again, no MNA program funding was used in the purchase. Lease payments cover all costs associated with the building; a requirement of the MNA Board. The building has a clear title as of May of 2009. Future plans called for additional renovations to help with increased growth of MUHC and MCHC. During 2008-09, conceptual drawings for the addition of an administrative wing were developed and a development permit was obtained. During the fall of 2010-11 zoning issues were negotiated, a building permit was granted and construction began in October of 2010 on a 10,000 sq. ft. addition. The addition was completed in April 2012. The 2012-2013 year saw the interior of the old warehouse and the majority of the old office space demolished.



Larry Desmeules building

An upgraded, insulated warehouse with a sprinkler system is now in place. The remainder of the old office space has been converted to file storage. The roofing on the warehouse was also replaced. Landscaping and final building inspections were completed and passed. During 2013 – 2014, the sale of the Larry Desmeules building to Métis Capital Housing Corporation was completed. This action was consistent with the MNA mandate of assisting affiliates wherever possible to achieve stability in program delivery.

### **Métis Veterans Building** 12304 – 111 Avenue

On November 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings completed the purchase of the Inglewood Centre.

Tenants in the building include: Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc., Pinnacle Business Services, Edmonton Métis Employment Services Centre, Alberta Family and Social Services, City Police, Mother Earth Essentials the Métis Nation of Alberta Judiciary Council, and the Métis

Veterans Society. The building mortgage was paid out and a clear title obtained in September 2010. Property management of the building, previously contracted out, has now been assumed by Métis Nation Holdings and Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. which holds 50 per cent of the shares in the building. 2011-2012 major repairs included a vinyl roof membrane. In 2012-2013, several leases were renegotiated at increased rates, a major replacement of the entire heating, cooling and ventilation system was undertaken and several tenant space upgrades were completed. 2014- 2015 saw more lease renewals at favorable rates, tenant improvements completed, and some internal shuffling of office space to see the Métis Judiciary Council moved to a more appropriate location while accommodating the growth of Pinnacle Business Services. With tenant improvements in 2015-16 to Mother Earth and the Onion Lake Urban office, the building is now completely leased at favorable rates. Concentration on preventative maintenance of the parking lot, parkade and landscaping has improved the aesthetics of the building while adding value and building longevity. Security improvements have been the focus of the 2016-17 year. Cameras have been added throughout the building, remote access electronics, and monitors have been added to improve the safety of people attending afterhours training classes. While the building is in good repair, code compliance issues were also a focus as a number of building code changes have been made over the last couple of years. All requirements have been met. 2017-18 saw complete upgrades to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor washrooms and numerous preventative maintenance activities undertaken.

### **Other Activity**

While not owned by the Métis Nation Holdings, the company has invested considerable time and effort assisting in the purchase of the Region 1 building, the purchase and renovation of the Region 2 building, the purchase of a Local building in Region 3, purchase of the Region 4 building, the purchase and complete renovation of the Region 5 building, the purchase and initial development of Métis Crossing as well as involvement with certain of the Métis Capital Housing Corporation projects and renovations connected with Rupertsland and some of its MES Centres.

# CREE PRODUCTIONS (1992) LTD.

Cree Productions (1992) Ltd. started to acquire, develop, redevelop and publish learning resources about Métis people intended for all students in Alberta schools. Through the purchase of the Dr. Anne Anderson Heritage and Cultural Centre and the rights to all the centre's materials, this was made possible.

Cree Productions has been very active and has over 80 copyrighted resources. The most noteworthy publications are the Dr. Anne Anderson Cree/English resources, which include a Cree dictionary.

In 1997, the Métis Nation of Alberta, in partnership with Alberta Learning, redeveloped and published 15 beginner Cree/English books. These beginner Cree/English books are available through the Métis Nation of Alberta. All the learning resources have received authorization from Alberta Learning and may be implemented into curricula as approved basic resources for all schools in the province.

In 2008-09, Cree Productions added a display case at the MNA Head Office to showcase Cree Productions wares. In 2017-18, MNA staff continues to manage the business and attended a number of events to market items. The partnership with Métis Crossing continues to grow and is becoming one of the major marketing initiatives.

## Dr. Anne Anderson Titles:

- Pet Beaver and Other Stories
- Cree Symbols
- Understanding Syllabic Symbols
- Beginner's Dictionary
- Let's Learn Cree
- Our Home
- WAPI
- Numbers 1 to 20 in Cree

- Numbers 1 to 1,000 in Cree
- Wild Animals in Cree
- Animals in Cree
- Insects and Spiders in Cree
- Plants in Cree
- Birds in Cree
- Opposites in Cree
- Little Hunter

## Additional Titles:

- A New Nation (The First Métis)
- Métis Land Rights in Alberta
- Dr. Anne on Patience, Wisdom and Love

## Other products:

- Sashes
- MNA Clothing
- MNA Flags
- MNA Pins
- Lapel Sashes

Métis Nation of Alberta - Cree Productions  
#100, 11738 Kingsway NW  
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5

Phone: 780-455-2200  
Toll Free: 1-800-252-7553  
[mna@metis.org](mailto:mna@metis.org)

These resources may be accessed by contacting Cree Productions.





2016 – 2017  
**MOTIONS &  
RESOLUTIONS**

*Motion #1: Joe Blyan moves to cease nominations for Chair, seconded by Bev New.*

*Motion Carried*

*Motion #2: Joe Blyan moves to appoint the second runner up, Dwayne Roth as Vice-Chair, seconded by Bev New.*

*Motion Carried*

*Motion #3: Sheila Genaille moves to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Walter Andreef.*

*Motion #4 (amending Main Motion): Sheila Genaille moves to amend the agenda to have the Resolutions follow the President's Report, seconded by Walter Andreef.*

*Not Voted On*

*Motion #5: (amending Main Motion) Wally Garrioch moves to go with the first suggestion to amend the agenda to move the Resolutions in front of the Reports of Officers, seconded by Irena Collins.*

*Motion Defeated*

*Motion #6: Aaron Barner moves to amend the agenda to move the Resolutions to follow the President's Report, seconded by Sheila Genaille.*

*Motion Carried*

*Motion #7: James Atkinson moves to accept the Resolutions Committee as appointed, seconded by Brian Hamelin.*

*Motion Carried*

*Motion #8: Brian Hamelin moves to destroy the Secret Ballots from the vote for the Chair position, seconded by Karen Collins.*

*Motion Carried*

*Motion #9: Marianne Stepien moves that the five rules be carried out, seconded by Nora Chapdelaine.*

*Motion Carried*



*Motion #10: Darlene Lennie moves*

*WHEREAS, I Darlene Lennie, a member in good standing, which has been jeopardized by the actions and conduct of President Poitras.*

*AND WHEREAS, my character and reputation have been severely damaged through the misrepresentation and misleading lies and public sharing of confidential and private information as well as pending civil actions.*

*AND WHEREAS, article 9 of the Métis Nation bylaws state that suspension of members rights number 9, Métis Judicial Council may suspend any members' rights other than the right to vote at an annual assembly, special meeting or general election for any conduct or act for which the Métis Judicial Council determines is, has been or will be gravely detrimental to the Métis Nation or in the interests of the Métis Nation.*

*AND WHEREAS, Métis Judicial Council has not sat in review of complaints filed against President Poitras since 2015 pending a review.*

*AND WHEREAS, Roberts Rules of Order allows for the Assembly to deal with it's members under article 13, item 72; a deliberative assembly has the inherent right to make and enforce its own laws and punish an offender. The extreme penalty however being expulsion from its own body.*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of President Audrey Poitras be suspended effective immediately, pending a review and defence of her actions by a Métis appointed tribunal. That the tribunal consist of seven members, one appointment from each region and the chair who consisted of in 2014 from the Métis Judiciary Council. That the process of the tribunal follow the articles under number seventy-five of Roberts Rules of Order and a timeline for review, a defence and a decision by the tribunal be completed and posted no later than December 31, 2017, seconded by Wendy Goulet.*

*Motion Defeated*

*Motion #11: Wally Garroch moves to accept the President's Report, seconded by Brian Hamelin.*

*Motion Carried*

**Special Resolution #1 was withdrawn by the mover and seconder who submitted it.**

*The Special Resolution below contains an extensive number of amendments to the Métis Nation of Alberta Bylaws. Due to the bulk of the background documents, they are referenced with internet links as it is not practical to print them in newspapers or newsletters. If you do not have access to the internet, you are encouraged to contact someone who does in order to access the documents. Printed copies will be available at the MNA Assembly or obtained from MNA Head office and MNA Regional Offices.*

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #1**

#### **Recommendations Following Métis Judiciary Council Review**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Ordinary Resolution #8 passed at the 87th Annual Assembly held August 6-9, 2015 a complete and comprehensive review of the Métis Judiciary Council (MJC) has been conducted, which included consultation with Métis communities and members in connection with the redesign of a Métis judicial process to be operated at the highest judicial standard possible (the MJC Resolution);

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to the MJC Resolution the review of the MJC that was completed has included the preparation of an Independent Third Party Review of the MJC by Deloitte (the Deloitte Report) as well as the preparation of proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (the MNA Bylaws) by a separate independent committee (the MJC Review Committee) based upon the recommendations contained in the Deloitte Report;

**AND WHEREAS** the proposed amendments to the MNA Bylaws can be viewed in two separate versions as follows:

1. One version in .pdf format with all proposed amendments tracked so that the existing wording of the MNA Bylaws can be viewed at the following link:  
<https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/7443747d-eb53-4a6c-9faa-d482bcf2f01e>
2. One version in .pdf format with all proposed amendments incorporated (i.e. a 'clean version') can be viewed at the following link:  
<https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/c2b64540-b671-44b2-996c-8c2beb2304411>

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the MNA Bylaws be amended as set out in the 'tracked' version (Version 1) above and that the amendments come into force on the later of:

- a. Registration of this Resolution Amending the MNA Bylaws with the Registrar of Corporations;
- b. The adoption of a Manual of Procedural Rules and a set of Operating Standard & Procedures for the MJC by the Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council;
- c. The selection of members of the MJC in the manner provided for in the proposed amendments; and
- d. January 1, 2018.

MOVED BY: ANDREA CALDER

SECONDED BY: BRIAN LIZOTTE

***RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN***



*Special Resolution #2 was deemed valid by the Resolutions Committee and read out by the Chair.*

#### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #2

##### Location of Assembly

**WHEREAS:** the objectives of the Métis Nation of Alberta Article 1.6 To develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation of Alberta;

**WHEREAS:** An ordinary resolution was passed at the 88th, Métis Nation of Alberta's Annual Assembly at Métis Crossing;

**WHEREAS:** A Special Resolution was to be drafted and brought to the 89th, Métis Nation of Alberta's Annual Assembly;

**WHEREAS:** The current Métis Nation of Alberta's bylaws Article 24.2 states

24.2 An Annual Assembly shall not be held twice in one Region before it has been held in every other Region or otherwise determined by the Provincial Council

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Article 24.2 is replaced with the following;

24.2 An Annual Assembly shall be held at Métis Crossing each year

MOVED BY: BRIAN HAMELIN

SECONDED BY: BEV NEW

#### ***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

*Special Resolution #3 was deemed not valid by the Resolutions Committee and therefore not read or voted on.*

#### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #3

##### Métis Youth Council

**WHEREAS** Article 1.7 of the MNA Bylaws states that one of the objectives of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association is "To promote and ensure participation of Métis Elders, Métis Women, **Métis Youth** and Métis persons with disabilities in the educational, cultural, political and social development of the Métis Nation of Alberta."

**AND WHEREAS** the MNA passed Ordinary Resolution #1 at the 2015 Annual Assembly resolving "that this Assembly direct MNA Provincial Council to take all steps necessary to develop the framework for a youth council to bring forward for consideration at the 88th Annual General Assembly;"

**AND WHEREAS** the MNA passed Ordinary Resolution #2 at the 2016 Annual Assembly resolving "that this 88th Assembly support the establishment of a provisional youth council, and the MNA find the funds to put that plan into action and provide administrative support, with regional and provincial youth advisory support;"

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to Ordinary Resolution #1 passed at the 88th Annual Assembly held August 2016, a provincial youth coordinator was hired and a Provisional Youth Council was created by nominations of a youth representative from each of the 6 Regions.

**AND WHEREAS** the Provisional Youth Council met and discussed proposed bylaw changes to finalize a youth council framework for the 2018 MNA general election

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that a new Article be added to the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws to read as follows:

Article 80 MÉTIS YOUTH COUNCIL

80.1 There shall be established a Métis Youth Council.

80.2 The Métis Youth Council shall consist of the following Métis Lifetime Members:

- (a) Six (6) Regional Youth Representatives (one elected from each of the six (6) regions); and
- (b) Six (6) Regional Youth Vice-Representatives (one elected from each of the six (6) regions). In order to be a candidate for Regional Youth Representative on the Métis Youth Council.

80.3 Métis Youth Council members shall serve a four (4) year term.

80.4 In order to be a candidate for Regional Youth Representative on the Métis Youth Council, the individual must have the following qualifications:

- (a) must be a Métis Lifetime member;
- (b) must be between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years old at the time of the election; and
- (c) must not have been convicted of an indictable offence in Canada.

80.5 In order to be a candidate for Regional Youth Vice-Representative on the Métis Youth Council, the individual must have the following qualifications:

- (a) must be a Métis Lifetime member;
- (b) must be between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty (30) years old at the time of the election; and
- (c) must not have been convicted of an indictable offence in Canada.

80.6 The Regional Youth Representatives and Regional Youth Vice-Representatives shall be elected in accordance with the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws

80.7 Each elected Métis Youth Council member shall serve as an Ambassador for youth in their region and shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) bringing the perspective of their region's youth to the Métis Youth Council;
- (b) advocating for the needs of the youth in their region;
- (c) being a positive role model and resource for Métis youth within their region;
- (d) serving as an Ambassador of Métis youth in Alberta;
- (e) actively working to move Métis youth issues forward;
- (f) participating at Regional Council meetings in their region; and
- (g) adhering to the requirements of the Métis Youth Council Terms of Reference, as amended from time to time.

**80.8** A member of the Métis Youth Council shall automatically cease to be a member of the Métis Youth Council upon the occurrence of any of the following events:



- (a) death;
- (b) absence from two (2) consecutive Métis Youth Council meetings without reasonable excuse;
- (c) delivery of a written resignation to the Secretary of the Métis Youth Council;
- (d) if a Métis Youth Council member becomes registered in the Indian Register according to the provisions of the Indian Act;
- (e) if a Métis Youth Council member no longer resides in the Region from which they represent;
- (f) if a Métis Youth Council member fails to submit two consecutive monthly reports to the Métis Youth Council without reasonable excuse;
- (g) if a Métis Youth Council member is absent from two (2) Métis Youth Council meetings without notifying the Métis Youth Council of their absence at least 24 hours before the meeting.

**80.9** Any unexpired term created by any vacancy of a Regional Youth Representative position due to resignation, removal, or incapacity shall be filled through the following process:

- (a) if the Regional Youth Vice-Representative from the same region as the vacancy is of full age of eighteen (18) years, this Regional Youth Vice-Representative will become the Regional Youth Representative of his or her region.
- (b) if the Regional Youth Vice-Representative from the same region as the vacancy is not of full age of eighteen (18) years, the vacancy will be filled by the following process:
  - (i) The Regional Council of the region with the vacancy will post a call for applicants who meet the criteria set out in Article 80.4;
  - (ii) The application period will be open for two (2) months after the call for applicants was made;
  - (iii) Following the two (2) month application period, the applications collected will be submitted to the Métis Youth Council;
  - (iv) The Métis Youth Council will select from the applicants the replacement Regional Youth Representative within one (1) month of receiving the applications.

**80.10** Any unexpired term created by any vacancy of a Regional Youth Vice-Representative position due to resignation, removal, or incapacity shall be filled through the following process:

- (a) The Regional Council of the region with the vacancy will post a call for applicants who meet the criteria set out in Article 80.5;
- (b) The application period will be open for two (2) months after the call for applicants was made;
- (c) Following the two (2) month application period, the applications collected will be submitted to the Métis Youth Council;
- (d) The Métis Youth Council will select from the applicants the replacement Regional Youth Representative within one (1) month of receiving the applications.

**80.11** Each member of the Métis Youth Council shall be required to take an Oath of Office prior to the commencement of their term as a member of the Métis Youth Council.

**80.12** Each member of the Métis Youth Council shall be required to follow the same conflict of interest guidelines as the Regional Council outlined in Article 48 of these bylaws.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Article 5.3 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws be amended to read as follows (*italicized writing indicates suggested change*):

5.3 An elector is entitled to only one (1) vote for each office for which *they are eligible to vote for*.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Article 5.5 be added to Article 5 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws to read as follows:

5.5 Any Métis Lifetime member who:

- (a) is between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty (30) years old;
- (b) has been or will have been ordinarily resident in Alberta for at least one **(1)** year prior to the date of the election;
- (c) will sign a declaration stating he/she is not currently registered as a status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act, prior to casting his/her ballot.

Shall be entitled to vote for any Candidate for office of Regional Youth Representative and Regional Youth Vice-Representative in his or her Region.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Article 6.2 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws be amended to read as follows (*italicized writing indicates suggested change*):

6.2 Nominations of candidates for office of President, Vice-President, Regional President and Regional Vice President, *and Regional Youth Representative and Regional Youth Vice- Representative*, shall be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer at a location specified by the Chief Electoral Officer prior to 5:00 pm on the date fixed for the closing of nominations.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Article 6.4 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws be amended to read as follows (*italicized writing indicates suggested change*):

6.4 A Métis Lifetime member is eligible to be nominated as a candidate/*or office of President, Vice-President, Regional President, and Regional Vice-President* in an election if on the day his or her nomination paper is filed he or she:

- (a) is a Métis Lifetime member who is entitled to hold office;
- (b) is of full age of sixteen (16) years or will be that age on election day;
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in Alberta continuously from the day 12 months immediately preceding the election day; and
- (d) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation or its affiliates that is more than thirty (30) days in arrears.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Article 6.7 be added to Article 6 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws to read as follows:

6.7 A Métis Lifetime member is eligible to be nominated as a candidate for office of Regional Youth Representative if on the day his or her nomination paper is filed he or she:

- (a) is a Métis Lifetime member;
- (b) is between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) or will be that age on Election day;
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in Alberta, pursuant to Article 5.2 of these Election Bylaws, continuously from the day 12 months immediately preceding the Election day; and
- (d) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation or its affiliates that is more than thirty (30) days in arrears.



**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Article 6.8 be added to Article 6 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws to read as follows:

**6.8** A Métis Lifetime member is eligible to be nominated as a Candidate for office of Regional Youth Vice-Representative if on the day his or her nomination paper is filed he or she:

- (a) is a Métis Lifetime member;
- (b) is between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty (30) or will be that age on Election day;
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in Alberta, pursuant to Article 5.2 of these Election Bylaws, continuously from the day 12 months immediately preceding the Election day; and
- (d) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation or its affiliates that is more than thirty(30) days in arrears.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Article 6.9 be added to Article 6 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws to read as follows:

**6.9** All nominations for Métis Youth Council shall include the following:

- (a) written acceptance of the nomination by the candidate;
- (b) 20 signatures of Métis Lifetime members who reside in the Region nominating the candidate, 10 of which signatures must be from Métis Lifetime members who are between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty (30) at the time of election; and
- c) Persons applying to hold an elected office within the Métis Nation of Alberta shall provide an official letter to the Chief Electoral Officer declaring that they are not currently registered with the Department of Indian Affairs as a Status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act.

MOVED BY: BRETT CHERNOW

SECONDED BY: MEGAN CLAUDE

***DEEMED INVALID***

*Special Resolution #4 was deemed valid by the Resolutions Committee and read out by the Chair.*

#### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #4

##### Article 26-Advance Polls for Elections

**WHEREAS:** Article 1 Name and Objectives of the Métis Nation of Alberta Bylaws Article 1.7 states: To promote and ensure participation of Métis Elders, Métis Women, Métis Youth and Métis persons with disabilities in the educational, cultural, political and social development of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

**WHEREAS:** Article 26 of the Election Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta states: An advance poll shall be held on Saturday ten (10) days before the election to enable:

- a) Electors who are disabled;
- b) Electors who believe that they will be absent from their ordinary place of residence on polling day; and
- c) Poll clerks, returning officers, scrutineers and candidates who believe that because of their official duties on polling day they will be unable to attend at the polling station to cast their votes;

To vote in advance at election.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Article 26 of the Election Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta be amended to read as follows:

**An advance poll shall be held on the third Saturday of August to enable**

- a) Electors who are disabled;
- b) Electors who believe that they will be absent from their ordinary place of residence on polling day; and
- c) Poll clerks, returning officers, scrutineers and candidates who believe that because of their official duties on polling day they will be unable to attend at the polling station to cast their votes;

To vote in advance at election.

MOVED BY: SHEILA GENAILE

SECONDED BY: MARILYN LIZEE

***RESOLUTION CARRIED***



***Special Resolution #5 was deemed valid by the Resolutions Committee and read out by the Chair.***

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION #5**

**Timing of MNA Elections**

**WHEREAS:** the first Tuesday of September follows the Labour Day long weekend, and is the beginning of the new school year.

**WHEREAS:** to increase voter turnout by moving the date to the third Tuesday in September, would give Métis citizens more time to participate in the election

**WHEREAS:** to give the Chief Executive Officer more time between the advance polls and the election to prepare

**WHEREAS:** The Election bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Article 3 Date of Election 3.1 states:

The date of the election shall be held on the first Tuesday in the month of September in the year that the election is required or any other date determined by the Provincial Council, Annual Assembly or Special Meeting according to the bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Article 3 Date of Election is replaced with the following: The date of the election shall be held on the third Tuesday in the month of September in the year that the election is required or any other date determined by the Provincial Council, Annual Assembly or Special Meeting according to the bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association.

**MOVED BY: SHELIA GENAILLE**

**SECONDED BY: MARILYN LIZEE**

***RESOLUTION CARRIED***

***Special Resolution #6 was deemed valid by the Resolutions Committee and read out by the Chair.***

SPECIAL RESOLUTION #6

Special Resolution on Métis Nation Citizen Membership

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Alberta (“MNA”) is the democratically elected government of the Métis Nation within Alberta;

**WHEREAS** the MNA has incorporated an association under Alberta’s *Societies Act* called the ‘Métis Nation of Alberta Association’ to act as its legal and administrative arm until such time as its full self-government is recognized through a negotiated agreement or modern day treaty with the Crown;

**WHEREAS** the MNA maintains a centralized Registry of members who have met the requirements of the National Definition of Métis and have completed the application process for membership, as amended from time to time, as set out in the MNA Bylaws;

**WHEREAS** while these registered individuals are identified as members for the purposes of the MNA Bylaws they are also duly registered citizens of the Métis Nation and should be recognized as such within Alberta as well as throughout the Métis Nation Homeland and beyond;

**WHEREAS** clubs and organizations issue memberships whereas Métis Nation governments such as the MNA recognize and registered individuals who are the citizens of the Métis Nation;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Article 4.5 in the MNA Bylaws be rescinded and replaced with the following:

4.5 Member - means a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association who has met all of the requirements of Articles 3.1 and 3.2 as well as the Application for Membership requirements set out in Article 10 as amended from time to time. A member shall also be recognized as being duly registered as a citizen of the Métis Nation based on the MNA’s authority as the representative government of the Métis Nation within Alberta. For the purposes of these Bylaws, a member and a citizen or membership and citizenship mean the same thing.

**MOVED BY: MARLENE LANZ**

**SECONDED BY: AUDREY POITRAS**

***RESOLUTION CARRIED***



***Special Resolution #7 was deemed valid by the Resolutions Committee and read out by the Chair.***

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #7

#### On Métis Consultation & Accommodation

**WHEREAS** the recognition and advancement of Métis rights is one of the foremost priorities of the Métis Nation of Alberta (“MNA”);

**WHEREAS** the Crown, as represented by Canada and/or Alberta, is required to consult with the MNA—as the government of the Métis Nation within Alberta—in relation to decisions or policies that may impact collectively-held Métis rights, interests and claims throughout Alberta;

**WHEREAS** the MNA—as a democratically elected Métis Nation government—is comprised of the Provincial Council, Regions and Locals and these Métis self-government structures must work-together-to ensure Métis rights, interests and claims are respected, protected and advanced throughout Alberta;

**WHEREAS** it is the MNA’s position that all members have the right to be engaged on consultation and accommodation and share in the benefits that flow from their collectively-held Métis rights, interests and claims, and, that Crown consultation owing to the Métis should not be limited to just a few select individuals, some Locals or one region or area of the province;

**WHEREAS** the 2016 Annual Assembly adopted a *Statement of Principles on Crown Consultation with Métis in Alberta*, which included direction to arrive at mutually agreeable Regional Consultation Protocols (“Protocols”) that set out how the Provincial Council, Regions and Locals will work-together-to ensure that the Crown’s consultation and accommodation obligations owing to Métis in Alberta were being met;

**WHEREAS** based on that direction from the 2016 Annual Assembly several Protocols have been negotiated and signed amongst the Provincial Council, Regions and Locals across the province, while others continue to be discussed with a view to arriving at mutually agreeable Protocols in the near future;

**WHEREAS** the MNA has been engaging in discussions with Alberta on the development of a provincial Métis Consultation Policy based on these Protocols and the *Statement of Principles on Crown Consultation with Métis in Alberta* with a view to arriving at a mutually agreeable policy, which would provide recognition and capacity to undertake consultation activities based on these Protocols;

**WHEREAS** recent Alberta court cases have highlighted the need for the Provincial Council, Regions and Locals to work-together-on these issues or consultation obligations owing to Métis in Alberta may be completely denied with the judge in the *Fort Chipewyan Métis Nation of Alberta Local #125 v Alberta* case writing the following:

*“In a situation where the MNA, MNA Region 1, and the FCM Local purport to represent the Aboriginal rights holding Métis of Fort Chipewyan with respect to consultation, it is obvious that ascertaining who speaks for the Métis in asserting Aboriginal rights and seeking Crown consultation becomes a critical issue to be resolved. As such, this Court agrees with the Alberta Crown’s submission that it would amount to a waste of resources for the Alberta Crown to potentially have to consult with several separate organizations who state that they represent smaller or larger subsets of the same group in respect of the same interests and the same project. It is efficient and justifiable for the Alberta Crown to seek some assurance that it is consulting with the authorized representative of an Aboriginal collective.”*

**WHEREAS**, since the release of this court decision, Alberta has confirmed in writing that it “does not currently engage in rights-based discussions with Local Associations,” however, it working with the MNA to “develop a non-Settlement Métis Consultation Policy,” which will recognize and engage with the structures agreed to in the above-mentioned Protocols for the purpose of consultation and accommodation;

**WHEREAS** the court also noted the need for Métis groups to have express “authority” in their bylaws in order to authorized to deal with Crown consultation on behalf of their members, and the 2016 MNA Annual General Assembly adopted a new oath of membership that includes this express authority within the MNA Bylaws, which is shared amongst Locals, Regions and the Provincial Council through the processes set out in the above-noted Protocols;

**WHEREAS** other Métis Nation governments, such as the Manitoba Métis Federation and Métis Nation of Ontario, have developed their own Crown consultation approaches that rely on similar authorizations, oaths and authorities in their Bylaws, which Canada and the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario respect and rely on;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in furtherance of ensuring Métis in Alberta are consulted and accommodated in relation to their rights, interests and claims, the following sections be added to Article 12 of the MNA Bylaws:

12.5 The Government of the Métis Nation, as authorized by its Members, and, the communities comprised of those Members, is owed Crown consultation and accommodation prior to other governments or entities making decisions or policies that have the potential to impact collectively-held Métis rights, interests and claims.

12.6 Consultation and accommodation with the Government of the Métis Nation shall take place based on the *Statement of Principles on Crown Consultation with Métis in Alberta* that has been adopted by the Annual Assembly, as amended from time to time, and, the Regional Consultation Protocols negotiated and signed pursuant to the *Statement of Principles on Crown Consultation with Métis in Alberta*.

**MOVED BY: AUDREY POITRAS**

**SECONDED BY: KAREN COLLINS**

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***



The Chair changed the order of Special Resolutions #8 & 9. Special Resolution #8 is now *“To Clarify the Authority to Consult on Behalf of Local Communities”*.

***Special Resolution #8 was deemed valid by the Resolutions Committee and read out by the Chair.***

#### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #8

##### To Clarify the Authority to Consult on Behalf of Local Communities

**WHEREAS** Article 15 sets out the powers of the Local Council;

**AND WHEREAS** 15.1 sets out that each Local Council shall govern the affairs of the Local Community;

**AND WHEREAS** the affairs of the Local Community include Consultation on behalf of its members;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the following be added to Article 15 of the MNA Bylaws as Article 15.8:

15.8 The Local Councils are the sole MNA authority to consult on behalf of its members and its Local Community. Such authority may be delegated by the Local Council to a third party, Regional Councils or the Provincial Council.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the following definition be added to Article 4 of the MNA Bylaws as Article 4.14:

4.14 Consultation shall mean engaging with government and/or industry regarding the Crown duty to consult and accommodate Métis people, including the negotiation of any impact or accommodation agreement.

MOVED BY: RON QUINTAL

SECONDED BY: JOE BLYAN

#### ***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

The Chair changed the order of Special Resolutions #8 & 9. Special Resolution #9 is now *“On Oath of Membership”*.

A request was made from the floor for an explanation of the reason it was deemed invalid. MNA’s corporate lawyer advised that the net effect of this resolution would leave us without an Oath and Articles 10.7 and 10.8 require an Oath.

As the Chair proceeded to continue with the next special resolution, the Vice-Chair took this opportunity to resign his position and started to state his reasons. The Chair requested that he speak from a microphone at the floor as he had resigned his position.

Dwayne Roth felt that the resolution was valid and should be dealt with. He further explained that this resolution rescinds a special resolution from 2016 and thus revert back to the oath that was in place prior to the 2016 resolution. It was further confirmed that the oath being used based on the 2016 resolution is currently before the courts.

Following debate the Chair requested a vote from the Assembly as to whether they wanted to deal with the Resolution. Following the vote, 117 members were ***for*** dealing with the resolution and 175 members voted ***against*** dealing with the resolution.

***Special Resolution #9 was deemed not valid by the Resolutions Committee and therefore not read or voted on.***

SPECIAL RESOLUTION #9

On Oath of Membership

**WHEREAS** the 2016 MNA AGA Special Resolution on Oath of Membership that was passed at the 2016 MNA AGA may result in Métis people terminating their membership in the MNA;

**AND WHEREAS** the Oath requires a voluntary authorization which offends the ability of regional rights bearing Métis communities to represent its members;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we hereby rescind the 2016 MNA AGA Special Resolution on Oath of Membership.

**MOVED BY: RON QUINTAL**

**SECONDED BY: JOE BLYAN**

***RESOLUTION INVALID***

***Special Resolution #10 was deemed valid by the Resolutions Committee and read out by the Chair.***

SPECIAL RESOLUTION #10

To Limit the Number of Terms of the Provincial President and Provincial Vice President

**WHEREAS** the Membership wants to limit the number of terms of the Provincial President and Vice President;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the following be added to Article 16 of the MNA Bylaws as Article 16.4:

16.4 Any Member elected to the office of Provincial President or Vice President shall be entitled to seek re-election for no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

**MOVED BY: JOE BLYAN**

**SECONDED BY: STELLA LAVALLEE**

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***



***Special Resolution #11 was deemed not valid by the Resolutions Committee and therefore not read or voted on.***

#### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #11

To Amend the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association

**Whereas** Article 39.1 states that the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

**Whereas** Article 13.2 states that the “13.2 The Provincial Council may exercise all powers as are permitted by these Bylaws to govern the affairs of the Métis Nation and carry out the objectives of the Métis Nation”.

**Whereas** Article 9 currently reads as follows:

#### ARTICLE 9 SUSPENSION OF MEMBER’S RIGHT

**9.1** The Métis Judiciary Council may suspend any member’s rights other than the right to vote at an annual assembly, special meeting or general election for any conduct or act which the Métis Judiciary Council determines is, has been, or will be, gravely detrimental to the Métis Nation or the interests of the Métis Nation.

**9.2** Any member who has had their rights suspended shall immediately forfeit those rights in the Métis Nation for the period of the suspension.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Article 9.3 be added to Article 9 of the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta to read as follows:

**9.3** In the event that the Métis Judiciary Council is unable to perform the powers granted by these Bylaws, a member’s rights can be suspended by the following process:

(a) the Provincial Council can suspend any members’ rights other than the right to vote at an annual assembly, special meeting or general election for any conduct or act which the Provincial Council determines is, has been, or will be, gravely detrimental to the Métis Nation or the interests of the Métis Nation.

(b) if the Métis Judiciary Council is again able to perform the powers granted by these Bylaws, any member who has had their rights suspended by the Provincial Council shall have their case brought before the Métis Judiciary Council for a final decision.

MOVED BY:DOREEN POITRAS-HAYES SECONDED BY:NORMA SPICER

***RESOLUTION INVALID***

***Special Resolution #12 was deemed not valid by the Resolutions Committee and therefore not read or voted on.***

SPECIAL RESOLUTION #12

To Amend the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association

**Whereas** Article 39.1 states that the Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

**Whereas** Article 6.4 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws currently state that a Métis Lifetime member is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in an election if on the day his or her nomination paper is filed he or she:

- (a) is a Métis Lifetime member who is entitled to hold office; and
- (b) is of the full age of sixteen (16) years or will be that age on election day; and
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in Alberta continuously from the day 12 months immediately preceding the election day; and
- (d) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation or its affiliates that is more than thirty (30) days in arrears;

**Whereas** Article 1 of the Bylaws of the Métis Nation states that the objectives of the Métis Nation of Alberta are to “promote the cultural, economic, educational, political and social development of Métis in Alberta and Canada” and “to develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation of Alberta”.

**And whereas** any member who purposefully engages in activities that put Métis Nation in financial or structural jeopardy is in complete contradiction with the MNA objectives set out in Article 1 of the Bylaws and therefore should not have the same rights to hold office as a leader of Métis Nation.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Article 6.4 of Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws be amended to include:

- (e) Has not filed a civil claim against the Métis Nation since the most recent Election called pursuant to the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws.

MOVED BY:DOREEN POITRAS-HAYES SECONDED BY:NORMA SPICER

***RESOLUTION INVALID***



## **ORDINARY RESOLUTION#1**

### **Resolution on Climate Change and the Environment**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation is an Indigenous people in Canada whose Homeland spans the historic northwest, including the territory now known as the Province of Alberta; and,

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Métis Nation holds inherent rights to the lands and resources of its Homeland and may rely on and benefit from those lands and resources to develop and thrive; and,

**WHEREAS** climate change poses a particularly serious threat to the future of the Métis Nation and to our Homeland;

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Alberta with its geographical and legal boundaries being the province of Alberta has stood as representative voice of the Métis in Alberta since 1928, and,

**WHEREAS** the MNA believes in continuing to build on our foundation for future generations, encouraging Métis participation in building our nation and assisting Métis people to achieve their goals; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Métis Nation and our Métis rights are recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982); and,

**WHEREAS** the MNA is a founding member of the Métis National Council (MNC); and,

**WHEREAS** the MNC held a Special Sitting of the General Assembly and unanimously passed a Resolution on Climate Change and the Environment in October 13-15, 2016; and,

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation recognizes the essential value and beauty of the land, air, water and sky and all living creatures, the cultural connection to the land and resources as part of the Métis way of life, and the fundamental value of protecting biodiversity and practicing conservation to ensure the inheritance of future generations to these values and beliefs; and,

**WHEREAS** the relationship of the Métis Nation to the lands and resources on its traditional territory is at the core of Métis Nation identity, the values transmitted from generation to generation through cultural means, Métis traditional knowledge, and the advancement and protection of our own Michif language; and,

**WHEREAS** economic development, climate change, environmental protection and improvement of the quality of life of the Métis are priorities of the Métis Nation of Alberta; and,

**WHEREAS** climate change has a significant impact on Canada's and Alberta's economy which effects the quality of life and the rights of Métis citizens who are significantly vulnerable to climate change; and,

**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada has introduced the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, and the federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change has

created space for the Métis Nation for Métis-specific dialogue on climate change and the environment; and,

**WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta has recognized engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations as an objective and desired outcome of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan, through the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative; and,

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Alberta has engaged with the Government of Alberta on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis through the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative to ensure a greater and more meaningful role for Alberta Métis in addressing and managing climate change and environmental impacts while creating opportunities for Métis citizens.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the MNA Annual General Assembly fully supports the MNA in asserting our expectation that all levels of government fulfill their duty to ensure that principles of fairness, equity and equality are part of the minimum standards in climate change laws, policies and agreements established in order to advance reconciliation with the Métis Nation; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MNA General Assembly fully supports the MNA in the review and participation of climate change and environmental policy under the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative, to ensure Métis rights, interest and concerns are protected, heard and addressed by the Government of Alberta on a nation-to-nation basis with due regard to the Métis Nation's inherent right to self-determination; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MNA 2017 Annual General Assembly fully supports the MNA in designing and undertaking climate change initiatives and programs including actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increasing Métis involvement and awareness of climate change, while creating capacity and economic opportunities for Métis citizens.

Moved by: Karen Collins

Seconded by: Sylvia Johnson

***RESOLUTION PASSED***



## **ORDINARY RESOLUTION#2**

### Resolution re Governance Transition Advisory Committee

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation within Alberta has the inherent and constitutionally protected Aboriginal right to self-determination and self-government;

**WHEREAS** Canada and the MNA are engaged in exploratory discussions aimed at advancing reconciliation with Métis in Alberta and, during these discussions, Canada has expressed its commitment to negotiating a core self-government agreement with the MNA;

**WHEREAS**, following the direction of the MNA's 87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly, the MNA conducted research to develop a governance framework model for Métis in Alberta, the results of which were presented to the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly and included recommendations that the MNA develop a constitution, negotiate with Canada and Alberta for the recognition of its self-government, and establish a Governance Transition Advisory Committee to support this process;

### **THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the MNA establish a Governance Transition Advisory Committee, which will be comprised of a technical representative from each MNA Region, a youth representative from each MNA Region, and an elder representative from each MNA Region.

Moved By: Marlene Lanz

Seconded by: Kirk Poitras

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

## **ORDINARY RESOLUTION#3**

Whereas: There is a need to build healthy communities

Whereas: There is a need to bring continuous health & well-being knowledge to the entire community

Whereas: We need to strengthen our Métis Culture

Therefore, be it Resolved: That the Métis Nation of Alberta Association pursue the truth & reconciliation commission to access resources to rebuild our grass roots Métis community

Moved By: Lisa Bourque

Seconded by: Bill Loutitt

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **Action Item:**

- Following the passing of this ordinary resolution a request was made that any ordinary resolution submissions that are received prior to the AGM will be printed and provided at the AGM.

## **ORDINARY RESOLUTION#4**

### Métis Judiciary Council Reinstatement, Transparency and Accountability

WHEREAS a Special Resolution presented at the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly (2015) that sought to abolish the Métis Judiciary Council by “deleting Articles 29, Article 30, Article 31 and Article 32 in the entirety as well as all references to the Métis Judiciary Council in the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws” failed to gain delegate approval.

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to the failure of the above-mentioned Special Resolution, an Ordinary Resolution was presented and approved at the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly (2015) that directed MNAA Provincial Council Members to organize and independent review of the Métis Judiciary Council (MJC) concurrent with the MJC’s continued operation, and that a Special Meeting be held prior to the next Assembly (2016) to present the results of this independent review.

AND WHEREAS, notwithstanding delegate approval of the afore-mentioned Ordinary Resolution, MNAA Provincial Council Members repudiated the direction given by the delegates and suspended operations of the MJC effective September 15, 2015.

AND WHEREAS, at the time of suspending operations of the MJC in 2015, a number of MNAA Provincial Council Members were the subject of complaints before the MJC, the focus of which allegations may impact and/or jeopardize the positions they hold as a part of the MNAA Provincial Council.

AND WHEREAS, the scope of work and terms of reference for the MJC third party review were sanctioned by the MNAA Provincial Council during a period of time in which certain of its members were the subject of complaints before the MJC, and therefore these processes should be considered tainted.

AND WHEREAS, the full results of the third-party review carried out by Deloitte have not been shared with the members of the MNAA at a Special Meeting as was mandated by the delegates to the 2015 Annual Assembly as a part of the Ordinary Resolution outlined above, rather these results have been reviewed by “a separate independent committee” struck by the MNAA Provincial Council during a period in which certain of its member were the subject of complaints before the MJC.

AND WHEREAS, a MJC continues to exist and the MNAA Bylaws provide for this body to carry out its work as it has effectively done for many years;

AND WHEREAS, all current MJC Members have been duly selected from their respective MNAA Regions;

AND WHEREAS, the MJC has operated at a high judicial standard as evidenced by the fact that, when appealed to Alberta’s highest court, the Alberta Appellate Court of Appeal, all past MJC decisions have been upheld.

AND WHEREAS, the MJC did not report annually to the MNAA membership from 2011 to 2015 as part of the Annual Assembly Reports, the content of which was accepted by the delegates at those respective Annual Assemblies;



AND WHEREAS, the delegates of the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly have the authority to direct the MNAA Provincial Council, through this Ordinary Resolution, to immediately withdraw the suspension of the MJC, and further to direct the MNAA Head Office to provide sufficient funding for the MJC so that it may continue on with its work;

AND WHEREAS, the delegates of this Annual Assembly have the authority to direct the MNAA Provincial Council, through this Ordinary Resolution to share the full results of the independent third party review (the Deloitte Report) as well as all previous MJC decisions with the MNAA membership. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MNAA Provincial Council immediately reinstate the MJC with sufficient funding so as to carry out its work on the matters that were before the MJC as of September 15, 2015, as well as to deal with any future complaints that may arise in future;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by September 30, 2017, the MNAA Secretary provide to the MNAA membership electronic access to the full Deloitte Report as well as to copies of all previous and future MJC Decisions and/or Orders dating to at least 1995, the year in which major changes were made to the MNAA Bylaws as it concerns the operations of the MJC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MJC be commissioned to hire at the MNAA's expense an external legal representative to carry out a complete and comprehensive review of the processes and products associated with the MNAA Provincial Council's own commissioning of a MJC review, and that a full report be delivered by this external legal representative to the 2018 Annual Assembly.

MOVED BY: Wendy Goulet

SECONDED BY: Darlene Lennie

***RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN***

#### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION#5**

Whereas the youth of the Métis Nation of Alberta have established a Provisional Council to put forward their needs and ideas to encourage youth engagement in the Métis Nation of Alberta.

And whereas, to move forward on these priorities, the youth within the Métis Nation of Alberta established a provisional council through a regional application process comprised of a member from each region.

And whereas, the most effective means to ensure strong and sure future leaders is through mentoring and experience.

Therefore, be it resolved that this assembly support the continuation of the established Provisional Youth Council and the MNA continue to find the funds to put that plan into action, provide administrative support, and provide regional and provincial youth advisory support.

Therefore, be it also resolved that the Métis Nation of Alberta allow an ex officio member of the Métis Nation of Alberta Provisional Youth Council, decided upon by the Provisional Youth Council, to sit at the Provincial Council table to mentor under the Provincial Council and work towards developing a Special Resolution for youth participation at the Provincial Council table, to be presented at the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly.

Moved by: Brett Chemow

Seconded by: Lennie Hanson

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

***Motion #12: Melanie Omeniho moves that future AGM's be live streamed and further that future AGM's that are videotaped be put on the MNA's website, seconded by Wendy Goulet.***  
***Motion Carried***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION#6**

#### Resolutions Committee & Resolutions Criteria

WHEREAS, a Resolutions committee is selected at each Annual Assembly, on the floor.

WHEREAS, a Resolutions committee is briefed by legal counsel during the Assembly.

WHEREAS, the Resolutions committee are expected to decide what a resolution is, after a short briefing.

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the Resolutions committee to make highly informed decisions on behalf of the Métis Nation, the Assembly and it's members after a resolution weathered the test.

WHEREAS, members submit Resolutions without knowing the criteria for a resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Resolutions committee created at each Annual Assembly serve for a one year term. That a terms of reference be created for the Resolutions committee, that the Resolutions committee meet four times throughout the year:

First meeting to present resolutions and approval at the Annual Assembly; to the provincial council;

Second meeting would be to review the progress of resolutions submitted;

Third meeting would be shortly after new resolutions have been submitted by members for the upcoming Assembly for review;

Fourth meeting to review the acceptability of resolutions being submitted to the Assembly.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a resolutions template be created that clearly outlines the basis of a resolution.

Moved by: Brian Fayant

Seconded by: Annette Ozirny

***RESOLUTION PASSED***



### ORDINARY RESOLUTION#7

WHEREAS, our Assemblies are the forum for expressing our views and guiding our Nation.

AND WHEREAS, the selection of the Assembly Chair and Co-Chair has consumed a considerable amount of time over the years that could have better been used doing our Assembly business.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that for the 2018 Annual General Assembly and all others following it, a secret ballot vote be used to appoint two chair persons for a Chair and Co-chair if that is what our bylaws require. If there are more than two nominees for the two positions.

Moved by: Brian Hamelin

Seconded by: Pat Ronald

### ***RESOLUTION PASSED***

Mr. Hamelin confirmed that a special resolution will be submitted at the next assembly to change the bylaws.

***Motion #13: Wendy Goulet moves to accept the Summary of Motions from the 88th Annual Assembly held in Smoky Lake Alberta, as read by Secretary Collins, seconded by Bev New.***  
***Motion Carried***

***Motion #14: Brian Fayant moves to accept the Audited Financial Statements to March 31, 2017 as presented, seconded by Brian Hamelin.***  
***Motion Carried***

***Motion #15: Sylvia Johnson moves to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 am August 13, 2017***



2017 – 2018  
**SPECIAL  
RESOLUTIONS**



**SPECIAL RESOLUTION #1**  
**Submitted to the 2018 Annual General Assembly of the**  
**MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA**

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**WHEREAS** Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Metis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

**WHEREAS** Article 23.1 (b) if any Provincial Council member, without reasonable excuse is absent from three (3) consecutive Provincial meetings;

**WHEREAS** Members of the Provincial Council are elected in accordance with MNAA bylaws – Schedule “C” (Election bylaws);

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 23.1 (b) be deleted in its entirety;

**THEREINAFTER** Article 23.1 shall read: A member of the Provincial Council shall automatically cease to be a Provincial Council member if any of the following events occur:

- (a) the death of the Provincial Council member;
- (b) a Provincial Council member resigns by delivering a written resignation to the Secretary of the Métis Nation;
- (c) if any Provincial Council member's right to hold office is suspended in which case that Provincial Council member will cease to be a Provincial Council member for the duration of the suspension;
- (d) if a Provincial Council member becomes registered in a Band list or in the Indian Register according to the provisions of the Indian Act, R.S.C.;
- (e) if a Provincial Council member other than the President or Vice-President no longer resides in the Region they represent.

**Moved by:** Irena Collins

**Seconded by:** Tracey McFeeters

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION #2**  
**Submitted to the 2018 Annual General Assembly of the**  
**MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA**

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**WHEREAS** Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Metis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

**WHEREAS** Article 19.3 states In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President the Provincial Council shall elect from the remaining members of the Provincial Council other than the President a person to fill the vacancy of the office of Vice-President. Such election shall be by secret ballot and require a majority vote.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 19.3 be amended by deleting *elect from the remaining members of the Provincial Council other than the President a person to fill the vacancy of the office of Vice-President* and *Such election shall be by secret ballot and require a majority vote* and replacing with *shall within twenty-one (21) days of the vacancy occurring, conduct a Provincial by-election to fill the position of the Provincial Vice President.*

**THEREINAFTER** Article 19.3 shall read: In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President the Provincial Council shall within twenty-one (21) days of the vacancy occurring, conduct a Provincial by-election to fill the position of the Provincial Vice President.

**Moved by:** Tracey McFeeters

**Seconded by:** Irena Collins



### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #3

WHEREAS: the objectives of the Metis Nation of Alberta Article 1.6 To develop prosperity and economic Self-sufficiency within the Metis Nation of Alberta;

WHEREAS: An ordinary resolution was passed at the 88<sup>th</sup> , Metis Nation of Alberta's Annual Assembly at Metis Crossing;

WHEREAS: A Special Resolution was to be drafted and brought to the 89<sup>th</sup> , Metis Nation of Alberta's Annual Assembly;

WHEREAS: A Special Resolution was brought to the 89<sup>th</sup> Metis Nation of Alberta's Annual Assembly;

WHEREAS: The current Metis Nation of Alberta's bylaws Article 24.2 States

24.2 An Annual Assembly shall not be held twice in one Region before is has been held in Every other Region or otherwise determined by the Provincial Council

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That Article 24.2 is replaced with the following:

24.2 An Annual Assembly shall be held at Metis Crossing every second year beginning in 2019 and in every other Region on rotating years or otherwise determined by the Provincial Council.

Moved by: Angie Crerar

Seconded by: Jeanette Hansen

**Special Resolution #4**  
**To Amend the Oath of Membership:**

**WHEREAS the 2016 MNA AGA Special Resolution on Oath of Membership that was passed at the 2016 MNA AGA may result in Metis people terminating their membership in the MNA;**

**AND WHEREAS the Oath requires a voluntary authorization which offends the ability of regional rights bearing metis communities to represent its members;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we hereby remove the following from the Oath of Membership:**

**“, and, voluntarily authorize the Métis Nation to assert and advance collectively-held Métis rights, interests, and claims on behalf of myself, my community and the Métis in Alberta, including negotiating and arriving at agreements that advance, determine, recognize, and respect Métis rights”**

**Moved by Ron Quintal**  
**Second by Joe Blyan**



## **Special Resolution #5**

### **To Clarify the Authority to Consult on Behalf of Local Communities:**

**WHEREAS Article 15 sets out the powers of the Local Council;**

**AND WHEREAS 15.1 sets out that each Local Council shall govern the affairs of the Local Community;**

**AND WHEREAS the affairs of the Local Community include Consultation on behalf of its members;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following be added to Article 15 of the MNA Bylaws as Article 15.8:**

**15.8 The Local Councils are the sole MNA authority to consult on behalf of its members and its Local Community. Such authority may be delegated by the Local Council to a third party, Regional Councils or the Provincial Council.**

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following definition be added to Article 4 of the MNA Bylaws as Article 4.14:**

**4.14 Consultation shall mean engaging with government and/or industry regarding the Crown duty to consult and accommodate Métis people, including the negotiation of any impact or accommodation agreement.**

**Moved by Ron Quintal**

**Second by Joe Blyan**

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION #6**  
**TO AMEND THE MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA ASSOCIATION'S**  
**BYLAWS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD**  
**AUGUST 11-12, 2018**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Ordinary Resolution #8 passed at the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly held August 6-9, 2015 a complete and comprehensive review of the Métis Judiciary Council (“MJC”) has been conducted, which included consultation with Métis communities and members in connection with the redesign of a Métis judicial process to be operated at the highest judicial standard possible (the “MJC Resolution”);

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to the MJC Resolution, the review of the MJC that was completed has included the preparation of an Independent Third Party Review of the MJC by Deloitte (the “Deloitte Report”) as well as the preparation of proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (the “MNA Bylaws”) and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election Bylaws, being Schedule “C” to the MNA Bylaws (the “Election Bylaws”), by a separate independent committee (the “MJC Review Committee”) based upon the recommendations contained in the Deloitte Report;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. Article 6.2 of the MNA Bylaws be rescinded and replaced by the following:

6.2 A Lifetime Member is:

- (a) A Métis who has met all the requirements of the Métis National Definition through the Métis Nation of Alberta Métis Registry and Identification Department and is issued a Métis ID number; or
- (b) A Métis child who has met all the requirements of the Métis National Definition through the Métis Nation of Alberta Métis Registry and Identification Department and is issued a Métis ID number.

2. Article 8.1 of the MNA Bylaws be rescinded and replaced by the following:

8.1 Lifetime Membership shall terminate upon the occurrence of:

- (a) Entry of a member's name in a Band list or in the Indian Register according to the provisions of the Indian Act, R.S.C.; or
- (b) Withdrawal of Membership by sending or delivering a written notice to the Métis Nation of Alberta.

3. Article 10.3 of the MNA Bylaws be rescinded and replaced by the following:

10.3 All applications for membership shall be processed by the Metis Nation of Alberta's Métis Registry and Identification Department.



4. Article 10.6 of the MNA Bylaws be rescinded and replaced by the following:

10.6 Any membership challenges or rejections may be appealed to the Métis Judiciary Council with respect to whether or not the proper procedure to determine membership eligibility was followed by the Metis Nation of Alberta's Metis Identification and Registry Department.

5. Article 29.2, 29.3, 29.4, 29.5, 29.6 and 29.7 of the MNA Bylaws be rescinded and replaced by the following:

29.2 The Métis Judiciary Council shall consist of six (6) Lifetime members appointed to serve by the Provincial Council, one (1) for each region, selected as follows:

- (a) The Provincial Council will establish a standing committee to be known as the Métis Judiciary Council Selection Committee (MJC Selection Committee);
- (b) Lifetime members meeting the qualifications set out below who wish to be considered for selection to the Métis Judiciary Council will complete an application form and submit it to the MJC Selection Committee;
- (c) The MJC Selection Committee will review all application forms submitted from each Region and score them against standardized objective criteria and will thereafter provide recommendations to the Provincial Council of the person(s) that it recommends be appointed to serve on the Métis Judiciary Council

29.3 The Métis Judiciary Council members will serve a four (4) year term as follows:

- (a) An initial set of Métis Judiciary Council members will be appointed by the Provincial Council prior to December 31, 2018 (or as soon thereafter as possible) pursuant to this Article 29 and shall be divided by lots at the time of their appointment into two (2) sets of three (3) Métis Judiciary Council members.
- (b) The term of the first set shall be two (2) years commencing January 1, 2019 (or as soon thereafter as possible) and shall expire December 31, 2020. Thereafter, the Métis Judiciary Council members appointed to succeed the first set shall serve four (4) year terms.
- (c) The term of the second set shall be four (4) years commencing January 1, 2019 (or as soon thereafter as possible) and shall expire December 31, 2022. Thereafter, the Métis Judiciary Council members appointed to succeed the second set shall serve four (4) year terms.

29.4 In order to be a candidate for appointment to the Métis Judiciary Council the individual:

- (a) must be a Métis Lifetime member who has knowledge of Métis culture and community;
- (b) must be a minimum of Twenty-Five (25) years old; and
- (c) must not have been convicted of an indictable offence in Canada,

Further desirable qualifications of candidates for appointment to the Métis Judiciary Council will include prior experience and/or education in a relevant field such as law, mediation and dispute resolution or equivalent.

29.5 A member of the Métis Judiciary Council shall automatically cease to be a member of the Métis Judiciary Council upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (a) death;

- (b) absence from three (3) consecutive Métis Judiciary Council meetings without reasonable excuse;
  - (c) delivery of a written resignation to the Secretary of the Métis Nation of Alberta;
  - (d) if a Métis Judiciary Council Member's right to hold office is suspended then such Métis Judiciary Council Member will cease to be a Métis Judiciary Council Member for the duration of the suspension;
  - (e) if a Métis Judiciary Council Member becomes registered in a Band list or in the Indian Register according to the provisions of the Indian Act;
  - (f) if a Métis Judiciary Council Member no longer resides in the Region from which they were appointed.
- 29.6 A Métis Judiciary Council Member may be removed by the same process and procedure as is provided for the removal of a Provincial Council member in Article 23.3. The unexpired term created by any vacancy on the Métis Judiciary Council due to resignation, removal or incapacity shall be filled by appointment by the Provincial Council upon the recommendation of the MJC Selection Committee. The term of office of any member of the Métis Judiciary Council appointed to fill a vacancy pursuant to this Section shall commence immediately upon appointment and continue until the expiration of the term being filled.
- 29.7 Each member of the Métis Judiciary Council shall be required to take an Oath of Office prior to the commencement of their term as a member of the Métis Judiciary Council.
6. Articles 30.1, 30.2, 30.3 and 30.4 of the MNA Bylaws be rescinded and replaced by the following:
- 30.1 The powers of the Métis Judiciary Council shall be:
- (a) To review decisions made by the Metis Nation of Alberta's Metis Identification and Registry Department ("Registry Department") where there is a dispute as to whether or not the proper procedures were followed by the Registry Department when the Registry Department made its decision on the approval of an application for membership in the Metis Nation of Alberta pursuant to Article 10.5;
  - (b) To review and decide all matters concerning the suspension of rights of any Métis member and the reinstatement thereof;
  - (c) To review and decide all matters concerning conflict of interest;
  - (d) To recommend changes of boundaries for Regions and Local Communities to the Annual General Assembly;
  - (e) To decide whether a member of the Provincial, Regional or Local Council shall remain in office in the event of a conviction of an indictable offence under the Criminal Code of Canada; and
  - (f) To provide to the Provincial, Regional, Local Council or a Métis member in good standing a written opinion on any question put to the Judiciary Council relating to the interpretation of the MNA Bylaws.
- 30.2 The procedural rules and operating standards and procedures to be followed by the Métis Judiciary Council commencing January 1, 2019 (or as soon thereafter as possible) will be established and approved by the Provincial Council and thereafter ratified (or amended) at



the Annual Assembly to be held in August 2019. Thereafter, the Annual Assembly will be solely responsible for any further amendments of procedural rules to be followed by the Métis Judiciary Council.

- 30.3 The Métis Judiciary Council shall be the final Métis Judiciary authority of the Métis Nation of Alberta. All decisions of the Métis Judiciary Council shall be final and without appeal.
- 30.4 The Métis Judiciary Council shall be allocated its own budget annually by the Provincial Council from which the Métis Judiciary Council will fund the cost of:
- (a) all meetings of the Métis Judiciary Council;
  - (b) all Hearings held by the Métis Judiciary Council;
  - (c) staffing and operating a Métis Judiciary Council office;
  - (d) retaining counsel to assist the Métis Judiciary Council in the conduct of its duties from time to time, as may be required; and
  - (e) retaining counsel to act as duty counsel at any Hearing held by the Métis Judiciary Council where the Métis Judiciary Council determines that having duty counsel available to assist parties at the Hearing with procedural issues that arise during the Hearing will be beneficial to the efficient conduct of the Hearing.

7. Articles 30.5, 30.6 and 30.7 be added to Article 30 of the MNA Bylaws to read as follows:

- 30.5 The Chairman of the Métis Judiciary Council shall provide a report on the activities of the Métis Judiciary Council in the past year at each Annual Assembly during the time set aside for the provision of business reports on the Agenda for the Annual Assembly.
- 30.6 A member of the Métis Judiciary Council, and any person applying to serve as a member of the Métis Judiciary Council, shall not hold an elected position or an employment position with the Métis Nation of Alberta Association or otherwise be in violation of the Conflict of Interest Guidelines for members of the Métis Judiciary Council as set out below:
- (a) A member of the Métis Judiciary Council, who is a party to a contract with the Métis Nation or has a material interest in any company who is a party to a contract with the Métis Nation, shall fully disclose the nature and extent of his or her interest.
  - (b) A member of the Métis Judiciary Council shall not make or participate in making a decision in his or her capacity where the member reasonably knows that in the making of the decision there is the opportunity to further, directly, or indirectly, their private interest or that of their family which includes spouse, children, parents, brothers and sisters.
  - (c) No member of the Métis Judiciary Council may do work for the Métis Nation, either as an employee or by contract, other than the fulfilment of the obligations of their appointed position.
  - (d) A member of the Métis Judiciary Council shall not conduct personal business while on Métis Nation business or use Métis Nation resources for personal business.
  - (e) A member of the Métis Judiciary Council shall disclose the names of all Boards, Commissions, Councils or other memberships held during their term as well as pertinent information about any compensation received while sitting on any other Boards, Commissions, or Councils.

- (f) No candidate seeking appointment to the Métis Judiciary Council shall use any resources of the Métis Nation in connection with his or her efforts to seek such appointment.
- 30.7 Any disclosure that must be made as outlined in s.30.6, above, must be made:
- (a) to the MJC Selection Committee at the time a person applies for appointment to the Métis Judiciary Council; or
  - (b) in the case of a person serving as a member of the Métis Judiciary Council, to the other members of the Métis Judiciary Council, who shall thereafter be solely responsible for the determination of whether or not the disclosure will require that the member in question recuse himself or herself from any given matter or Hearing before the Métis Judiciary Council.
8. The heading of Article 31 of the MNA Bylaws be rescinded and replaced by the following:
- ARTICLE 31                      APPEARANCES BEFORE THE MÉTIS JUDICIARY COUNCIL**
9. Articles 31.2 and 31.3 be added to Article 31 of the MNA Bylaws to read as follows:
- 31.2 All meetings and hearings held by the Métis Judiciary Council may be conducted in whole or in part using telephone and/or internet technology and applications in order to alleviate the need of the parties to the hearing, including the members of the Métis Judiciary Council themselves, to be physically present in the same room.
- 31.3 The Métis Judiciary Council shall have the right to retain counsel to assist with the preparation for and procedural conduct of a hearing as well as with respect to any issues it wishes to refer to counsel in connection with the preparation and publishing of decisions of the Métis Judiciary Council.
10. The Election Bylaws are rescinded and replaced by the amended Election Bylaws, a copy of which are attached as Exhibit "A" hereto.
11. The amendments to the MNA Bylaws and Election Bylaws as described herein shall come into force on the later of:
- a. Registration of this Resolution Amending the MNA Bylaws with the Registrar of Corporations;
  - b. The adoption of a Manual of Procedural Rules and a set of Operating Standard & Procedures for the MJC by the Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council; and
  - c. The selection of members of the MJC in the manner provided for in the proposed amendments.

**MOVED BY: ANDREA CALDER**

**SECONDED BY: BRIAN LIZOTTE**



## **EXHIBIT A**

## ARTICLE 1. NAME OF BYLAWS

- 1.1 These Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association are intended to cover Provincial Elections in the Métis Nation of Alberta Association and shall be referred to as the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws.

## ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS

### 2.1

- (a) "Candidate" - means a person who is nominated for office and meets the requirements of Article 6 of these Election Bylaws;
- (b) Chief Electoral Officer" - means a Métis person appointed by the Provincial Council;
- (c) "Corrupt Election Practices" includes threats, forgery, bribery, coercion, and intimidation of any Elector, Election Officer, interpreter by a Candidate or person acting on behalf of a Candidate with his or her consent or knowledge;
- (d) Deputy Returning Officer" - a person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer;
- (e) Election" - means an election called pursuant to Article 16 of the MNA Bylaws;
- (f) "Election Bylaws" - means these Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election Bylaws;
- (g) "Election Officer" - means a Chief Electoral Officer, Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk as established in these Election Bylaws;
- (h) "Elector" - means a Métis Lifetime Member who on Election day is entitled to vote pursuant to Article 5 of these Election Bylaws.
- (i) "List of Electors" - means the list of Electors made pursuant to Article 7 of these Election Bylaws;
- (j) "Métis Nation" - means Métis Nation of Alberta Association;
- (k) "MNA Bylaws" - means the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association;
- (l) "Poll Book" - means a list of names of Electors who have received ballots at an election pursuant to Article 27.1 of these Election Bylaws;
- (m) Poll Clerk" - means a person appointed by the Returning Officer;
- (n) "Presidential Candidate" - means a person who is nominated as a Candidate for office of President of the Métis Nation;
- (o) "Region" - means one of six (6) regions established pursuant to Article 11 of the MNA Bylaws;
- (p) "Regional President Candidate" - means a person who is nominated as a Candidate for President of a Region;
- (q) "Regional Vice President Candidate" - means a person who is nominated as a Candidate for Vice President of a Region;
- (r) "Returning Officer" - a Métis person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer;

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- (s) "Scrutineer" - means an Elector who is authorized to represent a Candidate pursuant to Article 16 of these Election Bylaws;
- (t) "Vice-Presidential Candidate" - means a person who is nominated as a Candidate for office of Vice-President of the Métis Nation;

### **ARTICLE 3 DATE OF ELECTION**

- 3.1 The date of the Election shall be held on the third Tuesday in the month of September in the year that the election is required or any other date determined by the Provincial Council, Annual Assembly, or Special Meeting according to the MNA Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE 4 CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER AND ELECTION APPEAL ARBITRATOR**

- 4.1 The Provincial Council shall appoint a Chief Electoral Officer and an Election Appeal Arbitrator at least one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the date of the Election. For the Election to be held in 2018, however, the Election Appeal Arbitrator shall be appointed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Election.
- 4.2 The Chief Electoral Officers shall:
- (a) provide guidance and supervision respecting the conduct of the election;
  - (b) enforce on the part of all Election Officers fairness and impartiality in the conduct of their duties and compliance with these Election Bylaws;
  - (c) issue to Election Officers any information and guidance he or she considers necessary to ensure the effective carrying out of the provisions of these Election Bylaws;
  - (d) reconcile all ballots and prepare an official Election report to the members of the Métis Nation;
  - (e) perform all duties assigned to him or her by these Election Bylaws.
- 4.3 The Election Appeal Arbitrator shall be a retired judge or a lawyer qualified to practice law in Alberta who is not, nor has been, retained by the Metis Nation or any Region or Local, other than as an Election Appeal Arbitrator.
- 4.4 An appeal to the Election Appeal Arbitrator pursuant to Article 46, and the decision arising from that appeal, unless otherwise specified by the Election Appeal Arbitrator, shall be completed within 90 days of the date of the appeal.

### **ARTICLE 5 QUALIFICATION OF ELECTOR**

- 5.1 Any Métis Lifetime member who:
- (a) is sixteen (16) years or older; and
  - (b) has been or will have been ordinarily resident in Alberta for at least one (1) year prior to the date of the Election;
  - (c) will sign a declaration stating he/she is not currently registered as a status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act, prior to casting his/her ballot.

shall be an Elector and entitled to vote for any Candidate for office of President, Vice-President, Regional President and Regional Vice President in his or her Region.

- 5.2 For the purpose of these Election Bylaws, "ordinarily resident in Alberta" shall be determined by the

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following rules:

- (a) a person can have only one place of ordinary residence;
  - (b) a person's ordinary residence is the place where he or she lives and sleeps and to which, when he or she is absent from it, he or she intends to return;
  - (c) when a person leaves Alberta with the intention of becoming ordinarily resident outside Alberta, his or her ordinary residence in Alberta ceases.
- 5.3 An elector is entitled to only one (1) vote for each office for which an Election is held.
- 5.4 Notwithstanding Article 5.1 of these Election Bylaws, the following persons are not eligible to vote at an Election:
- (a) Returning Officers, except to break a tie between Regional President Candidates and between Regional Vice President Candidates at the recount; and
  - (b) Chief Electoral Officer, except to break a tie between Presidential Candidates and between Vice-Presidential Candidates at the recount.

#### **ARTICLE 6 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE**

- 6.1 At least sixty (60) days before the Election, the Chief Electoral Officer shall post in the head office of the Métis Nation and in each Regional Council office and in newspapers that have a general distribution in each Region, notice of:
- (a) The place and hours fixed for the nominations of candidates and the date fixed for closing of nominations; and
  - (b) the nomination paper required to be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 6.2 Nominations of candidates for office of President, Vice-President, Regional President and Regional Vice President, shall be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer at a location specified by the Chief Electoral Officer prior to 5:00 p.m. on the date fixed for the closing of nominations (the "Closing Date").
- 6.3 The Closing Date must be at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Election.
- 6.4 A Métis Lifetime member is eligible to be nominated as a Candidate in an Election if on the day his or her nomination paper is filed he or she:
- (a) Is a Métis Lifetime member who is entitled to hold office;
  - (b) is of the full age of sixteen (16) years or will be that age on Election day;
  - (c) has been ordinarily resident in Alberta, pursuant to Article 5.2 of these Election Bylaws, continuously from the day 12 months immediately preceding the Election day;
  - (d) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation or its affiliates that is more than thirty (30) days in arrears.
- 6.5 All nominations for President and Vice-President shall include the following:
- (a) written acceptance of the nomination by the candidate; and

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- (b) One hundred and fifty (150) signatures of Electors nominating the candidate; and
- (c) a non-refundable deposit in the sum of Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars.
- (d) A deposit that is not refundable under this section shall be deposited in the general account of the Métis Educational Foundation.
- (e) Persons applying to hold an elected office within the Métis Nation of Alberta shall provide an official letter to the Chief Electoral Officer declaring that they are not currently registered with the Department of Indian Affairs as a status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act.

6.6 All nominations for Regional President and Regional Vice President, shall include the following:

- (a) written acceptance of the nomination by the candidate; and
- (b) seventy-five (75) signatures of Electors who reside in the Region nominating the candidate; and
- (c) a non-refundable deposit in the sum of Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars.
- (d) A deposit that is not refundable under this section shall be deposited equally in the general account of the foundations of the Regional Council of the candidate;
- (e) Persons applying to hold an elected office within the Métis Nation of Alberta shall provide an official letter to the Chief Electoral Officer declaring that they are not currently registered with the Department of Indian Affairs as a status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act.

#### **ARTICLE 7 LIST OF ELECTORS**

- 7.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall obtain from the Métis Nation Membership Office a list of Métis Lifetime Members and distribute one free copy to each Candidate running for Election.
- 7.2 The Chief Electoral Officer shall then, from the list of Métis Lifetime Members, prepare a List of Electors and satisfy himself or herself as to the accuracy of the List of Electors.
- 7.3 The Chief Electoral Officer shall submit to each Regional Council Office a List of Electors which shall be posted not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the Election in each Regional Council Office or any other place determined by the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 7.4 There shall be no vouching.
- 7.5 A person can have his or her name added to the List of Electors at any time up to the closing of the polling station provided that the person can present his or her Métis Membership card and demonstrate that the requirements of Articles 5.1 and 5.2 of these Election Bylaws are met.

#### **ARTICLE 8 ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION**

- 8.1 If only one Candidate is nominated for President by the Closing Date the Chief Electoral office shall immediately declare that Candidate elected.
- 8.2 If only one Candidate is nominated for Vice-President by the Closing Date, the Chief Electoral office shall immediately declare that Candidate elected.
- 8.3 If only one Candidate is nominated for Regional President in a Region by the Closing Date, the Chief Electoral Officer shall immediately declare that Candidate elected.

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- 8.4 If only one Candidate is nominated for Regional Vice President in a region by the Closing Date, the Chief Electoral Officer shall immediately declare that Candidate elected.

#### **ARTICLE 9 TOO FEW CANDIDATES NOMINATED**

- 9.1 If after the Closing Date, there remain offices for which no candidate has been nominated, the Chief Electoral Officer shall set an additional day, time and place for the receipt of nominations for the remaining offices.

#### **ARTICLE 10 POSTING OF NOTICE OF POLL AND CANDIDATES**

- 10.1 Where more Candidates are nominated for any particular office than are required to be elected the Chief Electoral Officer shall:
- (a) Within twenty-one (21) days after the Closing Date, post in each Regional Council office a notice indicating:
    - (i) the names of the Candidates; and
    - (ii) the location, date and time when the polling station will be open for voting.

#### **ARTICLE 11 WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATE**

- 11.1 A Candidate within forty eight (48) hours from the Closing Date, may withdraw by filing with the Chief Electoral Officer a declaration to that effect signed by the Candidate and having his or her signature witnessed.
- 11.2 If a Candidate has withdrawn, the Chief Electoral Officer shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that each Elector is so advised when receiving a ballot.

#### **ARTICLE 12 DEATH OF A CANDIDATE**

- 12.1 If a Candidate for President or Vice-President dies after being nominated but prior to closing of the polling stations on the Election day, the Election for the remaining offices on Provincial Council (other than President or Vice-President, as the case may be) shall be held. The rules for election of President or Vice-President, as the case may be, shall be as follows:
- (a) the Election for President or Vice-President shall be discontinued;
  - (b) the Chief Electoral Officer shall establish a new election date for office of President or Vice-President and publish the new date;
  - (c) the Chief Electoral Officer shall determine a new date for closing of nominations;
  - (d) nominations for Candidates previously filed remain valid for the new election.
- 12.2 If a Candidate for Regional President or Regional Vice President for any given Region dies after being nominated and prior to closing of the polling stations on the polling date, the Election for President or Vice-President shall be held. The rules for election of the Regional Presidents and Regional Vice Presidents shall be as follows:
- (a) the Election for the remaining Regional Presidents and Regional Vice Presidents shall continue, other than in the Region where the Candidate who died was running for office;

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- (b) the Chief Electoral Officer shall establish a new Election date for office of Regional President and Regional Vice President, in the Region where the Candidate who died was running for office, and publish the new date;
  - (c) the Chief Electoral Officer shall determine a new date for closing of nominations;
  - (d) nominations for Candidates previously filed remain valid for the new election;
- 12.3 The Chief Electoral Officer shall provide the Provincial Council with a report containing the reason for the postponement of the Election.

#### **ARTICLE 13 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER, DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER AND POLL CLERK**

- 13.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint for each Region a Returning Officer to manage and conduct voting procedures at polls within each Region.
- 13.2 The Returning Officer shall appoint for each Local where a polling station is to be established;
- (a) A Deputy Returning Officer; and
  - (b) A Poll Clerk to assist the Deputy Returning Officer.
- 13.3 A person appointed as either a Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall hold office from the time appointed until thirty (30) days after the date of the Election.
- 13.4 Where a vacancy occurs in the office of Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk, the Chief Electoral Officer shall forthwith appoint another person to fill the vacancy.
- 13.5 A person who is the spouse, child, brother, sister, mother or father of a Candidate for office of President, Vice-President or Regional President and Regional Vice President shall be ineligible to be appointed Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk.

#### **ARTICLE 14 POLLING HOURS**

- 14.1 Polling shall begin at 8:00 a.m. on the date of the Election and close at 8:00 p.m. on the same day.

#### **ARTICLE 15 LOCATION OF POLLING STATIONS**

- 15.1 A polling station shall be in a location that, in the opinion of the Chief Electoral officer is convenient for the Electors.
- 15.2 Every polling station shall be accessible to handicapped persons.
- 15.3 No polling station may be located in the following places:
- (a) licensed premises;
  - (b) premises in which a Candidate has an interest;
  - (c) a Métis Settlement unless there is a Métis Local Community in the Métis Settlement that has been established under the MNA Bylaws.

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#### **ARTICLE 16 SCRUTINEERS**

16.1 Each Candidate may appoint not more than one Elector as a Scrutineer:

- (a) to represent that Candidate at each polling station, and
- (b) to observe the Election procedures on that Candidate's behalf.

#### **ARTICLE 17 BALLOT BOXES**

17.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall provide each returning officer with a sufficient number of ballot boxes to conduct the Election in his or her Region. The ballot boxes shall be:

- (a) made of a durable material;
- (b) accompanied by a sufficient number of appropriate seals;
- (c) designed in a manner that permits the deposit of ballots but does not permit their removal without breaking the seals after they have been attached.

#### **ARTICLE 18 BALLOTS**

18.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall cause to be printed at the expense of the Métis Nation a sufficient number of ballot papers for the purposes of the Election.

#### **ARTICLE 19 CONTENTS OF BALLOT PAPERS**

19.1 Every ballot paper shall contain the name of the Candidates which shall be arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames and, if there are two (2) or more Candidates with the same surname, then in the order of their given names.

#### **ARTICLE 20 POLLING BOOTHS**

20.1 Each polling station shall contain one or more polling booths arranged such that when an Elector is in the polling booth he or she is screened from observation and may mark his or her ballot without interference.

20.2 In each polling booth there shall be provided for the use of Electors marking their ballots:

- (a) a suitable table, desk or shelf; and
- (b) a suitable marking instrument which shall be properly maintained during polling hours.

#### **ARTICLE 21 MATERIAL AT POLLING STATION**

21.1 The Deputy Returning Officer shall before the opening of the poll ensure that the following are available:

- (a) Copies of the directions for the guidance of voters in voting;
- (b) A suitable Poll Book, where the names of all Electors are to be entered;
- (c) A copy of the latest revised List of Electors;

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- (d) A ballot box or ballot boxes as required;
- (e) A sufficient number of ballot papers;
- (f) The material necessary to enable voters to mark the ballot papers;
- (g) Copies of vouchers of Electors;
- (h) Such other forms, office stationery and materials as may be required to enable the Deputy Returning Officer to perform his or her duties.

## **ARTICLE 22 PERSONS ENTITLED TO REMAIN IN POLLING STATION**

- 22.1 Only the following persons may remain in a polling station during polling hours:
- (a) Deputy Returning Officer;
  - (b) Poll Clerk;
  - (c) Returning Officer;
  - (d) Chief Electoral Officer;
  - (e) One Scrutineer per Candidate; and
  - (f) Interpreters;
- 22.2 Nothing in these Election Bylaws restricts a Candidate from briefly visiting a polling station during polling hours.

## **ARTICLE 23 SECRECY OF VOTING**

- 23.1 No person shall interfere or attempt to interfere with an Elector who is marking his or her ballot or casting his or her vote or otherwise attempt to obtain at the polling station information as to the Candidate(s) for whom an Elector at that polling station is about to vote or has voted.
- 23.2 Each Deputy Returning Officer, Poll Clerk, Candidate and Scrutineer in attendance at a polling station or at the counting of the ballots shall assist in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and he or she shall not communicate or attempt to communicate any information obtained at the polling place regarding which Candidate an Elector has voted for or is about to vote for.

## **ARTICLE 24 SECRET BALLOT**

- 24.1 Where a poll is required at an Election the vote shall be given by secret ballot.

## **ARTICLE 25 OPENING OF POLLING STATION - DISPLAY OF BALLOT BOX**

- 25.1 Each Deputy Returning Officer shall attend at the polling station at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the opening of his or her polling station.
- 25.2 During the 30 minutes immediately prior to the opening of the polling station the Deputy Returning Officer shall show the ballot box to Candidates, Scrutineers and other persons entitled to be present so that they may

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see that the ballot box is empty.

- 25.3 After the ballot box has been shown it shall be locked and sealed for receipt of ballots and at all times during the hours of voting.

## **ARTICLE 26 ADVANCE POLLS**

- 26.1 An advance poll shall be held on the third Saturday of August to enable:
- (a) Electors who are disabled;
  - (b) Electors who believe that they will be absent from their ordinary place of residence on polling day; and
  - (c) Poll Clerks, Returning Officers, Scrutineers and Candidates who believe that because of their official duties on polling day they will be unable to attend at the polling station to cast their votes;
- to vote in advance the an Election.
- 26.2 Polling stations for advance polling shall be in a location that, in the opinion of the Chief Electoral Officer is convenient for the Electors.
- 26.3 The Deputy Returning Officer shall obtain from each Elector prior to voting at the advance poll, a signed statement indicating that the Elector is unable to vote at his or her polling station on Election day and will not vote on Election day.
- 26.4 The rules regarding the conduct of an Election on polling day and related matters apply, with all necessary modifications at the Chief Electoral Officer's discretion, to the holding of an advance poll.
- 26.5 At the close of every Advance Poll, the Deputy Returning Officer shall remove the ballot box and ensure that the number of ballots in the box when combined with the number of unused ballots, equals the number of ballots which the Deputy Returning Officer was given at the commencement of voting. The ballots shall not be sorted or unfolded, but shall be counted to determine that there is no discrepancy between the number of ballots cast and left over when compared with the number of ballots with which the polling station opened. All ballots shall then be placed into marked envelopes provided by the Chief Electoral Officer, sealed and signed by the Deputy Returning Officer, along with the unused ballots and delivered immediately to a place designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.

## **ARTICLE 27 POLL BOOKS**

- 27.1 Each Deputy Returning Officer shall have available a suitable Poll Book in which the Deputy Returning Officer or the Poll Clerk shall enter the names of all Electors applying to vote unless those names are previously printed therein. The Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall record whether those Electors are objected to pursuant to Article 28.1(c) of these Election Bylaws or vouched for and by whom and if objected to whether the Elector voted or not.

## **ARTICLE 28 GENERAL PROCEDURE AT POLLING STATION**

- 28.1 Where an a person presents himself or herself at the polling station for the purpose of voting, the Deputy Returning Officer shall, proceed as follows:
- (a) The Deputy Returning Officer shall ascertain whether the name of the person is on the List of Electors and if it is not, the Deputy Returning Officer shall not permit that person to vote unless the s/he can provide the Deputy Returning Officer with his or her Métis Membership card.

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- (b) The Deputy Returning Officer shall record or cause to be recorded in the proper column of the poll book the name, the address of the Elector.
- (c) Any Candidate or his or her Scrutineer may object to the eligibility of any Elector requesting a ballot. Such objection shall be noted in the Poll Book and shall include the reason for the objection along with the name of the Candidate on whose behalf the objection is being made. The Deputy Returning Officer shall then require the Elector in question to swear the "Oath of Elector" and upon compliance, the Deputy Returning Officer shall give the Elector a ballot paper so that the Elector may cast his or her ballot.

#### **ARTICLE 29 EXPLANATION OF VOTING**

- 29.1 The Deputy Returning Officer may and upon request shall, either personally or through his Poll Clerk explain to the Elector as concisely as possible the way in which voting is to be done.

#### **ARTICLE 30 APPOINTMENT OF INTERPRETER**

- 30.1 Where the Deputy Returning Officer has reason to believe that at any polling station Electors unable to speak or read the English language are likely to present themselves to vote, he or she may appoint a person familiar with the language of those Electors to act as interpreter for the purpose of interpreting to them questions and answers concerning voting procedures.

#### **ARTICLE 31 BALLOT TO BE INITIALED BY DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER**

- 31.1 Where the proper entries respecting the Elector applying to vote have been made in the Poll Book the Deputy Returning Officer shall initial the back of the ballot paper and deliver it to the Elector so applying.

#### **ARTICLE 32 MARKING OF BALLOT**

- 32.1 Upon receiving from the Deputy Returning Officer the ballot paper the Elector shall proceed to the polling booth provided for the purpose and shall there mark his or her ballot paper by placing a mark on the right hand side opposite the name of any Candidate(s) for whom he or she desires to vote or any other place within the division on the ballot that contains the name of that Candidate.

#### **ARTICLE 33 DELIVERY OF BALLOT TO DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER**

- 33.1 In the polling booth the Elector shall then fold the ballot paper across so as to conceal the names of the Candidates and the mark on the face of the ballot paper, and expose the initials of the Deputy Returning Officer. The Elector shall then leave the polling booth and without showing the front of the ballot paper to anyone or so displaying the ballot paper so as to indicate the candidate or candidates for whom he or she has voted, the Elector shall deliver the ballot paper so folded to the Deputy Returning Officer.

#### **ARTICLE 34 DEPOSIT OF BALLOT**

- 34.1 The Deputy Returning Officer without unfolding the ballot paper or in any way disclosing the name of any Candidate or the marks made by the Elector shall verify his or her own initials and in the presence of those people present deposit the ballot paper in the ballot box and the Elector shall then immediately leave the polling station.

#### **ARTICLE 35 SECRECY OF VOTING BOOTH**

- 35.1 While the Elector is in the polling booth no other person shall be allowed to enter the polling booth or to be in any position for which he or she can observe the manner in which the Elector marks the ballot paper unless

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the Elector requires assistance and is granted that assistance as provided herein.

#### **ARTICLE 36 REMOVAL OF BALLOT FROM POLLING STATION**

- 36.1 An Elector who has received a ballot paper shall not take it out of the polling station.

#### **ARTICLE 37 FORFEITURE OF VOTING RIGHTS**

- 37.1 Where an Elector leaves the polling station without first delivering his or her ballot paper to the Deputy Returning Officer or returns his or her ballot paper after declining to vote he or she forfeits his or her right to vote and the Deputy Returning Officer shall make an entry in the Poll Book in the column for remarks to the effect that the Elector received the ballot paper, but took it out of the polling station or returned it declining to vote.

#### **ARTICLE 38 DECLINE TO VOTE**

- 38.1 Where an Elector returns his or her ballot paper declining to vote, the Deputy Returning Officer shall immediately write the word "declined" upon it and preserve the ballot paper.

#### **ARTICLE 39 SPOILED BALLOT**

- 39.1 An Elector voting who has inadvertently spoiled his or her ballot paper may on returning it to the Deputy Returning Officer obtain another ballot paper and the Deputy Returning Officer shall immediately write the word "spoiled" upon the returned ballot paper and preserve it.

#### **ARTICLE 40 VOTING BY DISABLED PERSON**

- 40.1 The Deputy Returning Officer, at the request of an Elector who makes a declaration that he or she is unable to read or who is incapacitated by a physical cause from voting in the usual manner shall:
- (a) assist the voter by marking his or her ballot in the manner directed by the voter in the presence of any Scrutineers and shall place the ballot paper in the ballot box.
  - (b) If an Elector is accompanied by a friend, permit the friend to accompany the Elector into the polling booth and mark the Elector's ballot paper for him or her.
- 40.2 The Deputy Returning Officer shall not act under subsection (1) until the Elector has taken the prescribed oath.
- 40.3 When a ballot has been marked according to this Article 40, the Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall enter in the Poll Book opposite the name of the Elector and in the appropriate column "voter assistance".
- 40.4 Senior Electors, disabled Electors, and Electors in hospitals may request voting privileges and shall be allowed to vote at their place of residence or hospital in the presence of the Deputy Returning Officer and any Scrutineers who may be present.

#### **ARTICLE 41 PROCEDURE ON CLOSE OF POLL**

- 41.1 After the closing of the poll, the Deputy Returning Officer shall, in the presence of the Poll Clerk, Candidate and Scrutineers, immediately count the number of spoiled and declined ballots and record the total on the outside of the envelope containing these ballots and then seal it.

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- 41.2 On complying with subsection (1) the Deputy Returning Officer shall count:
- (a) the number of Electors whose name appears on the List of Electors; and
  - (b) the number of Electors recorded in the Poll Book as having voted;
- and shall draw a line immediately under the last name in the Poll Book and affix his or her initials.
- 41.3 On complying with subsection (2), the Deputy Returning Officer shall open the ballot box and proceed with a count of vote and record the result.
- 41.4 The Deputy Returning Officer shall endorse with the words "not initialed" any ballot paper that does not have his or her initials or the initials of such person acting on his or her behalf on the back thereof and any such ballot shall be counted with the other ballots but immediately upon the conclusion of the count, the Deputy Returning Officer shall:
- (a) count the number of such ballots, and
  - (b) record the total on the outside of the envelope containing these ballots and seal it.
- 41.5 In counting votes the Deputy Returning Officer shall reject any ballot that:
- (a) was not supplied by him or her;
  - (b) does not indicate a vote for any Candidate;
  - (c) contains votes for more Candidates than are to be elected;
  - (d) is so marked that it is uncertain for which Candidate the vote was cast; or
  - (e) contains any writing or mark enabling the Elector to be readily identified;
- 41.6 Notwithstanding subsection 41.5(a) to (e), a ballot shall not be rejected:
- (a) by reason of any writing, number or mark omitted by the Deputy Returning Officer; or
  - (b) when the mark on the ballot, though incorrectly made, clearly indicates the Elector's intention to vote for one particular Candidate.
- 41.7 The Deputy Returning Officer shall make a note in the Poll Book of every objection to a ballot and the name of any Candidate on whose behalf an objection was made.
- 41.8 Each objection shall be numbered and a corresponding number placed on the back of the ballot that is the subject of the objection and initialled by the Deputy Returning Officer.
- 41.9 The Deputy Returning Officer shall decide any question arising out of an objection.
- 41.10 The Deputy Returning Officer at the conclusion of the count shall complete a Statement of Poll indicating the number of votes for each Candidate which Statement of Poll shall be signed by the Deputy Returning Officer and Poll Clerk.
- 41.11 A copy of the Statement of Poll shall be attached to the Poll Book and the second page shall be retained by the Deputy Returning Officer to be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 41.12 Upon completion of the Statement of Poll the Deputy Returning Officer shall in the presence of the persons authorized to be present pursuant to Article 41.1 of these Election Bylaws, place into separate envelopes:

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- (a) Statement of Poll;
  - (b) The ballots that have been objected to but that have been counted;
  - (c) The ballots that have been objected to but that have not been counted;
  - (d) The rejected ballots not objected to;
  - (e) The rejected ballots objected to;
  - (f) The spoiled and declined ballots;
  - (g) The discarded ballots;
  - (h) The unused ballots;
  - (i) The Poll Book with the declaration of the Deputy Returning Officer therein;
  - (j) The List of Electors used at the poll;
  - (k) The declarations of Electors;
  - (l) The statement of the number of Electors as marked by the Deputy Returning Officer as "voter assistance";
  - (m) The notes taken of objections to ballot papers found in the ballot box;
  - (n) All other documents that were completed, prepared or used at the Election.
- 41.13 The Deputy Returning Officer shall seal each of the envelopes mentioned in section 41.12 with his or her own seal and initial the outside of the envelopes.
- 41.14 The Deputy Returning Officer shall mark on the outside of each of the envelopes a short statement of the contents of the envelopes, the date and name of the Election and his or her name.
- 41.15 The Deputy Returning Officer shall then return all envelopes and relevant documents to the Chief Electoral Officer.

#### **ARTICLE 42 ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOTE**

- 42.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall publicly announce the results of the Election and declare elected:
- (a) the Presidential Candidate and Vice-Presidential Candidate who received the largest number of votes; and
  - (b) (the Regional President Candidate for each Region who received the largest number of votes; and
  - (c) the Regional Vice President Candidate for each Region who received the largest number of votes;

#### **ARTICLE 43 RECOUNT**

- 43.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall recount the ballots where applicable if:
- (a) the Chief Electoral Officer decides that there is a need for a recount;

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- (b) a written request to recount is received from a Candidate within fourteen (14) days from the date of the Election; or
- (c) there is a tie in the number of votes for the election of any one office.

#### **ARTICLE 44 RECOUNT PROCEDURE AND TIE BREAKING VOTE**

- 44.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall give written notice to each Candidate of the place, date and hour of the commencement of the recount.
- 44.2 No person may be allowed in the room where the recount is being conducted except:
  - (a) the Chief Electoral Officer;
  - (b) the Returning Officer;
  - (c) the Deputy Returning Officer;
  - (d) Poll Clerk;
  - (e) the Candidates or an Elector appointed in writing to be present on behalf of the Candidate.
- 44.3 In recounting the ballots the Chief Electoral Officer shall follow the same counting rules which a Deputy Returning Officer is required to follow under these Election Bylaws.
- 44.4 If, on the recounting of votes by the Chief Electoral Officer, no Candidate can be declared elected for office of President or Vice-President because the same number of votes is counted for two (2) or more Candidates the Chief Electoral Officer shall:
  - (a) cast an additional vote by marking a ballot for one of the tied Candidates;
  - (b) include that vote in the official count; and
  - (c) seal the ballot in an envelope marked with the words "Chief Electoral Officers Vote" and keep it separate from other ballots.
- 44.5 If, on the recounting of votes by the Chief Electoral Officer, no Candidate can be declared elected for office of Regional President or Regional Vice President because the same number of votes is counted for two (2) or more Candidates, the Returning Officer for the Region shall:
  - (a) cast an additional vote by marking a ballot for one of the tied Candidates; (b) include that vote in the official count; and
  - (b) seal the ballot in an envelope marked with the words "Returning Officers Vote" and keep it separate from other ballots.
- 44.6 Upon conclusion of the recount, the Chief Electoral Officer shall publicly announce the results of the recount and declare elected:
  - (a) the Presidential Candidate and Vice-Presidential Candidate who received the largest number of votes;
  - (b) the Regional President Candidate for each Region who received the largest number of votes; and
  - (c) the Regional Vice President Candidate for each Region who received the largest number of votes.

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## **ARTICLE 45 DESTROYING BALLOTS**

45.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall destroy all ballots after the expiry of ninety (90) days from the date of the Election unless:

- (a) directed by an Order of the Election Appeal Arbitrator;
- (b) Order of the Provincial Council; or
- (c) a request for a recount is received in which case the ballots shall be destroyed after the expiry of ninety (90) days from the date of the recount unless otherwise ordered.

## **ARTICLE 46 ELECTION APPEALS**

46.1 Within five (5) business days of the Election date, or the date on which a Candidate is declared elected pursuant to Articles 42.1 or 44.6 of these Election Bylaws, any Elector may appeal the results of the Election or said declaration, where the error, practice or other circumstance, event or action materially and directly affected the conduct and outcome of the Election on the following grounds:

- (a) an error was made in the interpretation or application of these Election Bylaws;
- (b) any Elector or Candidate was guilty of promoting or aiding Corrupt Election Practices or consented to and benefited from such practices; (c) persons who voted were not eligible to vote;
- (c) falsification of a Statement of Poll or any other like actions by an Election Officer; or
- (d) any other circumstance, event or action which improperly and materially and directly affect the conduct and outcome of the Election.

### **46.2 Notice of Appeal**

- (a) A Notice of Appeal by an Elector in the form set out in Schedule "A" to these Election Bylaws, and signed by that Elector (the "Appellant"), shall be delivered to the Chief Electoral Officer outlining the grounds for the appeal with a cash deposit or certified check payable to the Métis Nation in the sum of \$100.00. The Notice of Appeal shall state:
  - i. the Election results appealed from and the name of the affected Candidate(s);
  - ii. the grounds upon which the appeal is made, including reference to the relevant sections of these Election Bylaws;
  - iii. the material facts on which the Appellant relies;
  - iv. the names of any witnesses the Appellant intends to call or a statement that the Appellant does not intend to call any witnesses; and
  - v. a list of documents or records the Appellant intends to rely on or a statement that the Appellant does not intend to rely on any documents or records.
- (b) The Notice of Appeal shall be signed by the Appellant and by four other Electors who support the appeal. In the case of appeals from the election of a Regional President or Regional Vice President, the Appellant and those Electors supporting the appeal must be affiliated with the relevant Region.
- (c) The Notice of Appeal must be received in the prescribed form by the Chief Electoral Officer

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within five business days of the Election date.

- (d) The notice of appeal shall be delivered by the Chief Electoral Officer to all Candidates, posted in the head office of the Métis Nation and in each Regional Council office and in any other community or Local and other public place or location selected by the Election Appeal Arbitrator.
- (e) The Chief Electoral Officer shall reject and return any appeal documents that:
  - i. are not received within five business days of the of the Election date or the date on which a Candidate is declared elected pursuant to Article 42.1 or 44.6 of these Election Bylaws, as the case may be;
  - ii. are not received with the required filing fee; or
  - iii. do not contain all the information required by Article 46.2(a) of these Election Bylaws
- (f) The Chief Electoral Officer shall prepare an Election record and deliver it to the Election Appeal Arbitrator. The Election record shall consist of the following:
  - i. a copy of these Election Bylaws;
  - ii. a copy of the resolution appointing the Election Appeal Arbitrator;
  - iii. a copy of all filed nomination forms;
  - iv. a copy of the notice of poll and Candidates made pursuant to Article 10.1;
  - v. all materials described in Article 41.12;
  - vi. a copy of the Notice of Appeal;
  - vii. such other material as the Chief Electoral Officer or the Election Appeal Arbitrator deem appropriate.

#### 46.3 Election Appeal Hearing

- (a) Within three days of receiving the Election record, the Election Appeal Arbitrator shall set the date for the hearing of the Election appeal which hearing shall take place in a location to be determined by the Election Appeal Arbitrator.
- (b) Notice of the hearing of the Election appeal shall be posted in the head office of the Métis Nation and in each Regional Council office and in any other community or Local and other public place or location selected by the Election Appeal Arbitrator and shall be mailed or delivered to the Appellant and all impacted Candidates.
- (c) The Election Appeal Arbitrator shall be responsible for establishing procedures in accordance with the rules of natural justice and administrative fairness as are necessary for the fair conduct of the hearing of the Election appeal.
- (d) The Appellant and any Candidate who is directly affected by the appeal, or their representatives, shall be entitled to make verbal or written submissions to the Election Appeal Arbitrator and be subject to cross-examination by the Appellant and any Candidate who is directly affected by the appeal, or the Election Appeal Arbitrator.
- (e) The Election Appeal Arbitrator has the following powers:

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- i. to determine the time, place and date of the appeal hearing;
  - ii. to determine whether the appeal hearing is open to the public or to determine who may or may not attend the appeal hearing;
  - iii. to determine questions of law arising in the course of the appeal hearing;
  - iv. to rule on any objections made in the appeal hearing;
  - v. to order production of documents which are material and relevant to the appeal;
  - vi. to determine the procedure to be followed having regard for fairness and equality between the parties to the hearing;
  - vii. to determine the matter in which evidence is to be admitted; and
  - viii. is not bound by the rules of evidence and has the power to determine the admissibility, relevance and weight of any evidence.
- (f) The Election Appeal Arbitrator does not have the power:
- i. to subpoena any witness or compel any person to give evidence in an appeal hearing excepting that the Chief Electoral Officer, Returning Officer(s) and Deputy Returning Officer(s) are compellable witnesses; or
  - ii. to order any relief that is not specifically permitted by these Election Bylaws.

#### 46.4 Decision of the Election Appeal Arbitrator

- (a) these Election Bylaws set out all of the powers of the Election Appeal Arbitrator and the *Arbitration Act*, RSA 2000, c A-43 nor any other like legislation applies to the Election Appeal Arbitrator or to appeal hearings held pursuant to these Election Bylaws.
- (b) Within five (5) business days of the conclusion of the hearing, the Election Appeal Arbitrator shall issue one of the following decisions:
  - i. to deny the appeal on the basis that the evidence presented did not fully and properly establish the necessary grounds for an appeal;
  - ii. to uphold the grounds for an appeal but allow the results of the election to stand, as the infraction did not materially affect the results of the election;
  - iii. to uphold the appeal and call for a new election; or
  - iv. such other decision as he or she deems appropriate in the circumstances
- (c) The decision of the Election Appeal Arbitrator shall be:
  - i. issued in writing and shall include reasons for the decision, which reasons may follow at a later time;
  - ii. posted in the head office of the Métis Nation and in each Regional Council office and in any other community or Local and other public place or location selected by the Election Appeal Arbitrator and mailed or delivered to the Appellant and all impacted Candidates forthwith.
- (d) If the appeal is upheld, the cash deposit referred to in article 46.2(a) shall be returned to the Appellant. If the appeal is denied, the cash deposit shall be forfeited and paid to the Métis Education Foundation. The Appellants and any other persons participating in the appeal shall be

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responsible for their own legal and other costs.

- (e) Notwithstanding Article 46.4(d), if the Election Appeal Arbitrator determines that an appeal was so lacking in merit as to constitute an abuse of the appeal process, s/he may order the Appellant to pay all or a portion of the cost of the appeal hearing, including the fees and disbursements of the Election Appeal Arbitrator and/or the costs of the affected Candidates.
- (f) All decisions of the Election Appeal Arbitrator shall be final and binding and without any right to appeal to a court of law.
- (g) If the appeal is upheld and a new election (for the office(s) that are subject to the Election Appeal Arbitrator's decision) is called, the Election Appeal Arbitrator shall set the date for the election and direct the Chief Electoral Officer to conduct a new election in accordance with these Election Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE 47 ELECTION ACT OF ALBERTA**

- 47.1 Unless otherwise stated in these Election Bylaws, all elections conducted pursuant hereto should comply with the *Election Act*, RSA 2000, c E-1, of the Province of Alberta.

#### **ARTICLE 48 INTERPRETATION**

- 48.1 Unless the context otherwise requires, words imparting the singular number or the masculine gender shall include the plural number or feminine gender, as the case may be, and vice-versa.

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**NOTICE OF APPEAL**  
**SCHEDULE "A" PURSUANT TO S.46.2 OF THE ELECTION BYLAWS**  
**OF THE METIS NATION OF ALBERTA**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [Name of Person filing Appeal]

of \_\_\_\_\_ [Address of Person filing Appeal]

\_\_\_\_\_

**Appeal the results of the Election dated:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of Election)

**And the Election of:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of elected person)

**My appeal is based on the following (check the relevant statements):**

\_\_\_\_\_ The Electoral Officer made an error in the interpretation or application of the Election Regulations and the error affected the outcome of the Election.

\_\_\_\_\_ A person voted in the Election who was ineligible to vote and provided false information or failed to disclose information relevant to their right to vote and this affected the outcome of the Election.

\_\_\_\_\_ A Candidate was guilty of a Corrupt Election Practice or benefited from and consented to a Corrupt Election Practice

\_\_\_\_\_ A circumstance, event or action occurred which improperly, materially and directly affected the conduct and/or the outcome of the Election.

**I intend to call the following people as witnesses at the Hearing of this Appeal:**

**Name of Witness 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address of Witness 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Witness 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address of Witness 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Add the name and address of any further witnesses on the back of this sheet.)

**Note: Witnesses who are not disclosed may not give evidence at an Appeal Hearing.**

Special Resolution – Exhibit "A"

**The facts upon which I rely to support my Appeal are as follows:**

(List the facts in point form on this page or on an accompanying page)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**I intend to refer to the following documents at the Hearing of this Appeal:**

(List the documents on this page or on an accompanying page – any which are not listed may not be referred to at the Appeal Hearing)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Person filing this Appeal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date signed)

Notices of Appeal must be signed by 4 other Electors who support the Appeal. These are the names, addresses and signatures of those persons. In the case of an Appeal from the Election of a Regional President or Vice-President, the person filing the Appeal and the 4 Electors supporting the Appeal must all reside within that Region.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Supporter 1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Supporter 1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Supporter 1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Supporter 1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Supporter 1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Supporter 1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Supporter 1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Supporter 1)

Notices of Appeal will not be accepted unless accompanied by a filing fee of \$100 payable in cash or by certified cheque payable to "Métis Nation of Alberta". The filing fee will be refunded if the Appeal is successful.

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## NOTES

[illegible]





## NOTES

[illegible]







STAY UP TO DATE



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