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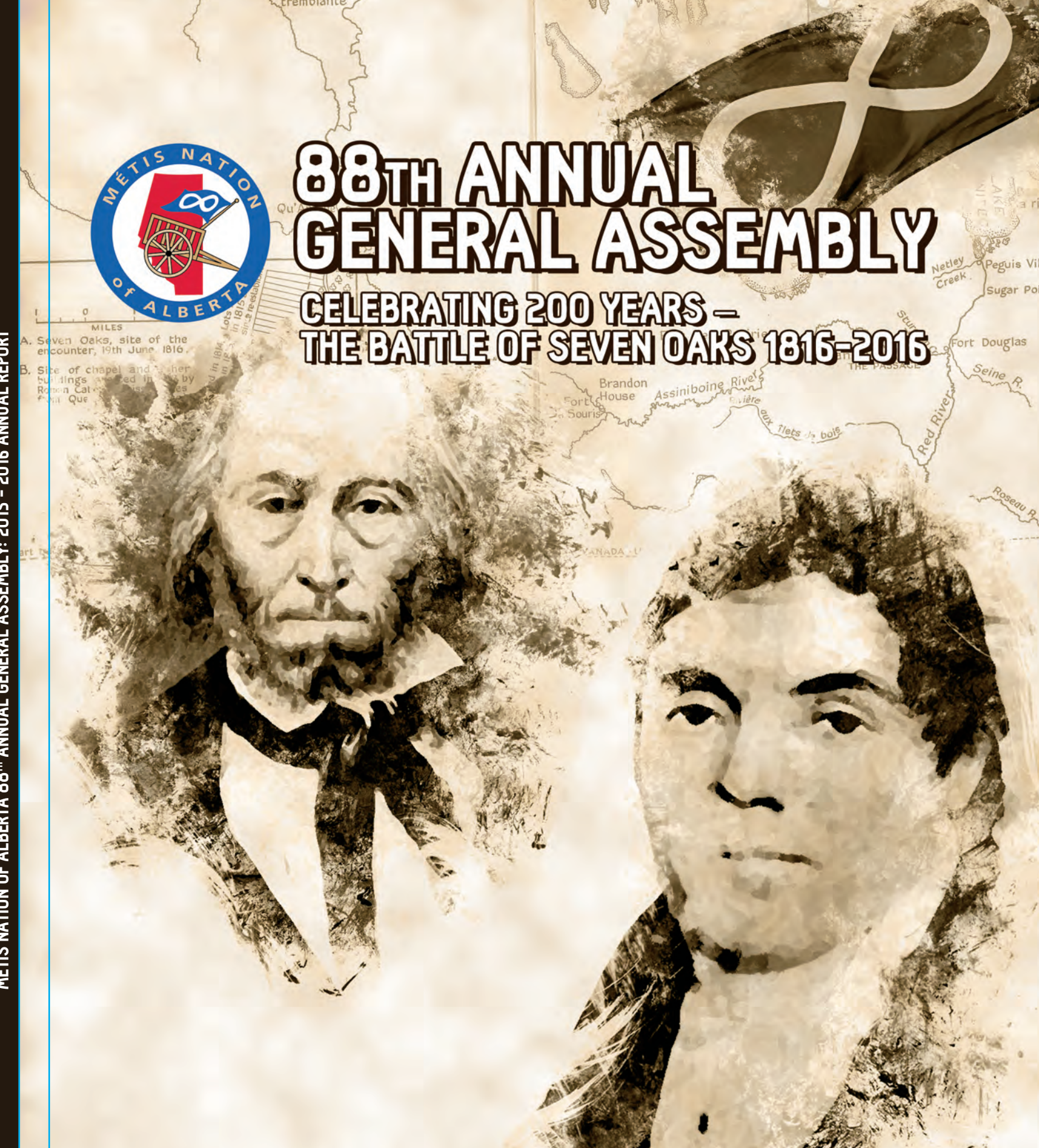
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MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA 88<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY: 2015 - 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



# 88<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

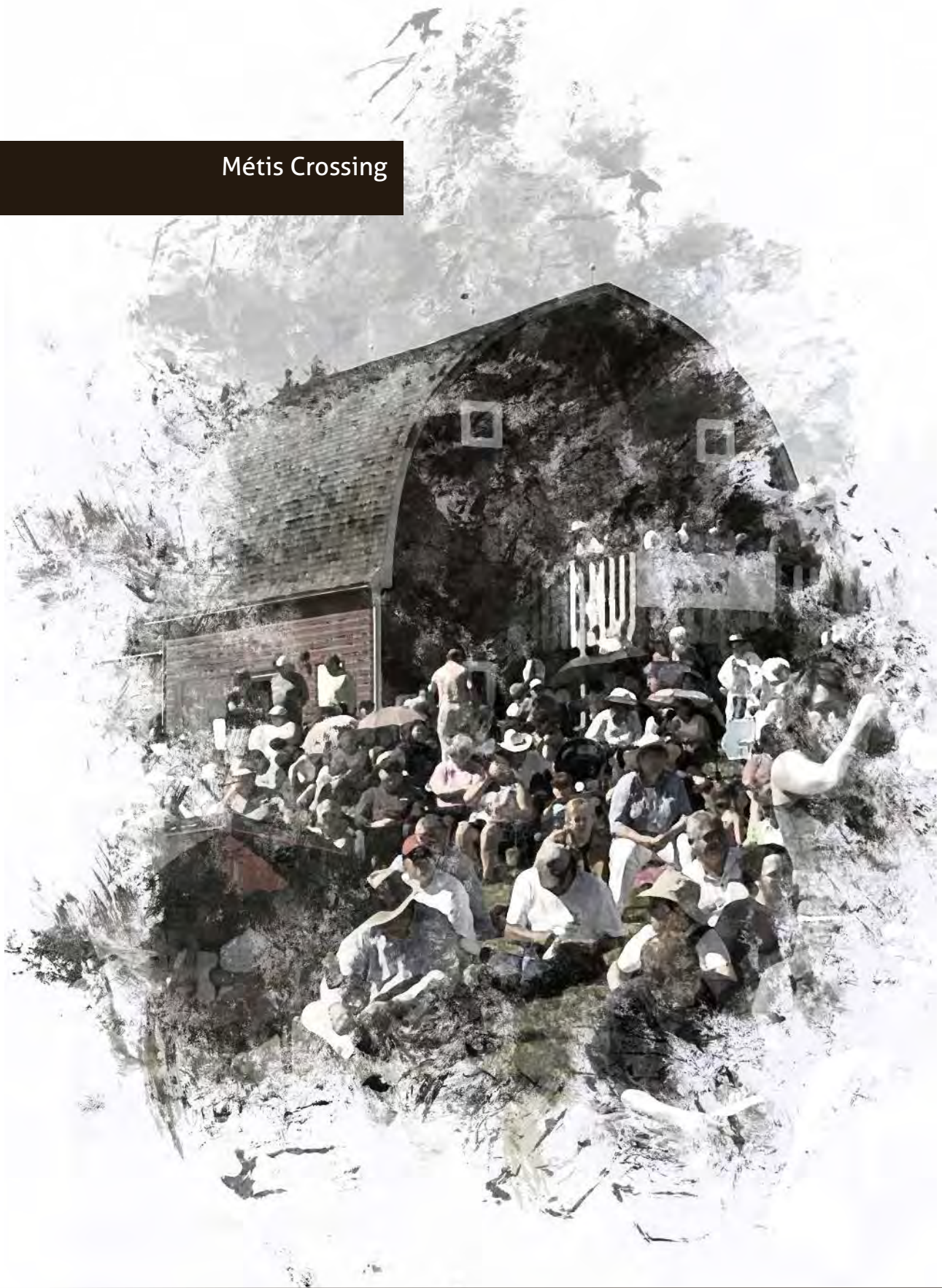
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS –  
THE BATTLE OF SEVEN OAKS 1816-2016



2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



## Métis Crossing



tremblante

WHITE HORSE  
PLAIN





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MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA  
88TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
AUGUST 6TH AND 7TH, 2016

# BUSINESS MEETING

Opening Prayer and Grand Entry	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Annual Assembly Business Meeting	Saturday, August 6th: 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM Sunday, August 7th: 9:00 AM to closing
Meeting called to Order	Establish Quorum Election of Chair & Vice-Chair Appointment of Sergeant at Arms Adoption of Agenda Selection of Resolutions Committee
Report of Officers	President – Audrey Poitras Secretary – Karen Collins • Summary of Motions Treasurer – Bev New • Auditor’s Report – Financial Statements 2015/2016 Report by Marlene Lanz and Carol Ridsdale- Co-Ministers of Rights, Governance and Justice  1. Report on the status of the 2015 Ordinary Resolution #7 - Governance Review 2. Report on the status of the 2015 Ordinary Resolution #8 - Métis Judiciary Council Review  Resolutions
Adjournment	
Closing Ceremony	Closing Remarks – President Audrey Poitras Closing Prayer



## Voting at the 87th Annual General Assembly





## GREETINGS FROM THE MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA PRESIDENT

# GREETINGS



**Audrey Poitras**

*President,  
Métis Nation of Alberta*

I am honoured to welcome you to our 88th Annual General Assembly at our historic site, Métis Crossing. 2015-2016 was a big year for Métis across the Nation. Canada's endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Daniels Case Supreme Court Victory and the MOU between the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Government of Canada all represent great strides toward the advancement of our Métis people. After so many hard-fought battles, it is inspiring to see newfound government commitment toward enacting an enlightened Métis rights agenda on both the provincial and federal levels.

The theme of this year's assembly, *Celebrating 200 Years – The Battle of Seven Oaks 1816-2016*, is an homage to the great Métis victory at the Battle of Seven Oaks 200 years ago. History tells us that Métis have always had capacity to self-organize in order to build a Nation that we can be proud of. When Cuthbert Grant led the charge in 1816, he took a stand to establish Métis autonomy within Canada's turbulent political landscape. To this day, we continue to strive toward building the strong Métis Nation envisioned by our ancestors.



This is the first year that we are hosting an Annual General Assembly at Métis Crossing and it is my hope that this will become a proud new tradition for the MNA. The historical importance of the site to the Métis community cannot be overstated and the site stands as a testament to the historical and contemporary influence of Métis people in this province. I am happy to announce that we have been granted funding from the federal government to pursue the development of Métis Crossing as Alberta's Première Métis Cultural Centre. When complete, the site will boast an impressive array of amenities including a Métis museum, interpretive/conference centre, restored historic village, and upgraded amphitheater with tiered ground seating. We look forward to developing this site as the crown jewel of Métis culture in the province of Alberta in order to more effectively showcase our proud heritage to the public at large.

On behalf of our provincial office, I wish you a wonderful weekend at our 88th Annual General Assembly.

Kind Regards,

Audrey Poitras  
President, Métis Nation of Alberta





# DIGNITARY GREETINGS





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

August 5–7, 2016

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Métis Nation of Alberta's 88th Annual Assembly.



Since its founding meeting in 1928, the Métis Nation of Alberta's Annual General Assembly has provided an effective forum for advancing the interests of its members. This gathering is a wonderful occasion to highlight the contributions made by Métis Albertans and to address the challenges of improving their socio-economic well-being. I am sure that the implications of the recent Daniels decision of the Supreme Court of Canada will be the subject of much discussion.

I would like to thank the members of the Métis Nation of Alberta for organizing this weekend's events, which unite Métis from across the province in celebrating their heritage and in fostering positive change for the community. I am certain that this year's assembly will prove to be enlightening for everyone involved.


Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and productive meeting in Smoky Lake.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Justin Trudeau, written in a cursive style.

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada



**Thomas  
Mulcair**  
NDP  NDP

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO | K1A 0A6

[thomas.mulcair@parl.gc.ca](mailto:thomas.mulcair@parl.gc.ca)

June 22, 2016

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Canada's New Democrats, I would like to extend heartfelt greetings to everyone gathered for the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Over the years a deep sense of purpose and community has led to a strong Métis Nation of Alberta, dedicated to promoting the political, social and economic interests of Métis in Alberta. As well, your work to protect your traditions and history will ensure that your rich cultural heritage is preserved for future generations.

New Democrats are re-committed to working with the Métis Nation to support and further establish its institutions and rights. We continue to be dedicated to working collaboratively to ensure that the Métis Nation's distinct voice is heard, and that its values, principles and desires are realized in a true Nation to Nation relationship built on partnership, respect, and prosperity for all Canadians.

As you celebrate your successes and look to the future, I once again extend best wishes for a productive and inspirational assembly.

Warmest regards,

Hon. Tom Mulcair, P.C., M.P. (Outremont)  
Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada





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 you to the Metis Nation of Alberta Association's 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly.*

*Alberta is proud of its Metis heritage and is grateful for the past and present contributions of Metis people to our province. I commend the Metis Nation of Alberta for continually improving the social and economic well-being of Metis people and ensuring that Metis people thrive in all aspects of our society. I appreciate your work in bringing forward priorities to the Government of Alberta and ensuring issues are heard and understood.*

*Indigenous Relations works together with Metis communities and organizations on many initiatives supporting the shared goal of building strong, vibrant communities, and I look forward to continued collaboration on promoting Metis economic and community well-being.*

*I wish the Metis Nation of Alberta Association and your membership an inspiring and productive meeting.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Notley'.

Rachel Notley

*August 5-7, 2016*



**HON. RONA AMBROSE, P.C., M.P.**  
**L'HON. RONA AMBROSE, C.P., DÉPUTÉE**

**LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION / CHEF DE L'OPPOSITION OFFICIELLE**



*August 5-7, 2016*

*Greetings from the Leader of the Official Opposition*

*I am delighted to extend my warmest personal greetings to the Métis Nation of Alberta on the occasion of your 88<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly.*

*I greatly admire the Métis Nation of Alberta's longstanding dedication to advancing the interests of Métis in our province. Throughout a long and accomplished history, the organization has promoted the principles of self-reliance, self-determination and self-management. You can take great pride in your role in fostering the success of Alberta's thriving Métis community, the largest of any province.*

*This annual gathering is an occasion to recognize this record of achievement and advance the organization's laudable goals. Canada's Constitution recognizes and affirms the aboriginal and treaty rights of the Métis people. Through the immense contributions of the Métis Nation of Alberta, many of the aspirations of Alberta's Métis community are being realized.*

*I am also heartened to note that the Métis Nation of Alberta is an engaged and valued partner. During the recent fires that devastated Fort McMurray and the surrounding area, your organization responded immediately and compassionately. I salute your exceptional efforts to help those affected by the crisis.*

*On behalf of Canada's Official Opposition, please accept my best wishes for a productive assembly and continued success in the coming year.*

*Yours truly,*

*The Hon. Rona Ambrose, P.C., M.P.*





**Message from Shannon Stubbs**  
**Member of Parliament for Lakeland**

On behalf of the Official Opposition and the riding of Lakeland, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 88<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Canada is proud of its people, traditions, and history. As the Member of Parliament for Lakeland, I value the great contribution of the Métis people to Alberta and to all of Canada. I look forward to continuing to build relationships with the Métis Settlements across Lakeland. We share the goal of building healthy, vibrant and prosperous communities, and of improving the social and economic well being of Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast. We appreciate the hard work of the Métis Nation, as you ensure important issues are heard and understood. I encourage residents of Lakeland to reach out to my office so we may work together to promote our region and our mutual interests.

I sincerely regret my absence and wish each of you a productive and fulfilling assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Stubbs".

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 88<sup>th</sup> 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 election of the Trudeau Liberals to power in Ottawa last fall marked a turning point in relations between Canada and the Métis Nation.

The federal government is committed to complete the unfinished work of Confederation by establishing a renewed Nation-to-Nation relationship with the Métis Nation. Toward this end, it is proposing a federal claims process to address Métis rights protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognize Métis self-government, and resolve outstanding Métis claims against the Crown.

In the months to come, the Métis Nation will be called upon to seize this opportunity to finally move with a federal government on our rights and claims. The Métis National Council looks forward to embarking with the Métis Nation of Alberta and the other Governing Members on this historic journey.

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

Sincerely,

Clément Chartier





President Audrey Poitras  
Métis Nation of Alberta



Taanshi Kiyawow, Ta'wow Petigwe, Bonjour, Bienvenue

Madame President, Leadership, Elders, Veterans, Women, Youth, Staff and Honoured Guests.

It is my great honour to extend greetings on behalf of the Métis Nation British Columbia Board of Directors, Staff and Métis citizens and congratulate you all on your 88th Annual General Assembly.

The Métis Nation of Alberta continues to grow and thrive. The longevity of the MNA encourages all of us across our Métis homeland to continue fighting for our inherent rights as proud Métis people. It inspires us as governing organizations to see a better tomorrow for our young people coming up who will lead our nation to follow. As a very proud President of the Metis Nation British Columbia who has served the past 12 years in office as President I am encouraged to witness how year after year the Métis Nation of Alberta has overcome many obstacles but yet continues to flourish and with it reach a great number of milestones along the way.

For 88 years, the leadership of the MNA and the team of dedicated staff have continued to reach the objectives of the Métis Nation of Alberta and create a sustainable and strong governance.

The Métis Nation British Columbia is very proud of the relationship it has with the Métis Nation of Alberta.

On behalf of the Métis Nation British Columbia Board and Staff and our more than 14,000 registered Métis citizens and nearly 70,000 self-identified Metis people in BC, I wish you, your leadership and staff continued success and my very best to you all, for your assembly.

Ekoushi maaka! Ki'nass koumitinowow!

Bruce Dumont, President  
Métis Nation British Columbia

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**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  
2016 Métis Nation of Alberta  
88<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly**

*I am very pleased to bring greetings from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to the delegates of the 88th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).*

*I would like to thank President Audrey Poitras for inviting me to attend this wonderful event. I am particularly excited to be able join you this year as it is my first opportunity to attend an MNA AGA since my election as MNO President this past May. It is also my first time visiting Métis Crossing -- a shining example of Métis culture and the MNA's strong leadership in effective community development.*

*The MNO greatly admires the work of the MNA in such areas as Métis rights, culture, healing and wellness, governance, registry, economic prosperity and community development.*

*The MNO and MNA enjoy a very positive and productive relationship. We look forward to renewing our Memorandum of Understanding with MNA that has facilitated cooperation in a number of important areas. I have no doubt that the MNO and MNA will continue to work together in the exciting times that are ahead after the recent Daniels v Canada decision and the release of the Tom Isaac Report. These are exciting times for the Métis Nation and I believe the strong relationship the MNO and MNA have forged can be an example for Métis governments across the Homeland.*

*Best wishes for another incredibly successful Annual General Assembly!*

*Margaret Froh,  
President,  
Métis Nation of Ontario*

**the Métis  
Nation of  
Ontario**





## Greetings from David Chartrand, President of the Manitoba Métis Federation

As President of the Manitoba Métis Federation, I am pleased to extend greetings on behalf of the Métis Citizens of Manitoba to the Métis Nation of Alberta and best wishes for a successful Annual General Assembly.

After years of struggle, things are happening now which, if guided properly, will secure our place as a self-governing body in Confederation. The Daniels case ruling, which recognizes the Canadian government's responsibility to negotiate with the Métis as a culturally distinct Aboriginal Nation within Canada, will open many doors towards creating a better future for our Métis Citizens. A renewed nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and the Métis has begun.

Our democratic assemblies offer a chance to celebrate our strengths and achievements, as well as set out objectives and strategies to advance positive changes for our Métis Citizens. Your gathering will provide a great opportunity for Métis Citizens from around Alberta to connect and reconnect with one another, maintaining and creating relationships that are vital in keeping the Métis Nation unified, strong, and thriving.

I wish a constructive and successful meeting to you all.

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand, LL.D.(hon), O.M.





## Greetings from Gerald Cunningham, President of the Métis Settlements General Council

It is a great honour to offer the well wishes of the Métis Settlements General Council on the occasion of the Métis Nation of Alberta's 88th Annual Assembly. It is an exciting time to be Métis, particularly in Alberta. This past year, we have watched as a new government took office and made redefining Alberta's relationship with indigenous people a top priority. Their commitment to the principles found in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People gives me great hope that a profound opportunity exists to advance the cause of Métis people. Particularly when we also consider the potential of the Daniels decision to transform the Métis relationship with a new federal government that is also committed to positive change. To be with the MNA at the 88th Annual Assembly at a time of such transition and change is extremely humbling and we, at the MSGC, look forward to working with the MNA to advance the cause of the Métis people.

Gerald Cunningham, President  
Métis Settlements General Council





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May 31, 2016

Métis Nation of Alberta  
c/o Audrey Poitras  
100 Delia Gray Building  
11738 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5G 0X5

Dear Audrey,

Re: Métis Nation of Alberta – 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly



On behalf of the Town of Smoky Lake Council and myself, we would like to congratulate the Métis Nation of Alberta on their 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly.

Canada's first and only major Métis Crossing Cultural Centre is located in the County of Smoky Lake along the Victoria Trail just off Highway 855. The Centre is a major initiative of the Métis Nation of Alberta and is designed to engage and encourage active participation in activities that promote an appreciation of Métis customs and celebrations. It is an educational resource for schools and a major tourism destination for the Town of Smoky Lake.

We look forward to working together in the future and fully support the Métis Crossing Cultural Centre and the Métis Nations of Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ernest Brousseau".

Ernest Brousseau  
Mayor, Town of Smoky Lake



# REPORT FROM COMMITTEE MEMBER MURIEL STANLEY VENNE

## INTRODUCTION

I am honoured to present my report to the Métis Nation of Alberta 88th Annual Assembly in regard to the two organizations I represent the Métis people of Canada as a member of the National Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the Commissioner of Prisons (NAAC) and on the Remembering the Children Society which is dedicated to identifying the unmarked graves of the children who died in Residential School and to assist other organizations who wish to do similar work.

## NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS

I was honoured to receive a request from Métis National Council, as a former Provincial Vice President, to represent you as Métis people at the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Conference in Regina Saskatchewan March 30th 2016. My presentation was well received in which I mentioned the lack of resources for Métis representation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Call to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the organizations which I am involved in such as the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women and the Aboriginal Commission on Human Rights & Justice.

## MÉTIS ELDERS

Ted Norris and I, the Métis committee members requested a list of the Métis Elders who go to the Prisons in order to see that they are available to help the Métis prisoners. Corrections Canada has now completed an inventory of all the Elders in the Federal prison system and is working on other matters.

## REVIEW OF NAAC

I have requested a full review of the National Aboriginal Advisory Committee to evaluate the usefulness of the Committee and the results of the work of the Committee thus far. I believe that the Office of the Correctional Investigator Howard Sapers could be a friend and supporter of the National Aboriginal Advisory Committee since he is able to conduct investigations and make solid recommendations in addition to submitting his Annual Report to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ralph Goodale.

## RIISING NUMBERS AND COST OF PUTTING PEOPLE IN JAIL

I am very concerned and alarmed about the 87% increase in the number of Aboriginal women going to prison and 47% increase for Aboriginal men. The IAAW office is only 3 blocks away from the Women's prison in the west end of the City. Métis women from across the Prairies came to speak to me at their workshop in the prison. The latest figures on the cost of keeping a male offender in a provincial jail is \$115,000.00, \$156,000.00 in a federal prison, and \$219,000.00 for a female offender. If preventative services and help were available the government could save a lot of money and benefit the people.

## SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

The other concern is solitary confinement which is in the increase even though the United Nations has requested that the countries stop using this method of punishment because if you aren't crazy when you go in you will be crazy when you come out. It is considered as cruel and unusual punishment.

Last year, this Assembly proclaimed by unanimous resolution that this method of punishment must stop in all jails in this country. Unfortunately Joseph Pimlott, Minister of Justice resigned and the matter was not forwarded to the Métis National Council for ratification and action.

## REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN SOCIETY

Over the past years I have served as Vice President of Remembering the Children Society representing the Métis Nation. There has been a full participation in the organization both in granting the use of the MNA Boardroom from time to time and in Beatrice Demetrius helping to find the relatives of the children and my involvement.

This Society is composed of Treaty 6 and 7, Métis Nation of Alberta and the United Church of Canada. We appeared at the Truth & Reconciliation Conference held in Edmonton to put forth the information gathered over the last five years. They have also given their report with the Call to Action to the government and to all of us as Canadians to now respond to these recommendations. It is gratifying that the City of Red Deer has proclaimed June 11th as "Remembering the Children, Day".



## PRESENTATION

It is my honour to present to your President Audrey Poitras the commemorative plaque given to Métis Nation of Alberta on behalf of the Métis children who attended the Red Deer Industrial School. There are, at least nine Métis families whose children attended this school. If you go to Fort Normandeau near Red Deer you will see the Residential School on binoculars which are set up to show where the School was actually located. Twenty seven graves have been found with five wooden markers now located in the Red Deer Museum. A memorial plaque will be set up in the City of Red Deer Cemetery to commemorate the children from the School who died during the flu epidemic.

## CONCLUSION

I am honoured to represent the Métis people in the two organizations. I believe that I have an obligation to report back to you as the Métis people of Canada and ask for your concurrence, concerns and your opinion. Métis Nation of Alberta, has agreed to forward these concerns to the Métis National Council. I am grateful to David Boisvert for assisting me in the writing the resolutions that I submitted for your consideration last year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Muriel Stanley Venne C.M., B.A. Hon.)  
Former Vice President Métis Nation of Alberta







# MINISTERIAL REPORTS



# MINISTERIAL REPORTS

## MINISTRY OF MÉTIS HEALTH, CHILDREN AND YOUTH



**Sylvia Johnson**  
*Co-Minister; Health,  
Children and Youth*

It is with great pleasure that we respectfully submit the report on the Ministry of Health, Children and Youth to the 88th Annual General Assembly. Over the past year, the decision was made to amalgamate the former Ministry of Health and Wellness and Children and Youth. This transition has been very successful and over the past year, we are pleased with the progress we have been able to make.

### HEALTH

First, in regard to health, we continue to work diligently on three strategic priorities - namely, programs and services; health research, data-collection and analysis; and community and stakeholder engagement.



**Diane Scoville**  
*Co-Minister; Health,  
Children and Youth*

### Program and Service Delivery for Métis Albertans - Métis Nation of Alberta Health Clinic

Over the past three years, the MNA and Alberta Health have worked cooperatively through our Information Sharing Agreement (2010) to generate quantitative research relative to the health of Métis Albertans. The evidence indicated in the report reveals disparity in terms of overall health and well-being in comparison to non-Aboriginal Albertans, particularly in regard to chronic conditions. Based upon the information generated through our collaborative work, the MNA developed a plan to meaningfully participate in the service provision of health and social service supports through the development of a Métis Health Clinic. Our model was something which has not been contemplated previously in the Province and will be the first Métis health clinic of its kind in Canada.

Our model was not simply a clinical approach. The MNA Clinic included the vision of a 'medical home' as a place where our citizens are supported by an integrated team of physicians, nurses, and social support personnel to ensure all health and social needs are addressed in a unified approach. It combined social support, clinical expertise and physician learning and teaching and as such, promised to be a landmark initiative for both the MNA and the Province of Alberta.





By incorporating innovative strategies to provide primary health care relative to the needs of Métis Albertans, our targeted approach sought to improve access to primary health care services by providing clinical and social support for Métis Albertans through localized and provincial supports and linkages.

Our intent was to staff an interdisciplinary team of professionals including physicians, nurses, mental health therapists and dietitians specializing in supporting the primary care needs of our community. Métis Health Navigators and Community Outreach workers would be available to support patients and families as an advocate, and support them through the health care system to ensure timely access to appropriate health care and follow-up and connect our

citizens with services within their own community. Along with this integrated team of professionals, our approach proposes to consolidate pharmaceutical care, lab support in-house thus removing any barriers to accessing these services. We will also focus on health promotion and injury and disease prevention through specialized clinics which will move our families forward in the future. Our clinic proposed to offer mobile services to support our family and friends managing complex health and social challenges and provide links to services locally.

In addition, the MNA and the University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine were working on solidifying a partnership to notarize the MNA clinic as a centre of learning with the MNA providing a supporting learning environment and clinical experience for Medical residents and other health practitioners, such as registered nurses, social workers, and psychologist, thus addressing the lack of health care practitioners trained in an Aboriginal setting.

In May, 2015, we were advised that the clinical model had been put on hold by the Ministry. Today, we are pleased to report that we have once again begun working with Alberta Health on this important and necessary service.

### Health Research, Data Collection and Analysis

The MNA has continues to work collaboratively with the University of Alberta, School of Public Health and Alberta Health. In April 2014, the MNA along with our partners - Alberta Health, and the School of Public Health, submitted an abstract to the 8th Annual European Health Conference relative to our injury data. In September, the MNA was advised that our abstract, "Estimating the Burden of Injuries among the Métis Nation of Alberta, Canada" was approved by the Selection Committee for a presentation at the conference in Milan, Italy, October 14-18th, 2015. The Selection Committee received a record number of 1,356 abstracts from 62 countries. Our selection and recognition at the international level is truly reflective of the outstanding and innovative work we continue to produce in Alberta

### Community Engagement

We remain committed to ensure health and wellness programs incorporate the social and cultural realities of our citizens. As such, the Health and Wellness Advisory Committee was called to come together as an essential component of improving Métis health outcomes throughout Alberta. With membership of representatives from each Region, the committee will provide valuable advice on how to meet the unique health needs of each Region and share what is working well in their communities and where opportunities exist.

A workshop was held at our last AGA and was an opportunity to share information about the work we are doing and learn first-hand from our members

about some of the challenges and successes happening regionally and locally.

### Going Forward

This is an important and exciting time for the Ministry. Over the next year, we will continue to work to produce quality services and programs to support the on-going needs of Métis throughout Alberta. We will work to facilitate Métis citizen participation in the development of Health and Wellness programs and work to improve access to health services for the Métis and refine the MNA Métis health research agenda to include opportunities and processes in order to actively participate in the health promotion policy and program environment.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The MNA continues to work to support Métis children and families involved with the child intervention system. In doing this, our Ministry has prioritized four main objectives:

1. Ensuring children remain with their families and in their communities
2. Improve access and deliver services and supports for children and their families
3. Awareness and Education regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
4. Enhance participation and leadership in policy, planning and decision making

### Children Services and Métis Resource

Since 1987, the MNA has worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Services to support the needs of children and families involved in the child intervention system. While the goal is to ensure that families remain together and children stay in their community, our Children Services Manager and two Métis Resource Workers to advocate on behalf of children and families to ensure policies and processes are respected regarding identification, cultural planning, concurrent plans and kinship connections.

Over the past year, we have seen our caseload increase and this year alone have continued to support over sixty-five (65) families throughout Alberta.



Over the past eight years, the role of the Métis Resource has been an essential link between the child, family, community and Human Services. The Métis Resource assists Child and Family Services staff in the development of cultural and concurrent plans to ensure a comprehensive approach to wellness is undertaken. In addition, the Métis Resource has also been critical to ensure connection to other care service agencies and social support agencies to ensure our citizens receive access to appropriate and relevant services in a timely manner. Moreover, the role has expanded to support our citizens not involved with children services access education, housing, income assistance, training to employment, financial support and medical services. This has been a vast undertaking and has required unsurmountable commitment to develop and maintain partnerships within the community, government and other agencies.

## Registration

Registration of citizenship with the Métis nation for children in care provides the foundation to ensure the protection and provision of children to promote their development.

Last year we reported that we assisted with the identification and registration of 20 Métis children in care. This year, that number has remained relatively consistent and we have assisted in the identification of 26 children through the registration system process and are now citizens of the MNA.

Ensuring that Métis children are identified and receive citizenship with the MNA has been a key priority over recent years. The process for identification and registration for children and individuals involved with the Ministry of Human Services is a vast undertaking and a number of challenges exist which complicate these files. Even though we have encountered major barriers regarding registration, we continually explore ways to assist children services by building the family tree and researching the individual child's records retained by the Ministry. The MNA is currently working with the Ministry for the purposes of identification, genealogy research and permanency options and family planning.

## Data System

The MNA has refined and enhanced service delivery to our citizens through the development and utilization of the Intervention Services Administrative Data System. The system replaces the paper file system and provides the infrastructure to ensure case management is accurately recorded, member information is secure and reporting of activities is facilitated and reported upon accurately. In addition, the System is equipped with functions to store information relative to health – such as immunization records, education, referrals and providers connected within the child's network of care.

## Provincial Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Program

Over the past year, the MNA has worked to provide information to support awareness and prevention of FASD through information sessions, involvement on Government of Alberta-Ministry of Human Services Committees (FASD Training and Education Council, Awareness and Prevention Council) and service support to individuals and families affected by FASD.

As reported last year, the MNA continues to promote the prevention and awareness campaign. The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Tools for Communities was launched in November 2013.

## Métis Resource – FASD

The Métis Resource supports the diagnostic and service support needs of individuals who may be suspect or diagnosed with FASD. This is done through referral, advocacy and support planning to ensure issues with FASD are taken into consideration. Participation in various committees including the EFAN, CFS Permanency meetings and the Aboriginal Coalition meetings increases the awareness and knowledge of other service providers in the work the MNA does.

Currently, the Métis Resource works with 17 individuals and families in the Edmonton area. Upon assessment, the Métis Resource is able to determine if the individual may need FASD diagnostic services. The MNA is currently developing FASD process guidelines for families that will lead them through a step-by-step procedure and timeline of events through the diagnostic process.





## MINISTRY OF CULTURE, VETERANS AND SENIORS



**Duane Zaraska**  
*Co-Minister, Culture,  
Veterans and Seniors*

### MESSAGE FROM CO-MINISTER DUANE ZARASKA

Culture and heritage are the building blocks of a strong nation. The Métis people have built a proud and strong legacy in Canada, and I am honoured to provide oversight of this portfolio for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Seven Oaks. And although the battle itself only lasted 15 minutes, it would forever change the trajectory of Métis politics, economics, rights and history in Canada. It was great men like Cuthbert Grant, and his followers that remained steadfast in their position for the right and just inclusion of Métis in trade and commerce during the time. This pivotal point in history is important to where we are today.

Since being appointed to this portfolio, I am pleased to report that monumental progress toward three key priority areas - namely cultural longevity and continuity, research and capital development, have been made. The MNA is home to the Genealogy Research Centre (GRC) which houses a repository of over 40,000 birth, marriage, and census records, and photos and this collection continues to grow.

Over the past five years, the MNA Cultural Team continues to identify innovative and contemporary methods to share and promote Métis history and culture. The Team continues to expand research materials including Hudson Bay Company records, journals of fur traders and travelers from the Provincial Archives of Alberta, the Glenbow Museum and various libraries throughout Alberta. Over the period we have developed a series of fact sheets, which we share with our friends, family, government partners and academia. The team continues to produce their annual calendar with the 2016-2017 issue featuring talented Métis artists from across the province.

Each year, we circulate approximately 1500 cultural information packages throughout Alberta and Canada. All the research and artifacts are stored in the GRC, and as always, we welcome and encourage visitors to stop by to tour the centre.



**Dan Cardinal**  
*Co-Minister, Culture,  
Veterans and Seniors*





The annual Métis Week celebrations are a special and important time for us all. Taking place every November, this time is time to remember and recognize the contribution of our heroes, showcase our culture and celebrate our accomplishments. This year marked the 5th anniversary of the Louis Riel Commemorative Walk which includes a six kilometer trek through the beautiful roads near East Hastings Lake in memory of the journey of Riel's family, friends and soldiers to his funeral. The walk was followed by a mass at St. Margaret's Church and a light lunch and children's crafts at Deville North Cooking Lake Hall. Another key highlight of the week was the Louis Riel Commemoration in the Legislature Building Rotunda. The commemorative event included representatives from the RCMP, veterans

and members of the Canadian Armed Forces, City of Edmonton and Edmonton Police Service and Members of the Legislative Assembly. This was followed by the MNA Open House at the provincial office where Métis artist displayed their work and entertainment was provided by the very talented Gary Pruden and Donny L'hirondelle. Another highlight this year was the lighting of the High-level Bridge, and two special spots on CTV Morning News which featured a segment on traditional Métis clothing, and a lesson in Bannock making. A Seniors' Tea was also held during the week where Métis seniors were invited to the Provincial office for tea and finger sandwiches. For the first time this year, the MNA hosted a box social and jam. This event was a great success and a great time was had by all. Another first was the MNA's children and youth



art contest. Submissions were received from junior artists across the province in three age categories. The winners' pieces were transferred into lapel pins. The MNA is making this an annual event, so please feel free to contact the provincial office for more information.

Every year, the MNA hosts a special display in Batoche. For the first time last year, the MNA also hosted an "Alberta Day". This day was a great success and featured talented artists from across the province. There were over 500 visitors through our cabin, and our display highlighted Métis artists. This year, we once again hosted an Alberta Day, and a special display dedicated to the Battle of Seven Oaks.

Our passion and commitment to ensure Métis culture is accurately recorded has not gone unnoticed. This past year we worked with the Royal Alberta Museum in the creation of a Métis display. Moreover, we continue to build upon our relationship with Fort Edmonton Park and the City of Edmonton in the revitalization and capital expansion project at Fort Edmonton to ensure that our history is accurately shared, and development projects reflect our traditions.

I am very excited with the progress made relative to the Métis Crossing expansion project and as the project moves forward to the capital development, I am confident that Métis Crossing will become the epicentre for tourism, learning and community.

I am looking forward to the new and exciting opportunities before us. Importantly, I look forward to begin to identify ways to support our veterans and seniors. Our Veterans and seniors inspire and encourage us to respect and remember the importance of the commitment and sacrifices made throughout our history. And as such, will always hold a special place in our memory and hearts. As always, we would like to thank and recognize our Veterans for their commitment to supporting and honouring special events in our community including MétisWeek, MNA Seniors Tea, our Annual Assembly and of course Back to Batoche.

## MESSAGE FROM Co-MINISTER DAN CARDINAL

My name is Daniel Cardinal and I am the Co-Minister of Culture, Veterans & Seniors for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). I am the Vice President of Region 1 and was appointed to these exciting Ministries in the fall of 2015. My Co - Minister is Duane Zaraska Vice President of Region 2 and our technical advisors is the MNA Cultural Team and include Cordene Gerlat, Sara Parker, Tracee McFeeters and Beatrice Demetrius.

I am especially pleased with this appointment as my own family background and origins come from one of Alberta's historic communities of Métis inhabitants. My family of birth, the Cardinals, has a long linkage with the community of Lac La Biche, which celebrated its bicentennial in 1988. I am extremely proud of the fact that I am fluent in Cree and have taught our language to students at both the Friendship Center and Ben Calf Robe in Edmonton, AB. I studied Native Studies and Cree at the University of Alberta where I also served as a board member for the Native Studies Council.

The Métis Nation of Alberta defines culture in a broad sense to include not only our traditional music, dance and symbols, but our heritage, our sport and recreation, the natural environment and a sense of belonging to a strong and inclusive community. Quality teaching for our children must be a priority if we, as a nation and as a people, are to have a future. Therefore, I have made a conscientious effort to do my part to ensure that we promote, preserve and restore the very things that sets us apart from other people and makes us the envy of every nation when we proclaim how "Proud we are to be Métis".

The Nations strategic priority for the senior's portfolio has always been and remains to honor, respect, support, and provide advocacy on issues affecting their lives. Therefore, it is essential that we do our utmost to guarantee that our seniors are not only valued and continuously recognized for their contributions to our great Province, but to work tirelessly to ensure that their participation and advice is solicited at every opportunity. As a way of honoring and engaging our Elderly the Region hosts a weekly luncheon at the office so that our seniors can visit, share and come together in fellowship.



In the area of culture our priority is to support the cultural team with research and the collection of verifiable documents and artifacts which includes the development of a calendar highlighting our members and their respective biographies. In addition, our goal is to develop a Métis Cultural Plan and guide the future growth of Métis Crossing so that it becomes the Premiere Historical Site that was envisioned by leaders of the past and present.

Due to the recent financial commitment by the federal government, our Provincial Council has decided to host future Annual General Assembly's and Aboriginal Day at this site where we hope to eventually build a first class conference center. As part as my Ministry, our Nation and province is represented and continues to support Back to Batoche in their pursuit of the preservation of our great history.

On a regional level I have been instructing evening adult Cree classes at our office in Lac La Biche as well as at both J. A. Williams High School and Aurora Middle School. Family day and Métis Week are important as well as numerous other local events and celebrations where our Region and Ministry is actively involved and participates.

Regarding our Seniors, I work closely with our members participating with family and Community Support Services (FCSS) to ensure that they have a greater understanding of the Seniors Financial Assistance Program, reimbursement of their medical expenses and are fully aware of the opportunities available regarding the home renovation agenda.

Regions 1 and 2 participate in a sexual assault workshop with Dragonfly Counselling Support Center which offers sexual assault services. Our role was to bring a cultural awareness and overview of Métis Nation of Alberta to a variety of support services available throughout northeastern Alberta. One of my most memorable moments as Vice President of Region 1 this past spring was to bring greetings and well wishes to Eliza Tremblay who celebrated her 100th birthday.

In the words of Louis Riel – "We must cherish our inheritance; we must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on."



#### Image Notes

All images on this page were captured in Edmonton during Métis Week 2015. Métis Week is an annual celebration of Métis culture that takes place across the province during the week surrounding Louis Riel Day on November 16th.



# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

## MINISTERIAL REPORTS



**Audrey Poitras**  
*Co-Minister, Education,  
Training and Research*



**Lawrence Gervais**  
*Co-Minister, Education,  
Training and Research*

This past year has been a transformative year for Canadian politics. Canadians elected a new government federally, and Albertans elected a new government provincially, bringing with them the hope of a renewed relationship between the government and Aboriginal communities. The Liberal party specifically campaigned to renew Canada's relationship with Aboriginal people, and Rupertsland Institute (RLI) hopes to see the campaign promise bring changes to the Aboriginal Skills Employment & Training Strategy (ASETS).

Over the years, the community has come to know that the funding from this strategy represents more than 95 percent of the RLI budget. In recent years, RLI has seen important program and priority changes that have eroded a much-respected partnership. However, with the recent UN Declaration on Aboriginal Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and jurisprudence from recent Métis litigation, RLI has come to expect that the next strategy will include (at minimum) a new funding model that expands investment in Aboriginal training and education generally, so we can have access for Métis in all cycles of human resources development.

RLI continues to build its reputation as a soundly administered, arm's-length and innovative indigenous institution. At a time when the province is shedding thousands of jobs as a result of the decrease in the price of oil and other labour market displacements, RLI has managed to reach its targets on employment outcomes for Métis clients. More than 870 Métis have received assistance and found jobs in the last 12 months. Our KETO data system (a client data system for ASETS reporting) is being used by 40 percent of ASETS agreement holders in Canada and includes other Métis, First Nations and Inuit agreements.

The Métis Education division of RLI is home to two important and pivotal entities: the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) and the Alberta Métis Education Council (AMEC). This past year the RLI Board of Governors adopted a first-ever policy framework on Métis (K-12) education. Based on recommendations that came from a K-12 Métis Education policy paper, RLI successfully established the AMEC as the





first part of a journey that will serve to guide RLI in future efforts to enhance the educational outcomes for Métis in primary and secondary schooling.

Early intervention to improve education outcomes for young Métis students is critical to closing the education and income gaps existing between Métis and the general population. AMEC is composed of Métis individuals who have extensive experience in the field of education, and has a mandate to speak to government and stakeholders on all education policy matters.

To support advanced education at post-secondary institutions, our endowment program through the MEF has reached a book value of more than \$20 million with 15 sites across Alberta and continues to grow. This past year MEF welcomed Bow Valley College as our 15th endowment partner. In addition, MEF expanded endowments to oversubscribed sites like the University of Calgary and McEwan University.

RLI also created a \$2 million endowment within the MEF in order to create maximum flexibility and opportunities for Métis learners.

The MNA has always had high expectations for RLI, and RLI is excited to report that RLI has recently won the international Special Chair's Global Best Award through the International Partnerships Network and the Conference Board of Canada. The team from RLI has been invited to Oslo, Norway, to accept this prestigious recognition in September. Achieving excellence requires dedication and commitment, and we acknowledge the RLI staff for its unflinching support of the Métis people and of the goal of innovation in the delivery of programs and services to our community

Reaching for excellence requires support from many people working toward a common vision. This is why RLI would like to thank and recognize the contributions of the RLI Board of Governors and our dedicated staff across the province. RLI would also like to recognize the contributions of the MNA Provincial Council, our many friends in the community, Alberta Education and other stakeholders who have contributed to another successful year for the Rupertsland Institute.





# MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND SPORTS

## MINISTERIAL REPORTS



**James Atkinson**  
*Co-Minister;  
Forestry and Sports*



**Elmer Gullion**  
*Co-Minister;  
Forestry and Sports*

Our appointment as ministers took some time last year in order to allow the MNA to align its ministries with the ministries of the newly elected Provincial Government. As such, we were not making many moves prior. Once appointed however, we have made some pretty dramatic moves to establish positives for the Métis in Alberta.

### FORESTRY

For several years, the MNA has been contracted to coordinate an emergency wildfire Firefighter Dispatch contract between the MNA and the Government of Alberta, Sustainable Resources. This contract allows the MNA to subcontract a coordinator that identifies qualified individuals to place on crews when needed, as well as coordinates any training or certifications that may be required to qualify. The 2015 wildfire season was a relatively mild fire season, so our firefighters were not utilized very much at all, yet the coordinator remained busy locating crews should there be a need.

We are thinking to the future, and have begun establishing a more solid foundation for more secure contracts going forward. We have started a Firetack training program and are utilizing Métis Crossing as a base of operations this summer. At the time of this report, we have trained 2 groups of 16 recruits that will be ready and available for the 2016 wildfire season. Firetack training provides the basic certifications that any person will need to be eligible to fight wildfires in Alberta, or elsewhere. We are also going to partner with Rupertsland Institute to provide chainsaw and first aid training to some of the Firetack-trained recruits to further enhance our qualification for firefighting contracts. The chainsaw training will be ENFORM training that trainees may use in any industry where chainsaw are used. By training these recruits in this way, the MNA is ready for its next goal: to obtain a long term wildfire crew contract with the Government of Alberta. A long term contract would provide stability and certainty to the crews we train instead of the current "last in, first out" model of emergency crews.





We would also be well positioned to take advantage of opportunities to work in wildfire prevention through the opportunities that will arise out of the FireSmart program. FireSmart seeks to prevent wildfires from affecting communities in the way that the Slave Lake, or Fort McMurray fires have through the use of preventative measures to reduce the risk of wildfire threat. For our crews, this would be working to identify buffers or creating them when necessary.

In February, MNA staff from the Sustainable Development and Industry Relations department met with representatives from the Alberta Association of Forestry Management Professionals (AAFMP) to discuss opportunities for a relationship that could provide opportunity for the MNA to influence the

regulation and procedures of the profession. There was also a discussion on ways in which Métis people may be informed of the profession and possible increase of Métis representation in the profession. There are still more discussions to come with this group, and we hope to be able to report more strides next year.





In April, MNA staff attended the Wildfire Management Advisory Committee meeting. This Committee is comprised of senior Forestry officials and Industry representatives who have a vested interest in Wildfire operations and forest protection. Review of the 2015 Wildfire Season and various presentations were given related to forest management and protection. Participation on this Committee is important to ongoing information sharing and providing the Métis Nation of Alberta policy and program input.

## SPORTS

For the first time ever, the MNA entered a Junior Novice Hockey Team – The MNA Voyageurs – in the Native Provincials hockey tournament. Donning red and blue jerseys emblazoned with a bold infinity symbol, the pint-sized Métis team delivered an outsized performance as they skated to victory at each and every game. Native Provincials is a hockey tournament for Aboriginal youth that takes place each spring and the MNA expects to continue involvement in the tournament going into the future. Recruitment for the 2017 season will begin in February of next year and we encourage all parents with children born in the years 2009-2010 to apply!



### Image Notes

Top: The MNA Voyageurs participated in the Native Provincials Hockey Tournament this year. The MNA looks forward to continuing this initiative moving into the future.

Bottom: MNA firefighter training out at Métis Crossing.







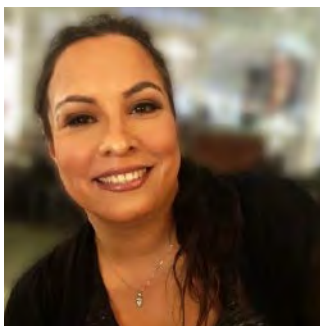


## MINISTRY OF REGISTRY, GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE

### MINISTERIAL REPORTS



**Marlene Lanz**  
*Co-Minister; Registry,  
Governance and Justice*



**Carol Ridsdale**  
*Co-Minister; Registry,  
Governance and Justice*

The principles of democratic governance that prevailed in the late 1800's under Louis Riels provisional government are a legacy for us here today as we hold our 88th Annual General Assembly. It is with great honour that we present this report to you today as we continue to build our Nation and serve the Métis citizens of Alberta.

2015-2016 was a year of great progress and advancement for the Métis Nation. Within the MNA, we saw a new alignment of ministerial departments and as Co-Ministers of this ministry it is within our mandate to ensure that as a Nation we protect our right to self-government and that we meaningfully engage our community in their rights to develop and maintain a governance system that reflects their needs and aspirations as Métis People. Toward this mandate, we have collectively work on three priority areas - namely, the MNA centralized registry, Governance Review, and Métis Judiciary Council Review.

A key priority under this mandate is to ensure that the MNA is doing all it can to maintain an objectively verifiable membership system. A key tenant of this is that the MNA and only the MNA will identify who is Métis. This is not a role of any other government except our own. To this end, the below statistics reflect the status of membership applications received in the Provincial Office by both walk in and mail. It is important to note that pending or denied files remain in the secure filing room and are accessible at any time should an applicant have additional information to support their application for membership.



YTD statistical results to March 31	2015	2016
Total number of applications received	35,094	39,138
Number of applications completed	27,995	31,017
Number of applications in progress	765	721
Number of applications incomplete	2	7
Number of applications pending/denied*	6,331	6,556
Number of Métis ID numbers issued (includes certificates and Métis ID cards)	27,436	29,876
* Non-Alberta residents	134	137
Incomplete mailed applications	196	244
No historical link	1,918	2,087
Failed to respond to request for more information	3,725	3,802
On Indian registry	27	30
Returned mail	313	295
Voluntary termination	9	9
Deceased	9	9







#### Image Notes

Top and Middle Rows: Images captured at a registry outreach event in Rocky Mountain House. The Rocky Mountain House Local teamed up with the MNA provincial office to host a joint registry event and AGM. The event enjoyed a significant turnout from the community.

Bottom Row: A registry outreach event in Fairview. The event was such a success that it drew the attention of the Fairview Post, a local news publication. We thank everyone who joined us for this event.

## GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Direction was provided at the 2015 AGA, to conduct an analysis of the MNA's governance system and provide recommendation to develop a governance framework model for the MNA in Alberta. To this end, the MNA engaged the University of Alberta Faculty of Native Studies and Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research to oversee this project. The objective of this review was to assess the current governance system relative to foundational principles of governance, current structure relative to roles and responsibilities of various levels of our government, and develop recommendations going forward. The review included a robust literature review of background information and governance documents, a complete review of the MNA's current governance system, MNA policy review, inter and intra-government operations and communications, Métis rights and UNDRIP implementation in the context of the MNA and Alberta, and also a series of community consultations in each of the six MNA regions. In total, over 500 pages of information was compiled, seven community consultations occurred, and a number of written submissions were attained. Recognizing the vastness of this project, we anticipate that recommendations coming forth will have a positive impact on ensuring our governance system is built upon a strong foundation of principles specific to our needs.

## MÉTIS JUDICIARY COUNCIL REVIEW

At the MNA Annual General Assembly (AGA) in August of 2015, by way of resolution, the Members voted to provide a directive that a complete and comprehensive review be conducted of the MJC and that MNA Members be consulted on a path forward for a Métis Judicial process. A key priority of Ordinary Resolution #8 passed by the Members of the MNA was that the operations and decisions of the MJC are at the highest judicial standard possible. To accomplish this objective, the MNA engaged Deloitte to conduct an independent review of the MJC and recommend a re-design of the MJC process.

The objective of the review was to assess the MJC relative to:

- How matters are brought forward;
- MJC powers and rights of the parties involved; and
- The process around previous decision making.

To accomplish this objective, the following reviews occurred:

- Review current and historic operations of the MJC;
- Review the process on how matters are brought forward;
- Review the powers and rights of the parties involved;
- Review the process around previous decision making; and
- Consult with MNA members.

The project came into full swing in March 2016. Recognizing the vastness of this project, we anticipated recommendations being presented at our assembly will provide a positive direction to continue to move our Nation forward.





## MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

### MINISTERIAL REPORTS



**Audrey Poitras**  
*Co-Minister; Housing and Homelessness*

Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC) was created on November 26, 1982. The original incorporators were the Métis leaders of the day, Sam Sinclair, Henry Houle and Clifford Gladue who oversaw 25,000 shares being issued to the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

MUHC was created to provide affordable, adequate, and suitable housing to low and moderate income Aboriginal families. MUHC currently has 507 units in 14 urban centers under the Urban Native Housing Program funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

The 507 housing units under MUHC are subsidized through financial transfers from CMHC. These financial transfers allow for low to moderate income Aboriginal families to have subsidized rental rates based on their gross household income.



**Cecil Bellrose**  
*Co-Minister; Housing and Homelessness*

It is important to note that the subsidies from CMHC are only available for a certain period of time, which is set-out in the operating agreement for each unit. When the operating agreement expires, MUHC loses the housing subsidy and is no longer able to provide subsidized rent. Upon expiration of the operating agreement, ownership of the property is then transferred over to MUHC sister company, Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC).

MCHC was established in 2007 and is owned by the MNA. MCHC owns the property outright, however, due to the significantly high cost of administering and maintaining these homes MCHC is unable to base rent on family income. MCHC rent is based on 80% of the market rental rate.

To date, MCHC has 354 units in 5 urban centers in the province. Not only does MCHC operate this residential program, it also operates the Family Reunification Program, Boyle Renaissance Apartments and a Seniors Lodge in Edmonton.





The Family Reunification Program (FRP) is dedicated to reuniting Aboriginal mothers, fathers and their children by providing housing placements for up to three years. The program mandate is to assist in reuniting children in care with their families in a safe and secure environment.

MCHC is providing the program in cooperation and agreement with Government of Alberta Ministry of Human Services. The program participates in the Crime Free Multi Housing Program partnership run by the Edmonton Police Service.

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
- 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 are provided to its residents.

The Boyle Renaissance Apartments is a 90 unit residential building that offers affordable housing to individuals who are over 50 years of age on fixed to moderate incomes including individuals with disabilities.

As mentioned above, both MCHC and MUHC are wholly owned by the MNA. Its current Board of Directors is:

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

This seven person Board is made up of largely new representatives appointed by the MNA Regions. The board has lead the organization over the past year and half with a focus on positioning MUHC and MCHC for future success as premier housing providers to Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples of Alberta. They are to be commended for their dedication, integrity and focus on preparing MUHC and MCHC for growth in the affordable housing industry.

In the last year the Board engaged in a very thorough search to fill the position of Executive Director of MUHC. This search concluded with the hiring of Larry Scarbeau in March of 2016. Larry has over 30 years of executive administrative experience with the last 22 years spent here in Alberta in healthcare, seniors and affordable housing settings. He also was a full-time officer in The Salvation Army and served in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. His greatest accomplishment was leading the provincial initiative under Premier Stelmach's mandate to create a 10 year plan to end homelessness in Alberta. Larry conducted public sessions in the 7 major cities in Alberta covering topics including affordable housing, addiction and mental health treatment, and homelessness that

informed the development of *A Plan for Alberta - Ending Homelessness in 10 years* that has created over 4,500 housing units for formerly homeless Albertans. He is also a proud dad to three adult children and an amazing Papa to four grandchildren.

A key focus of the Board and current management is strengthening the positive working relationship with MUHC funder CMHC and systematically dealing with all the issues brought forward by CMHC in its review as well as issues brought forward by new and current management. MUHC is now in full compliance with the requirements of CMHC. The Board was also recently successful in obtaining renewal of several operating agreements, which allows for our low-income tenants who require subsidized rents to remain in the homes longer. This also means that no houses in the MUHC portfolio will be transferred out to MCHC until after 2023. In the meantime, the replacement reserve fund continues to grow under the Board's direction and will be used to ensure the proper upkeep and maintenance of the homes in to the future.



# MINISTRY OF MÉTIS RIGHTS AND ACCOMMODATION

## MINISTERIAL REPORTS



**Karen Collins**  
*Co-Minister; Métis Rights  
and Accommodation*

Since its establishment, the Ministry of Métis Rights and Accommodation has been very busy. The portfolio includes Métis consultation, Métis harvesting, economic development, government and industry relations. In order to effectively manage these areas and to take advantage of related provincial and federal initiatives we have created a new department within the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) that is focused on these ministerial responsibilities.

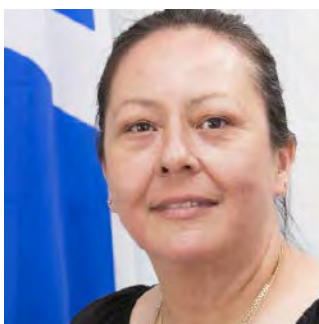
Created in December 2015, the Department is called Sustainable Development and Industry Relations (SDIR). With this new focused and dedicated department, we have been able to reach a number of milestones and quick wins for the Métis Nation.

### CONSULTATION

At the present time, the Province of Alberta does not recognize the need for industry to consult with Métis living outside of the settlements. In order to be consulted on developments, we are forced to pursue companies through the time and resource consuming process of statements of concern.

This is changing for the MNA, just as the situation for the Métis Settlements has recently changed. As of April 4, 2016, the Métis Settlement consultation policy has been in effect.

Today the government of Alberta is working with the MNA to develop a policy framework for consultation with the non-settlement Métis in Alberta. To prepare for these negotiations, the MNA held a series of consultation workshops with Regional and Local leadership to garner initial direction on how best to proceed with the development of Métis consultation framework. This included presentations on the current state of Métis consultation throughout and asking Métis leadership to describe how consultation is conducted within the different Regions when opportunities do arise, and how they feel consultation should take place in a perfect world.



**Bev New**  
*Co-Minister; Métis Rights  
and Accommodation*

It became apparent that the MNA, MNA regions and MNA Locals were at different capacity levels in terms of the ability to engage with industry and governments alike. In order to make sure that we are able to capture these differences and are negotiating a meaningful policy with the Province, a recommendation was made to create a Technical Working Group on Métis Consultation (TWG) made up of technical representatives from each of the MNA Regions, some key MNA technicians, and the Co-Ministers of Métis Rights and Accommodation.

A key goal of the TWG is to develop and present a draft set of consultation Principles to the MNA 2016 AGA that will guide MNA negotiations with the Province of Alberta. A list of TWG Appointments is available at the end of this report.

In the absence of a Provincial Métis Consultation Policy, the Sustainable Development and Industry Relations department has been working with the Regions and various Locals on resource development consultations around the Province.

For example, SDIR has been working with some Locals in Region 1 to engage with Alberta Powerline Ltd (APL) on their proposed Fort McMurray West 500 kV Powerline Project. This project would start in Region 4 Wabamun area and head north to Region 5 Wabasca area then cuts east to Region 1 Fort McMurray, Thickwood area.

The Alberta Utilities Commission is holding a hearing on the project application, with the hearing scheduled to be held on September 19, 2016 in Edmonton AB.

Four (4) MNA Locals have gained standing for the hearing and together with Region 1 and the MNA have formed a group in a collaborative effort to ensure Métis land use is respected and Métis concerns mitigated.

The Group has been engaging with APL in consulting with MNA members on Métis traditional uses in and around the project area. This project is also an opportunity for the SDIR team to begin to build the internal capacity needed for the MNA to conduct consultations and traditional land use studies for our own people.

We have been securing quotations for industry engagement and consultation management software to allow for efficient tracking of projects and consultations, and to allow for a single database of Métis traditional use information. In the end, the MNA will be able to handle consultations quickly, efficiently, confidentially and with secure storage.

We have also been engaging with a number of Federal departments in relation to Métis consultation, in particular Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Both departments have been approached to provide support to the MNA in consultation activities. Currently, the MNA capacity for consultation is relatively limited, yet we will try to participate and assist MNA Regions and MNA communities when there is a possible adverse impact on Métis Rights.

The issue is that we are not able to participate fully or meaningfully, and the financial resources to participate are all too often not enough. We hope that these talks with the Federal representatives will allow us to leverage some financial support for the MNA so that we can be on a level playing field with industry, government and other Indigenous peoples. With this funding, we can increase MNA internal capacity to consult our own people on the possible impacts of projects or government actions on Métis Rights.

## MÉTIS HARVESTING

The MNA receives an average of 6-8 hunting and fishing inquiries a day, which has noticeably increased following the Daniels Decision; most of the inquiries begin with: "Now that we are Indians can we go hunting?"

Our staff works diligently to address all of the inquiries we receive. Our goal is to provide a better understanding of the current situation by not only answering that question, but providing background information for context and the current MNA approach.

This includes providing information on the implications of the Daniels Decision; the history of Métis subsistence harvesting in Alberta 2004-2007



and post 2007; the Hirsekorn Case; and explanation of the current Government of Alberta Métis Harvesting Policy.

The current Alberta Government Métis Harvesting Policy is not reflective of the MNA stance on Métis Harvesting, and is a serious point of contention. As such, we have been actively seeking to revisit the issue of Métis Harvesting with the Government of Alberta and we hope that all of the political changes and recent Supreme Court victories will lead to a positive outcome for Métis harvesting in Alberta.

We have had several productive meetings with the Ministers of Indigenous Relations and Environment and Parks on this matter. We hope to have more information to report in the near future.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our Ministry is also responsible for the economic development portfolio for the Métis Nation of Alberta. For the 2015 and 2016 fiscal year the MNA concentrated on generating studies that would allow the MNA to make informed economic policy decisions including exploring various joint ventures and other economic models for consideration.

We also wanted to ensure that our Métis businesses and members had peer support through the current economic downturn. To that end the MNA held one provincial business mixer and supported regional business mixers and networking opportunities. The Business mixers are one way in which we can bring industry and entrepreneurs together to connect and network. The provincial business mixer attracted well over 400 individuals to the tradeshow and business awards banquet.

All of the Regions were able to bring members to the provincial mixer, and each Region had one business highlighted for their success during difficult economic times. There was also one of the most amazing charity auctions where a Ribbon Shirt donated by Métis artisan, Laura McLaughlin, sold for \$1,400.00 with proceeds going to the MNA Cultural Fund. Thank you, Laura for your generous donation!

The regional business mixers were able to generate a combined attendance of over 175 Métis business men and women.

We have also been working on finding new opportunities for the MNA in the movement towards Green Energy and the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs). SDIR has been meeting with Alberta Innovates Technology Futures to identify some of the possibilities for the MNA to take advantage of this burgeoning economy including harnessing solar power.

We have also met with companies such as ATCO, Graham and Points Athabasca FHQ to discuss any possible work and contract opportunities that may exist. The MNA has also connected with the Alberta Chamber of Resources (ACR) with a view to develop a relationship agreement.

An MOU with ACR would provide MNA businesses and contractors access to the hundreds of resource development companies that are part of the ACR. These have only been initial explorations and no tangible outcomes have happened as of yet but SDIR is hopeful these agreements will reach fruition within the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The MNA will be sending a letter to the Alberta Environment Minister looking to take advantage of MNA participation in the implementation of the Alberta Climate Leadership Plan.

However given the complexity of the Plan, the MNA proposes to convene a series of internal meetings with our knowledge experts to fully review and analyze each aspect of the Plan so that we can make a more fulsome contribution to the discussions and implementation of the Plan.

It is vital that we understand how this Plan and how climate change itself will affect our people, including our governance structure, identification, way of life and culture.





Photos from the Region 3 Consultation Workshop with Provincial, Regional and Local MNA Leadership.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

SDIR staff have also been involved in the Framework Agreement Renewal negotiations. Participation on the discussion ensures that resource development and economic development remain a priority in the new Framework Agreement.

## INDUSTRY RELATIONS

In the past the MNA has established great working relationships with some industrial partners, specifically TransCanada Pipelines and Enbridge Northern Gateway. A major outcome of the agreement with TransCanada is to support the engagement activities of the company with MNA Locals and Regions. This is a hefty job and SDIR staff have provided best efforts to fulfill it by working at some point with all six (6) MNA regions and various MNA Locals on TransCanada projects. This relationship has also benefited many Métis entrepreneurs in Alberta and will continue to do so long into the future.

Since 2014, The MNA has had a partnership with the Northern Gateway Pipeline and is an Aboriginal Equity Partner in the pipeline. This partnership secures a certain amount of job opportunities for Métis entrepreneurs once the pipeline begins construction, as well as funds to further support the industry relations section of the MNA.

Through the relationships with TransCanada and Northern Gateway, the MNA has been able to leverage support for the development of an MNA Contractor Database. This database will provide MNA member businesses benefit in two areas:

1. The opportunity for Northern Gateway to scan the MNA Contractor database for Métis businesses capable of providing business services for various projects; and,
2. The opportunity for Métis contractors to apply for jobs on TransCanada or Northern Gateway projects that are being offered for Métis businesses.

In the future, the MNA would like to expand opportunities to other companies and industries, and once the contractor database is established the expansion will be easier. We should note that this is not a guarantee of a job, but the opportunity for MNA Member-owned businesses to apply for jobs that have been set aside for MNA businesses, or where there are specific desires to hire Métis.



## CONCLUSION

The Ministry of Métis Rights and Accommodation will continue to advocate for Métis Rights in Alberta and to work towards creating an economic and social environment in Alberta that can benefit us all. It is no small task to be in this role at this period in history, as the Daniels and MMF cases have been successful at the Supreme Court and there is a greater recognition of the Métis in Alberta, but it is definitely an exciting time to be in this role.

The MNA is well positioned to see huge strides in advancing Métis Rights in Alberta, and to see increased economic development opportunities. As Co-Ministers of Métis rights and Accommodation, we welcome the challenge and will continue to advocate for our members and future Métis generations.

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) APPOINTMENTS

Region One	Carmen Wells Eddison Lee Johnson
Region Two	Annette Ozirny
Region Three	Kirk Poitras Emile LaVallee
Region Four	Kelsy Bradburn Cliff Supernault
Region Five	Emma New
Region Six	Walter Andreef Ken Browning



### Image Notes

All images on this page were captured at the Métis Nation of Alberta 3rd Annual Provincial Business Mixer on March 31. The event provided an opportunity for Métis entrepreneurs to network and to learn about MNA's movement toward developing a Government of Alberta Métis Consultation Policy. Thank you to everyone who participated in this important event.





# The Song of Frog Plain

By: Pierre Falcon

Do you want to hear me sing a truthful song?  
On the 19th of June the Bois-Brûlés arrived  
Like brave warriors.  
Arriving at Frog Plain  
We took three prisoners,  
From Orkney! They came to rob our country.

While on the point of dismounting  
Two of our men cried out  
The English are coming to attack us!  
Right away we turned back  
To meet them.

We have surrounded the band of Grenadiers;  
They are immobile! They are horseless!  
We have acted honorably.  
We sent an ambassador.  
Governor, could you spare us a moment?  
We want to talk to you.

The Governor, enraged,  
Tells his soldiers – Fire!  
The English fire the first shot.  
Our ambassador was nearly killed.  
The Governor behaving like an Emperor,  
Acts cruelly.  
The Governor behaving like an Emperor,  
To his misfortune acts with too much cruelty.

Having seen the Bois-Brûlés go by,  
He tried to frighten us.  
Having tried to frighten us,  
He made a mistake; he got himself  
And many of his grenadiers killed.

We killed nearly all of his men  
Only four or five managed to escape.  
If you had seen the English  
And all the Bois-Brûlés afterwards!  
From mound to mound the English were falling,  
The Bois-Brûlés were shouting for joy.

Who composed the song about this [victory]?  
It's Pierre Falcon, the good fellow!  
It has been made and composed  
About the victory that we have won!  
It has been made and composed,  
Let us sing to the glory of all the Bois-Brûlés!

# Chanson de la Grenouillère

par Pierre Falcon

Voulez-vous écouter chanter une chanson de vérité?  
Le dix-neuf de juin les Bois-Brûlés sont arrivés  
Comme des braves guerriers.  
En arrivant à la Grenouillère  
Nous avons fait trois prisonniers  
Des Orcanais! Il son ici pour piller notre pays.

Étant sur le point de débarquer  
Deux de nos gens se sont écriés  
Voilà l'anglais qui vient nous attaquer!  
Tout aussitôt nous nous sommes devires  
Pour aller les rencontrer.

J'avons cerné la bande des Grenadiers,  
Ils sont immobiles! Ils sont tout démontés!  
J'avons agi comme des gens d'honneur  
Mous envoyâmes un abassadeur.  
Gouverneur! voulez-vous arrêter un p'tit moment,  
Nous voulons vous parler.

Le gouverneur qui est enrage,  
Il dit à ses soldats – Tirez!  
Le premier coup, c'est l'Anglais le tire,  
L'ambassadeur a presque manqué d'être tuer.  
Le gouverneur se croyant l'Empereur  
Il agit avec rigueur  
Le gouverneur se croyant l'Empereur  
A son malheur, agit avec trop de rigueur.

Ayant vu passer les Bois-Brûlés  
Il a parti pour nous épouvanter,  
Étant parti pour nous épouvanter,  
Il s'est troumpé, il s'est bien fait tuer  
Quantité de ses grenadiers.

J'avons tué presque tout son armée  
De la bande quatre ou cinq se sont sauvés.

Si vous aviez vu tous les Anglais  
Et tous les Bois-Brûlés après!  
De butte en butte les Anglais culbutaient.  
Les Bois-Brûlés jetaient des cris de joie!

Qui en a composé la chanson?  
C'est Pierre Falcon! Le bon garçon!  
Elle a été faite et composée  
Sur la Victoire que nous avons gagné!  
Elle a été faite et composée  
Chantons la gloire de tous ces Bois-Brûlés!







# BATTLE OF SEVEN OAKS, 1816

## *A Narrative by Peter Fiddler*

On the evening of June 19th the boy on watch in the gate tower calls out, "the Half-breeds are coming."

Semple goes up to the watchtower with a spyglass. So do Heden, the blacksmith; and Wilkinson, the secretary; and White, the doctor; and Holte, the young lieutenant of the Swedish Marines; and John Pritchard, who has left the Nor Westers and joined the colony; and Bourke, the storekeeper.

"Those certainly are Half-breeds," says Pritchard, pointing to a line of seventy or a hundred horseman coming from the west across the swamps of Frog Plain beyond Fort Douglas toward the colony.

"Let twenty men instantly follow me," commands Semple. "We'll go out and see what those people want."

Bayonets, pistols, swords are picked up in confusion, and sallies a little band of twenty-seven men on foot.

The Half-breeds are not approaching Fort Douglas. They are advancing towards the colony. Half a mile out; Semple meets the colonists rushing for the fort in a wild panic. Alex McBeth, a colonist who had been a soldier, calls out "Keep your back to the river, Governor! They are painted! Don't let them surround you."

"There is no occasion for alarm! I am only going to speak to them," answers Semple, marching on, knee-deep through the hay fields. All the same, he sends a boy back with word for Bourke, the storekeeper, and McLean, the farmer, to hitch the horses and drag out the cannon. As the Half-breeds approach, Semple sees for himself they are daubed in war paint and galloping forward in a semi-circle. Young Holte of the Marines becomes so flustered that he lets his gun off by mistake, which gives the Governor a start.

"Mind yourself," Semple orders. "I want no firing at all."



Fort Douglas





Cuthbert  
Grant

"My God, Governor! We are all lost men." Mutters Heden, the blacksmith; and Kilkenny, a fighting Irishman, begs, "Give me leave, Governor! Let me shoot; or we shall all be shot. There's Grant, the leader. Let me pick off Grant!"

"No firing, I tell you," orders Semple angrily, and the two parties come in violent collision on a little knoll of wooded ground called Seven Oaks.

With Grant are our old friends of the Saskatchewan, Falcon, the rhyming poet; and Boucher, son of the scout shot on the South Saskatchewan; and Louis Primo, old reprobate who had deserted Cocking fifty years ago; and two of Marguerite Trottier's brothers from Pembina, and a blackguard family of Deschamps from the Missouri; and seventy other Plain Rangers from the West.

Followed by a bloodthirsty crew hard to hold, Cuthbert Grant was appalled to see Semple march out courting disaster.

"Go tell those people to ground their arms and surrender," he ordered Boucher.

"What do you want?" demanded Semple as Boucher galloped up.

"Our fort!" yelled Boucher forgetting his message.

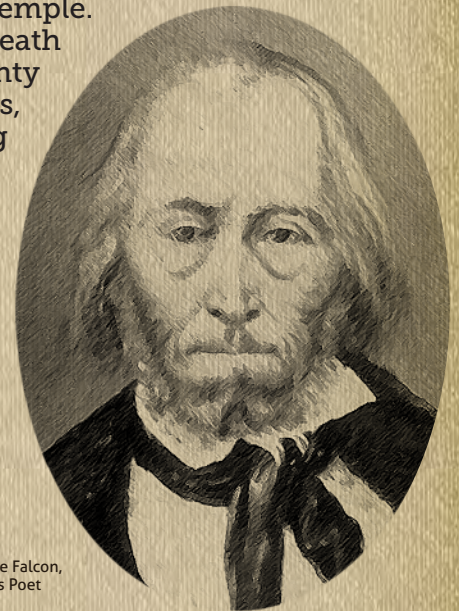
"Then go to your fort!" vehemently ordered Semple.

"Rascal! You have destroyed our fort," roared the angry Half-breed.

"Dare you address me so?" retorted Semple, seizing the scout's gun. "Men take him prisoner!"

"My God! We are all dead men", groans Sutherland, the Scotch colonist, for the dread war whoop had rent the air. There was a blaze of musketry, and there reeled back with his arms thrown up was young Holte, the officer who had boasted with the Lake Winnipeg schooner "he would give the Northwest scoundrels a drubbing. Another crash and Semple is down with a broken thigh. Cuthbert Grant dismounts and rushes to stop the massacre.

"I am not mortally wounded! Take me to the fort", gasps Semple. Grant turns to call aid. The Deschamps stab the Governor to death on the spot. The firing last less than fifteen minutes, but twenty of the Hudson Bay men have fallen including all the officers, four colonists, fifteen servants. Captain Rodgers is advancing to surrender when he is hacked down. Of the twenty-seven who followed out, Pritchard, the former Nor Wester, is saved by surrender, and five men escape by swimming across the river. As for the cannon, Bourke is trundling it back as fast as the horses can gallop. McLean the settler had been slain. One, of the Plain Rangers, Batoche, also known as Letendre, has been killed: only one wounded, Trottier of Pembina; and Cuthbert Grant at last succeeds in stopping the infuriated rabble's advance and drawing off to camp west of Seven Oaks.



Pierre Falcon,  
Métis Poet





Battle of Seven Oaks Monument in Winnipeg, Manitoba

No need to describe the blackness of the work that night on the prairie. The Half-breeds wreaked their pent-up vengeance on the bodies of the slain. Let it be said to the credit of the Nor Westers, they had no part in this ghoulish work. The worst miscreants were the Deschamps of the Missouri, whose blood stained hands no decent Indian would ever touch after that night. In camp, Pierre Falcon, the rhymester, was chanting the glories of the victory, and Pritchard was pleading with Grant for the lives of the women and children. For years afterward, yes even to this day, terrible stories were told of the threats against the families of the colonists; but let it be stated there was never at any time the shadow of a vestige of a wrong contemplated against the women and children. What Indians might do, old Chief Peguis had shown.

Pritchard was sent across to the fort with word that the colonists must save themselves by surrender.

Otherwise, Grant could not answer for their safety among his wild Plain rangers. The panic of the two hundred people inside was pitiable. For a second time they were to be driven houseless to the wilderness. And yet the bolder spirits were for manning the fort resisting siege.

If only they could have known that Selkirk was coming; but Lajimoniere lay captive in the butter-vat prison at Fort William, and Miles MacDonell had not yet come. Without help how could two hundred people subsist inside the palisades?

A white sheet was tied on the end of a pole and the colonists marched out on the June 22nd, at eight in the morning. Grant standing guard to protect them as they embarked in eight boats for Lake Winnipeg. Before abandoning Fort Douglas, Angus Matheson and old Chief Peguis gather a few of the dead and buried them in a dry coulee near the site of the old Cree graveyard at the south end of modern Winnipeg's Main Street.

Other bodies are buried as they lie at Seven Oaks; but the graves are so shallow they are ripped open by the wolves. Grant rides along the river bank to protect the colonists from marauders till they have passed the Rapids of St. Andrew's and are well beyond modern Selkirk.













# REGIONAL REPORTS

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## REGION ONE



**Diane Scoville**  
*MNA Region 1 President*



**Dan Cardinal**  
*MNA Region 1  
Vice President*

This past year has been a busy and exciting time for us here in Region 1.

Danielle Lynis joined our team as a receptionist this year. Danielle is a welcome addition and an incredible asset to our office. Danielle brings with her a strong background in administration, and has been instrumental in ensuring we maintain exceptional service to our members. In addition, Shirley Dunning has joined our team as a financial clerk. Shirley works very closely with our accountant to ensure transparency and accountability relative to our finances and corporate affairs. Shirley also supports our executive treasurer at our regional council meetings.

We work very hard throughout the year to support the needs of our citizens in Region 1. Events and celebrations are very important opportunities to connect with family, friends and our partners. Throughout the year, we have hosted a number of celebrations which are a wonderful time to relax, enjoy great food and be entertained by our talented artists. We continue to host weekly Elders Luncheons on Wednesdays. We all look forward to this event, and a great time is had by all. Métis Week is also a very important and special time for us, and this year we were host to daily events including stew and bannock lunches and our Louis Riel Day Banquet. Christmas is a very busy and exciting time as well. We continue to deliver our Elders Christmas Hampers for members and we also had the Métis Child and Family Jigger come out to entertain. We had a wonderful turnout at all of our events and we would like to thank you all for making our events such a great success!

In Region 1, we continue to promote and provide opportunities for our youth. This past year, we held a Youth Cultural Camp at Beaver Lake Campground where youth were shown traditional ways by our Elder, participated in cultural walks, beading and were taught about nurturing and taking care of their well-being. It was a great experience for everyone involved and are looking forward to more opportunities like this in the future.

Cultural promotion is very important to us. Our Vice-President, Mr. Daniel Cardinal, has spearheaded the Language Initiative program in Lac La Biche and has been teaching Cree to over twenty students each Monday and Wednesday. In addition to this, Dan also teaches in schools over lunch to students. We are very thankful for Vice-



President Cardinal's efforts and this valuable gift he is passing on.

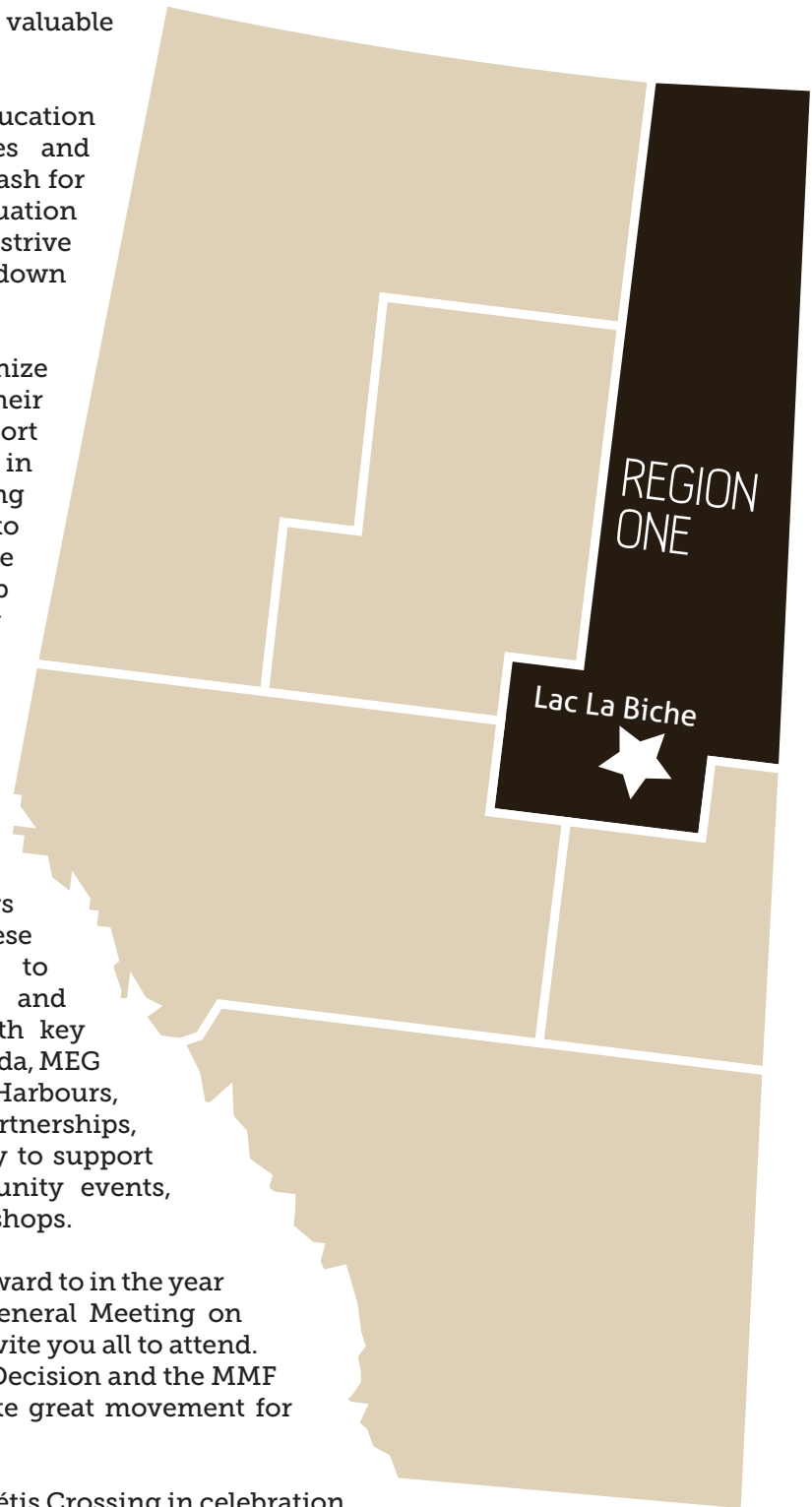
The Region continues to support education by attending graduation ceremonies and continuing to provide the traditional sash for both the headstart and high school graduation programs. Education is something we strive to continue to advance by breaking down barriers for continuing education.

As always, we continue to recognize the importance of our Locals and their partnership and we continue to support them any way we can. We participate in Local meetings, and support fundraising efforts to ensure citizens have access to services and supports as needed. In the past, we have provided sponsorship for such events as Fire Arms Safety and Trappers Course. This year, we provided funds to the Locals to attend the Daniels Celebration in Edmonton, and the Métis National Council Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg.

We continue to develop relationships and partnerships with key stakeholders in our Region. Through these relationships, we have been able to develop Good Neighbor Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with key industry partners including TransCanada, MEG Energy, Devon, Stat Oil, and Clean Harbours, just to name a few. Through these partnerships, we have been able to develop capacity to support community projects such as community events, scholarships, elders projects and workshops.

We have a number of things to look forward to in the year ahead. We are hosting our Annual General Meeting on August 12th and 13th in Athabasca. I invite you all to attend. We are enthusiastic about the Daniels Decision and the MMF Land Claim case rulings and anticipate great movement for our Nation.

To close, it is wonderful to be back at Métis Crossing in celebration of our 88th Annual General Assembly, and I wish you all the best in the year ahead.



## REGION TWO



**Karen Collins**  
*MNA Region 2 President*



**Duane Zaraska**  
*MNA Region 2  
Vice President*

Tansi and Greetings to all;

The Métis Nation is on the move in all Métis governments in the Métis Nation Homeland!

It is an exciting time with landmark Supreme Court of Canada decisions, changes in the federal and various provincial governments and movement toward crucial new agreements/legislation with respect to relationships with Métis people. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People acceptance by Canada and the Americas. As the legal beagles say "The stars are aligned"!

Having said that; with this movement comes a lot of hard work, serious negotiations and a crucial time for collective and common positions from all levels of Métis government(s) in order for advancement for the Métis people that we, leadership, have committed to working for. All governments must see that we are of one people, the Métis, and although we may have individual private views and opinions, it is fundamental to be forwarding a common front that will benefit the collective Métis people throughout.

There is indeed, much movement within the Métis Nation of Alberta. This year we have undertaken the review of our governance structure led by an independent body, as well as, a review of our quasi-judiciary process, the Métis Judiciary Council. The Métis Nation of Alberta/Government of Alberta Framework Agreement; Métis Nation Consultation Policy and Métis sustenance activities, commonly known as harvesting, have been priority issues for the agenda(s) of meetings with various ministries with the NDP government. Albeit, it is a process of relationship building, trust and reconciliation between the MNA and the Alberta government representatives as we embark on the path of advancing as partners in consensus and agreement for these most important and fundamental pieces for moving forward in bettering the quality of life for Métis Albertans.

Within our region, we continue to have input and participate at all tables inviting a Region Two perspective, Métis perspective and Indigenous perspective. More so, since the recognition of the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the landmark court decision. It is important to attempt to have a voice from our positons at the tables Métis are invited to participate.



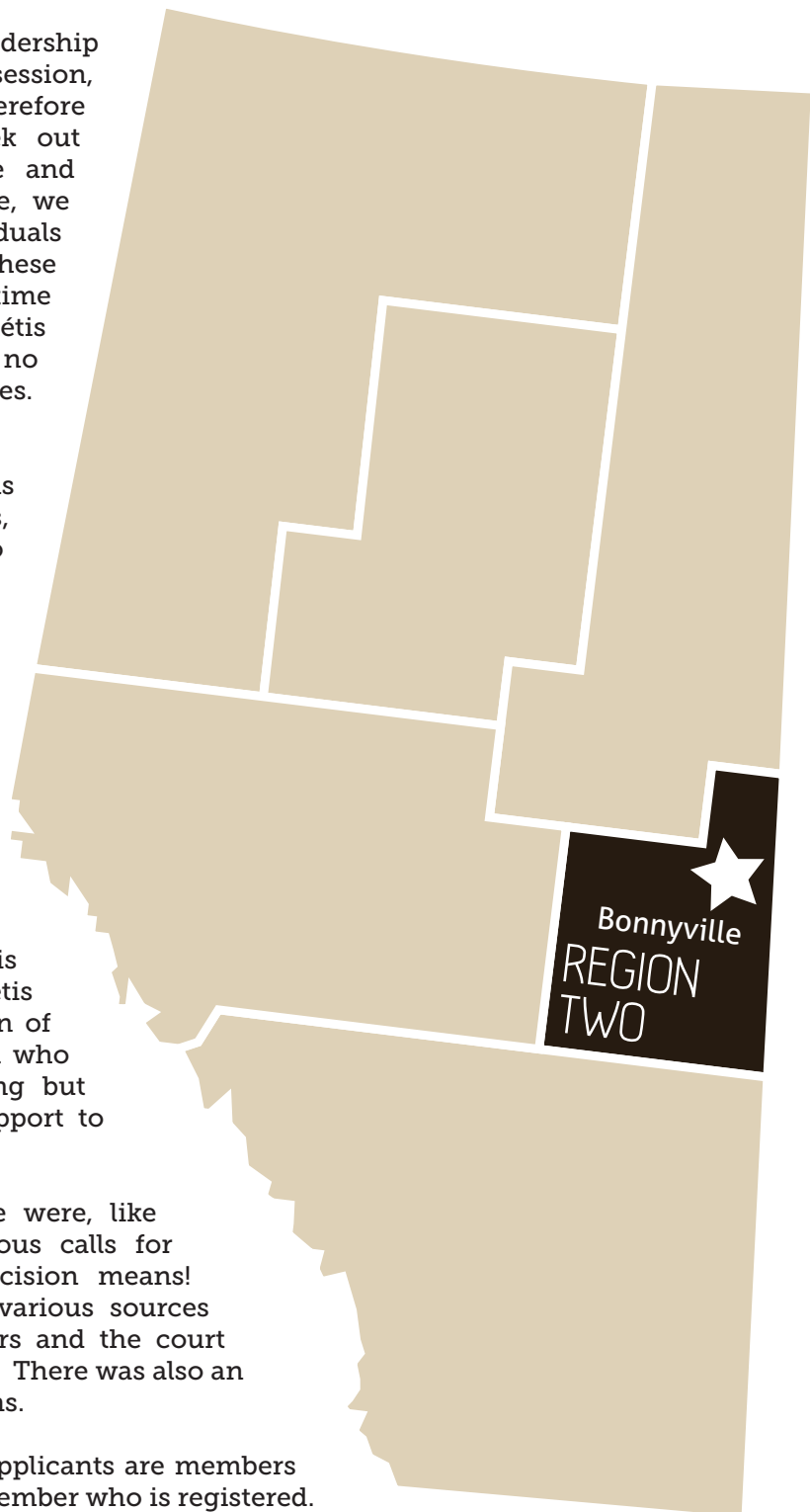
It is our process in Region 2 that leadership may not be available to attend every session, or be on every committee and we therefore look within our membership to seek out individuals who may have expertise and knowledge on that issue. At this time, we express our gratitude to those individuals who proudly represent Region 2 at these various tables and acknowledge their time and contributions extended to the Métis Nation, for in most all instances there is no monetary compensation for these duties. Hiy hiy n marci.

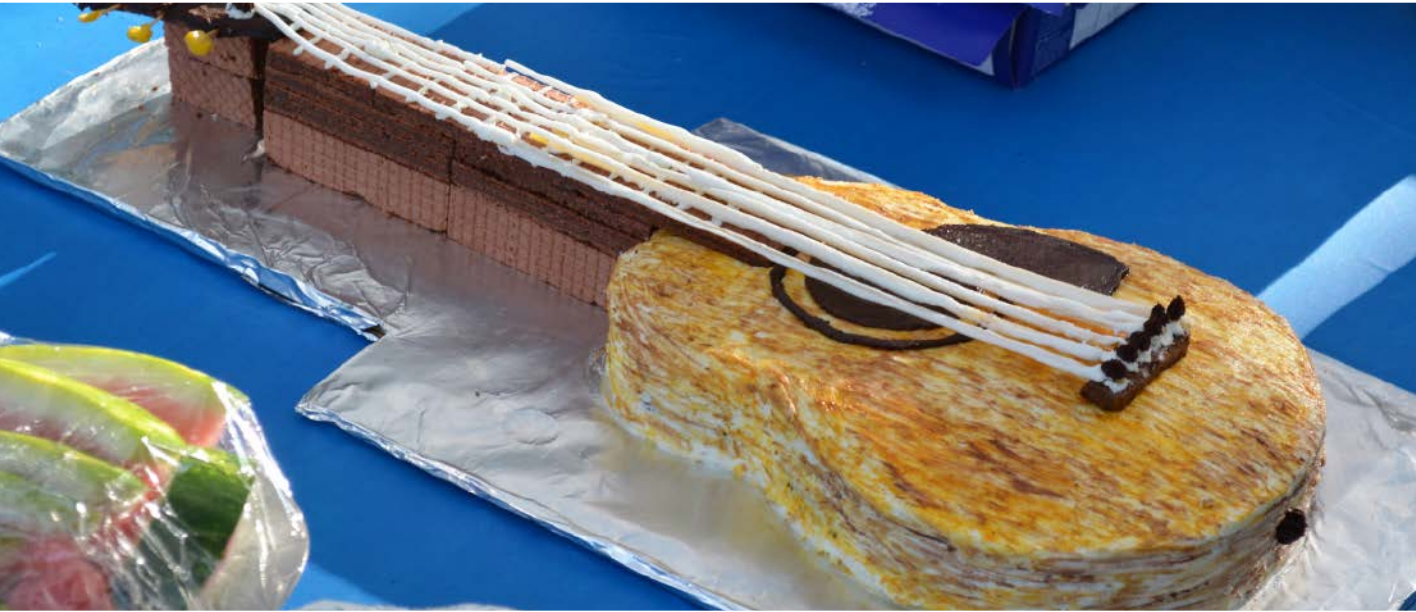
Presentations on Métis culture, traditions and history are made regularly in schools, for community agencies and others who make requests to our office. This is also extended to business partners through the ZII MNA – MPG JV Integrating Services (MPG). More recently, there are requests for information on the Daniels 91(24) court decision.

Hats off to President Poitras, Aaron Barner and the head office team for an awesome Daniels decision celebration held at Fort Edmonton! Hundreds of Métis gathered to high-five and shake hands recognizing this important milestone reached by the Métis people as identified in the Constitution of Canada. Good job on short notice! All who attended from Region 2 have nothing but positive feedback. Thank you for support to send a busload!

Once the decision came down, there were, like all Métis government offices, numerous calls for information on what exactly the decision means! Pertinent information received from various sources including our legal team, Métis leaders and the court documents were provided to the public. There was also an influx of Métis Identification applications.

It is our experience that many of the applicants are members of families who already have a family member who is registered. They are the siblings, the children and grandchildren of MNA members. The registry office was busy! It will be much more convenient for applicants once the Commissioner for Oaths certifications are received







## Image Captions

Top Row: Pictures from the Andy Collins Golf Tournament.

Middle Row: During the past year, the Town of St. Paul embarked on a local history project. The pictured plaques were a testament to the influence of the Métis in the region's history.

Bottom Row: Fiddle cake!



for both Vice President Zaraska and Linda Boudreau-Semaganis as there will be three Commissioners in our office. The membership drives coordinated by MNA head office were a welcoming activity in the region, thank you to the Registry team!

Region 2 was successful in receiving a Seniors Horizon

project for this year and will therefore be providing information sessions, workshops and gatherings for elders. We continue to assist with letter writing, filling forms and making application for elders to receive benefits extended to them through government programs. The federal census long forms were also brought in by members who required some help in filling the forms.

The Andy Collins Golf Tournament which raises funds for student bursaries was a success with a beautiful warm day to enjoy a round of golf, have a few laughs and a delicious meal with friends. There were 3 bursaries disbursed in early December in time for a little help for Christmas shopping! Our 13th annual tournament will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at the Grand Centre Golf and Country Club near Cold Lake. Come out and join us for registration at 9:00 am and shotgun at 10:00 a.m.

Our sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who continue to help with the Region 2 bingos. Without your time and energy, there would not be the funds available to assist with medical travel, bereavement and contributions to various fundraisers and cultural events. We say a big thank you to Roy Dumais who spent many hours coordinating and working our many program events over the past years. Roy is currently concentrating on his health and focusing on gaining his strength back.

Christmas season is always a busy time for Region 2 as we prepare annually for the Boxing Day Family Talent Show. The day was spent with awesome entertainers,

a lively house band and a light meal. Our relationships nurtured over the years with industry proponents, industry businesses, community agencies and neighboring communities bring the success of fundraising for the day of family fun and showcase of talent. Thank you for the monetary support, prizes and thank you to the volunteers for ensuring that the show goes on!

During the past year, the Town of St. Paul embarked on a project that highlighted history of the area with a focus on families and individuals who make up the rich history of their town. Linda, who has lived there for a number of years, graciously participated on their committee on behalf of Region 2. The Indigenous peoples' pieces came to fruition during the week of National Aboriginal Day with various activities and presentations on current issues affecting the lives of Canada's Aboriginal peoples. Linda's efforts are appreciated by her fellow Métis and for the liveliness she brings to the coordinating committee!

We express gratitude to our Regional Elder Francis Dumais for his willingness to attend functions where Region 2 is invited to have elder participation. We recently accepted an invitation to a ceremonial feast in Viking for the reburial of human bones discovered in a farm field. The bones belonged to an Aboriginal young female, 13-14, from the 1800s. Speakers from all levels of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal governments spoke of the event as a step in the process of Reconciliation and positive relationship building. There were approximately 75 people in attendance from numerous First Nations communities and the surrounding farming community.

Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA) which addresses environmental issues including air and water monitoring in the region has representation from Region 2 with Duane being on the Board and various committees within the organization. This is a strategic spot for his participation as proponents must make a presentation at the LICA table when applying for new or expansion projects within the Lakeland area. It does not cover our entire region, however, this has been very helpful for the immediate area and upcoming projects.

Business mixers are a great opportunity for regional Métis entrepreneurs to network and highlight their companies' areas of expertise. Individuals also participate and make connection with potential partners or employers. A mixer held in March gave the opportunity for our joint venture, MPG, to provide an update and overview of progress, even during this time of economic downturn. Earlier this year, MPG was awarded through Exxon Mobil, two five year contracts for talent management/labor brokering. These are with Imperial, Canada Wide and Syncrude, in Fort McMurray. We continue to expand on our network to get the job postings to as many job boards as possible. Should you want to become registered as an individual in the data base, we invite you to contact our office and we can get you in touch with MPG human resources personnel. If your office would like to receive the job postings, please do contact us and we will add your email address to the network. Our joint venture continues to expand on our consortium partnerships and has begun receiving RFPs on upcoming work on pipelines and other projects. Albeit, with the slow-down in oil and gas sector, it has made securing work a little more difficult as there are many communities and businesses feeling the crunch.

Region 2 does participate with Batoche Days by sponsoring an entertainer for Alberta Day. We also sponsored the bouncy house at Métis Crossing National Aboriginal Day celebrations. We also provide Elders with a little help in getting to Lac Ste Anne.

We have hosted an RLI summer student project for the past number of years. It is encouraging to see the Métis Nation institutions and programs complimenting each other through internal investment! A previous summer student who was with us for 3 summers is now a Registered Nurse! This year we hired a youth who is enrolled in education! There are often visits from individuals who share that they received assistance for education and training, or funding for their business and they are thankful and grateful that these programs exist to give a them a hand up for their career paths. Congratulations to Rob Nichols who is from Cold Lake and recently defended his Canadian Boxing Champion title in his weight division at a hometown card!

MUHC is welcomed to the August Collins Building! As of August 1 they too will be housed in the same building making it a one-stop for Métis services.

It was unfortunate that we were 2 members short for quorum at our annual general meeting to make it an official meeting. Nonetheless, we proceeded with an information session giving all the reports and an opportunity for questions. Thank you to President Poitras and MNA Registry for their attendance and support.

Finally, we express our thank you to our regional membership for their understanding, patience and support in allowing the time for us to do our respective duties at the Provincial Council level. Both of our ministries keep us very busy and often away from the Regional office. However, they do acknowledge the progress and productivity of work that is accomplished by all efforts in advancing the collective position for the Métis people.

All is respectfully submitted, and God bless you all.

Karen (KC) Collins, Region 2 President  
Duane Zaraska, Region 2 Vice President







## REGION THREE

# REGIONAL REPORTS



**Marlene Lanz**  
*MNA Region 3 President*



**Lawrence Gervais**  
*MNA Region 3 Vice President*

MNA Region 3 is happy to once again report on our yearly activities.

### BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MNA Region 3 hosted our Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards on April 22. We extend our most sincere congratulations to all the award recipients whose hard work has helped build up our community. We also continue to host monthly business mixers that see turnouts of approximately 30-60 people. These mixers are a great opportunity for our young Métis entrepreneurs who are able to learn from more experienced Métis entrepreneurs and business professionals. Conversely, the mixers provide our experienced Métis entrepreneurs the opportunity to pass down valuable knowledge gained during their professional careers to the next generation.

#### Entrepreneurial Leadership Award

Jeremy Tymiak, OnPoint Construction Inc. – Calgary, AB

#### Entrepreneurial Leadership Award

Hope Henderson, Convergence International Consulting Inc. – Calgary

#### In Recognition of your success in the Corporate World

Andrea Louis-Martyn, Cenovus Energy

#### In Recognition of your success and contribution to the Métis Business Community

Leo Dumont, Dumont Resources

Debra Hanly, Hanly Law Offices – Sylvan Lake, AB

Lori Kole, Lori Kole Productions

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

Barb Barclay, Native Counseling Service of Alberta

#### In recognition of your contribution and support To the Métis Community

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. (AMDI)

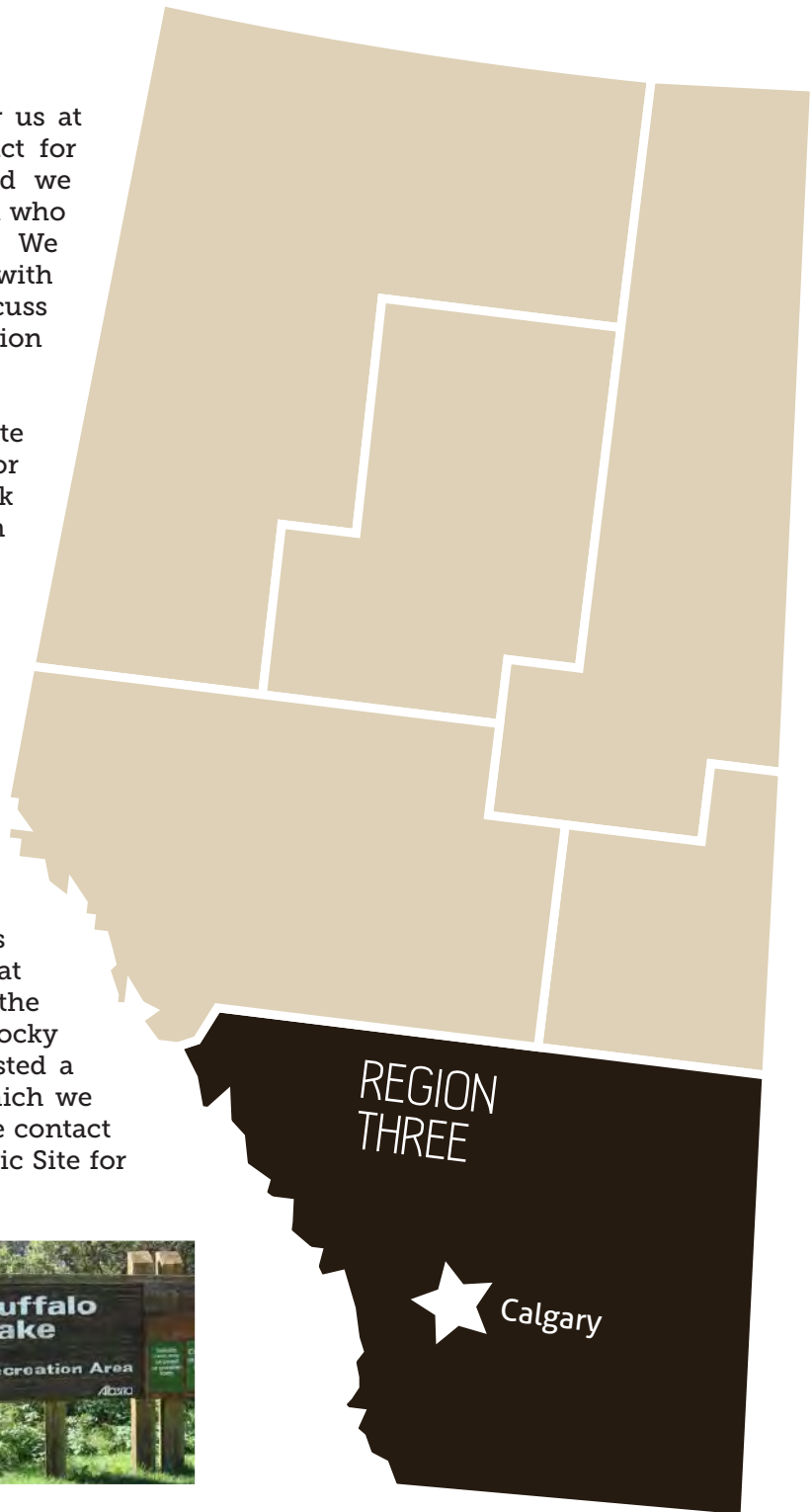


## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Tourism continues to be a priority for us at Region 3. We have a five year contract for the Buffalo Lake Recreation Area and we hired an excellent manager for the area who continues to exceed all expectations. We have also engaged in many meetings with government stakeholders in order to discuss future improvements for this recreation area.

Furthermore, we continue to operate Tail Creek Campground near Stettler for the Métis Nation of Alberta. Tail Creek Campground is a popular destination and many tourists have become regulars and continue to return for their annual vacations. We were fortunate to receive a grant to do a business plan for Tail Creek.

The Métis Interpretive Program, which was started in 2004 at the National Historical Site in Rocky Mountain House was handed over from the Region to Local 845 in 2008. Included in the sale was Teepee camping and traditional Métis tent camping for groups and families at Riverview Campground. Proceeds from the campground benefit the Local. The Rocky Mountain House Historic Site also hosted a Métis Celebration Bastion & Bones, which we assisted with and participated in. Please contact Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site for more information.



Region 3 tourism ventures, Tail Creek Park and Buffalo Lake Recreation Area are summertime destinations for Alberta-bound vacationers.





Andrea Louise Martyn - Success in the Corporate World, Hope Henderson - Successful Business, Leo Dumont - Successful Business Award, Tera Dahl-Lang - Lifetime Achievement Award (accepted by her two sons), Debra Hanley - Entrepreneurial Leadership Award, Jeremy Tymiak - Entrepreneurial Leadership Award, Barb Barclay - Community Service Native Counseling Service of Alberta, Lori Kole - Successful Business Award

## YOUTH, ELDERS AND VETERANS

### Empowering our Youth through Mentoring and Culture

The Empowering Youth through Mentoring and Culture program has changed over the past few years and has a primary focus on mentoring due to the fact that funding was handed over to the Friendship Centre. The program consists of youth mentoring meetings held once weekly, which are attended by 8 to 15 youth. Over the past year, we have brought in a range of entrepreneurs, role models and resource people to discuss career choices, what it takes to get into certain careers, and essential life skills. We also had some of our seniors partake in these meetings in order to share cultural knowledge. The program also assisted the youth attend a number of field trips including going to the Calgary Zoo and Heritage Park. The youth also volunteered at a number of cultural events.

## Veterans and Seniors

Our Region 3 office provides a number of activities for our Métis seniors. MNA Region 3 hosts bi-weekly seniors lunches that are attended by 30 to 60 seniors who come out to the Regional office to enjoy a home cooked meal, friendship and fellowship. Furthermore, we work in partnership with Métis Child and Family Services (MFCS) to host bi-weekly cribbage tournaments for our seniors at Native Network (Ephram Bouvier Building). MNA Region 3 has also provided educational classes in technology and fitness for our seniors. We recently acquired twelve iPads for seniors' computer classes as well as yoga mats for seniors' yoga classes and hired instructors to teach both classes. We take this opportunity to honour and recognize the continued efforts of Region 3 Métis Veteran, Bob Gray, who is a strong advocate of the veterans in our region and ensures that their needs are taken care of by delivering food and other essentials. Thank you, Bob!



## Youth Mentoring Program

The Youth Mentoring Program continues to be a success with a mandate of transferring and preserving Métis elder knowledge to current and future generations. Through this program, elders are able to share their knowledge and provide cultural teachings to our youth interested in learning more about their Métis heritage. We recently recorded some of our elders' stories on tape and these educational resources are made available to all members. Michif language tapes are also available to youth interested in learning this traditional Métis language. Métis sashes and other cultural items are also available for sale at our office.

## CULTURE

### Dancers

Last year, MNA Region 3 supported the Calgary Métis Cultural Dancers who performed at open houses, the Métis week flag raising ceremony, social functions and have also traveled throughout the Region to perform at Big Valley, Lethbridge, Rocky Mountain House, the Stampede and other Parades. MNA Region 3 also supported youth dancers attend and compete at the Back to Batoche Days 2015 Celebration.

### Cultural Promotion and Marketing

We continue to send out our Who Are The Métis brochures to municipalities, town and city offices, friendship centers, career centers, agencies and public businesses. Outreach also remains a key component of our region's cultural promotion plan and we routinely refer Elders to speak at schools to help educate students about Métis culture. Presentations continue to be done by Marlene and Lawrence as well as elder Faye Beazley, Doreen Bergum and Local representatives at colleges and Local events throughout the Region.

## CULTURAL EVENTS

### Métis Week

Region 3 kicked off Métis Week with flag raising ceremonies held in Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and Pincher Creek. Marlene and Lawrence alternated locations to attend.



Region 3 seniors learn how to use iPads.

Open houses were also held in locations including Métis Miywasin Center, Red Deer Local 492 and the Lethbridge Local 2003, Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Métis Calgary Family Services, and Rupertsland Institute. The week was also celebrated with two major seniors dinners in Calgary and Medicine Hat; the Calgary event was at maximum capacity and the Medicine Hat one was very well-received. There was a Family fun day in Calgary with contests and prizes for the whole family at the Crossroads Community Center followed by a traditional Métis supper and dance that was filled to capacity.

### Hills Are Alive Culture Celebration

The Métis Local #8 and the Miywasin Society put on the Hills Are Alive Culture Celebration, which is an educational festival where participants can hone their musical skills playing fiddle, guitar, bagpipes, banjo and the keyboard, and also try their hand at textile crafts including moccasin-making, hand weaving, beading and drum-making. Youth programs, jigging, seniors events and activities, and strong advocacy for Métis Cultural promotion continue to be offered in Medicine Hat. The celebration in June was a great success!



## Hivernant Rendezvous in Big Valley

MNA Region 3 assisted with the Hivernant Cultural Society's Métis Celebration in Big Valley during August long weekend. The Hivernant Cultural Society is currently in negotiations with the Village of Big Valley to develop a permanent Métis Village. A Red River Cart is now mounted on display at the Métis Village Site and the Métis flag flies proudly above it.

## Pincher Creek Cultural and Fiddle Fest

The Pincher Creek Cultural and Fiddle Fest, which was a great success with lots of music, crafts, story telling and games.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- We have many volunteers including elders, seniors and business people who support our events and activities and we appreciate everyone's dedication within the Region.
- We receive and respond to numerous phone calls throughout the day. Most inquiries are with regard to harvesting rights and membership issues.
- We had our 13th Annual Region 3 golf tournament June 19, 2015 with our presenting sponsor EnCana. As usual it was a great success.
- We had our third Stampede Pancake Breakfast on July 12, 2015 it was a huge success.
- We attend functions to promote the Métis at the Calgary Stampede, such as cooking bannock at the co-op kitchen.
- Make referrals to other agencies.

- Provide advice on programs within MNA as well as within Region 3.
- Region 3 Participated in Alberta Cultural Days.
- Lethbridge Local 2003 monthly Pot Lucks going well still in partnership with Family Ties.
- AGM was held. We had a good turnout and the hall was filled to capacity.
- Family Picnic MCFS.
- Share the Spirit Christmas Dinner—where feed the whole community not just the homeless.
- Cochrane Parade.



### Image Captions

Top row (left to right): playing music at the Hills are Alive Festival, throwing horseshoes at the Hills are Alive Festival

Middle Row (Left to Right): MNA Region 3 President, Marlene Lanz and Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi during Métis Week, TransCanada Pipelines flipping pancakes at the Region 3 Annual Stampede Breakfast, kids enjoying the Region 3 Métis Week family fun day

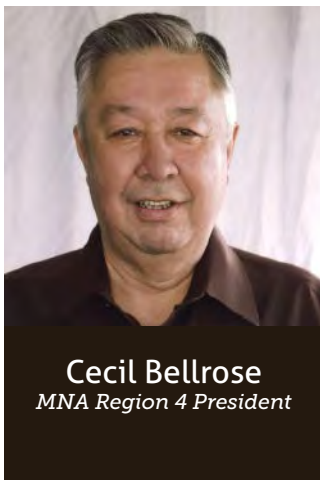
Bottom Row (Left to Right): Region 3 AGA Calgary Métis Cultural Dancers







## REGION FOUR



**Cecil Bellrose**  
*MNA Region 4 President*



**James Atkinson**  
*MNA Region 4  
Vice President*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is an honor to be able to continue to represent the Métis people within Region 4. Thank you to Region 5 and Métis Nation of Alberta staff for hosting this year's Annual General Assembly at Métis Crossing. I would also like to take a moment to thank the Locals and members within our Region that have contributed to building up our Nation over the past year. Thank you as well to the Métis Nation staff who helped make last year's Annual General Assembly in Region 4 a success which included our first ever Street Dance. Fun was had by all.

Our year at Region 4 has been busy working towards achieving the objectives set out in our business plan. Despite often having limited resources, our Locals have worked tirelessly to help us achieve our goals. 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. We are working as a Nation to address the issues that we face and attempt to move towards a goal that will benefit future generations. It is important that we work as a community to establish concerns and try to work together to achieve goals that will continue to move us forward.

I would like to make it known that our doors are always open to all Region 4 individuals who are interested in the activities that we are involved with; we welcome everyone interested in getting involved to bring forward their names. We are always on the lookout for eager volunteers who can help guide the direction in many of the portfolios that are being worked on in our province.

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

Respectfully,

Cecil Bellrose,  
Region 4 President



## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Métis Crossing and the Métis Nation of Alberta's 88th Annual Assembly. I would like to commend MNA Region 5 for choosing to bring the assembly here as it has always been said that Métis Crossing should be our host site for all assemblies!

It has been a very memorable year for Métis across the homeland, with the supreme court of Canada ruling that the Federal Government has a jurisdictional and constitutional responsibility for the Métis Nation in *Daniels v. Canada* and the MOU with Manitoba Métis Federation for land claims. It is an exciting time now for Métis in this Country as we make meaningful strides toward realizing our Métis rights.

On the home front I am currently working with the MNA to establish a Métis Cultural Centre, which includes working with Edmonton Catholic School Board, Edmonton Public School Board, The City of Edmonton and the Province of Alberta to find a facility to house the Centre. The Centre will provide a space where we can proudly display our Métis culture to the world and educate future generations about the Métis legacy in Alberta.

I hope that everyone leaves this AGA with more answers than questions and that everyone takes the time to enjoy all of the weekend activities we have planned. A big thanks goes out to all the staff who put countless hours in planning the events and activities.

James Atkinson  
Region 4 Vice President



## 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, Region Four is responsible for the advancement of the rich Métis culture and ensure the social, economic and political well-being of all Métis people."

## JURISDICTION

Region 4 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: Mary Ann Stepien, President Parkland Local #1116	Executive Treasurer: Alice Berger, President Drayton Valley Local #888
Region 4 Elder: Gloria Laird	Melanie Omeniho, President Edmonton Local #1886
Shirley Armstrong, A/President Edmonton Local #2085	Tom Ghostkeeper, President St. Albert/Sturgeon County
Al Findlay, President Grande Cache Local #1994	Murleen Crossen, President Gunn Métis Local

## OVERVIEW OF MNA REGION FOUR

Métis Regional Council - Region 4 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 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the Métis Nation of Alberta (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 4 participated in all Provincial Council meetings and were involved in their provincial portfolios.

## MÉTIS COMMUNITY

Métis Regional Council works with several industrial developments to represent the interests of the Métis community throughout our Region. We have continued to acquire Traditional Land Use Studies in some of the areas so that there is an understanding of how the various proposed projects may benefit or impact our communities and lifestyle.

We hosted Métis activities throughout Métis Week in November that highlighted a flag raising ceremony and proclamation at City Hall to start the week. We had over 50 young fiddlers entertain us from Prince Charles and Westmount School. The highlight of our event was Miss Sarah Wolfe who sang the National and Métis Anthems.

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.

There is now a new Métis Local that was established this year; Métis Nation of Alberta Association Local Council St. Albert/Sturgeon County. They will be focusing on Métis Culture.



## INDUSTRIAL ENGAGEMENT

Through activities with Industry we have been involved or engaged in several meetings or discussion in an attempt to ensure Métis interests are addressed and that opportunities will be available in the future for our communities.

Over the past year, we have attended Métis Economic Development Symposiums in Winnipeg and Vancouver. We continue to receive numerous email and mailings from companies in relation to pipelines, gas lines, etc.

The following are a list of companies that we have either met with or have worked with in an attempt to build relationships.

- Coal Valley Resources
- Northern Gateway Pipeline
- Enbridge Pipeline
- TransCanada
- Kindermorgan
- And other corporations from time to time.

With some of these corporations we have been able to engage in a variety of tasks such as:

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Traditional Land Use Study
- Community Engagement Activities
- Future Potential Engagement in the areas of Education, Environment, Regulatory Activities and Economic Development
- Relationship Agreement
- Letter of Intent

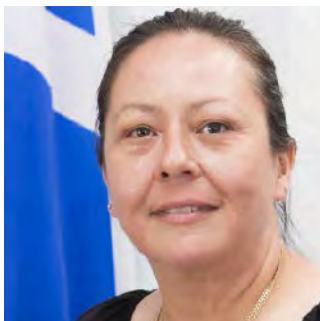
## COMMUNICATION

Communication seems to be one of the greatest challenges that we face in keeping members informed and current with information. We would encourage ideas and recommendations on new communication strategies.



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## REGION FIVE



**Bev New**  
*MNA Region 5 President*



**Elmer Gullion**  
*MNA Region 5  
Vice President*

Here in Region 5 we have been very busy. Since the Daniels case ruling, we have seen an increase in membership applications being processed. We have many people contacting our office asking many different questions so the registry department has been very busy.

We're excited to share that our Region 5 office in Slave Lake is now owned by the members of Region 5. I would like to say thank you to the leadership of Region 5 President Bev New and Vice President Elmer Gullion. Great job. The building was currently renovated as well. The office looks professional and is in great condition. We need to ensure no matter who the leadership is in future years this building CANNOT be sold without majority of Region 5 members agreeing.

Our executive director works with the members who come to the office. Some of the services provided are as follows: assisting with membership and housing applications, and sharing information with members from all levels of governments as well as the community stakeholders. The Executive Director reports directly to the Regional Council and works with all Region 5 members.

### HOUSING

Every year there's a need for more affordable housing in our communities such as Faust, Grouard, Smith, and other communities within Region 5. Families are living together because of the cost of living and the shortage of affordable housing. A prime example is the community of Faust where the properties are being bought by tourists at market value.

### FROST HILLS

The Frost Hills Integrated Plan is a very important matter to us in Region 5. Throughout 2015, there have been many calls and meetings regarding this. The Leadership brought it to the MNA Provincial table for support to see this move forward. Land and housing has been an on-going issue for more than 20 plus years and this has not changed. So we will continue to work on this.



## KATHLEEN LAND

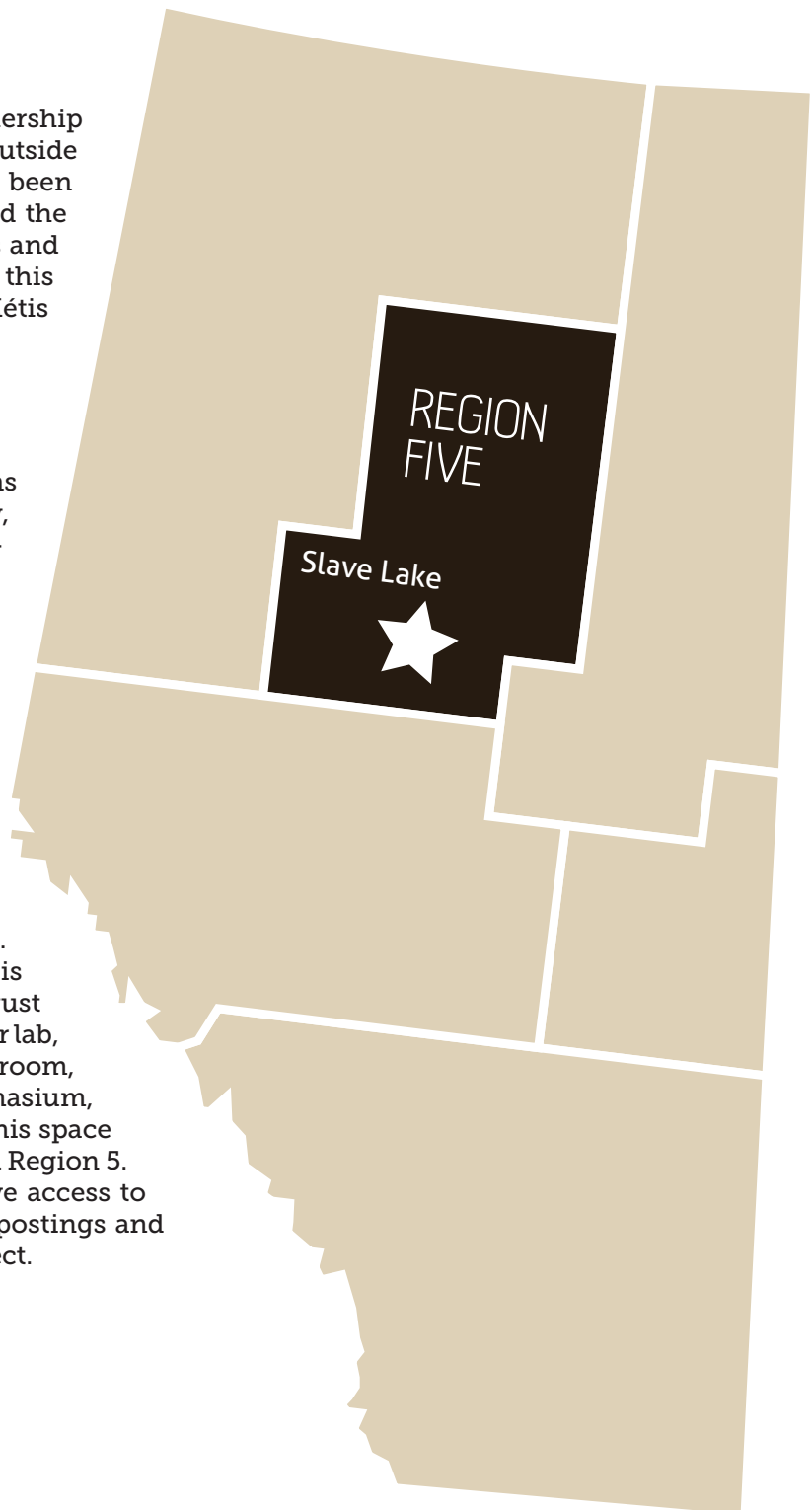
This land was obtained by Region 5 leadership negotiating for the 146 acres located outside the town of McLennan. There has not been a local there for years and Region 5 paid the land taxes in 2015. We will work on this and have the land transferred to Region 5 so this land continues to be owned by the Métis and utilised by Métis.

## YOUTH

Region 5 office has networking luncheons with the local youth and elders biweekly, every second Wednesday from 11:30-1:00PM, Sept-June. If you're in Slave Lake, stop in and visit. We had fiddle lessons for the youth and that was successful. We are currently doing the second one and the interest continues to grow. We are also looking for people who would be willing to teach arts and crafts in the different communities.

## FAUST BUILDING

NLC Building was purchased in 2015. There has been much work done in this building. and the doors will open in August 2016. This facility will include a computer lab, on-line training center, library, music room, community museum, full size gymnasium, kitchen and local area offices. As well, this space will have the first satellite office for MNA Region 5. Here the community members can have access to a fax, photo copying, applications, job postings and more. Were very excited about this project.



## VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for volunteers as well. We could possibly do more if we have more members involved. We encourage all members to come and see what we are doing, and to see how you can also help us. Together we can do much more for the local communities in Region 5.

## CULTURE

We participate in parades, Aboriginal Day, Métis Week and other events as well. We will have our 13th annual Northern Métis Celebration in Faust at our community centre in November 2016.

## EC DEV

This department has been exceptionally busy. Some of the work being done is as follows: We continue to work with TransCanada and we believe they are one of the best companies we have worked with. We have an annual business mixer and representation from TransCanada is always there to support Region 5 and the positive working relationship we continue to have. They also provide updates on their projects in our area. We will continue to meet with industry and seek opportunities for members.

## S-11 LOGGING

This is a 3 way partnership with Big Stone Band, Trout/Peerless Lake First Nations and MNA Region 5. We continue to ensure S-11 is successful and continues and provides local employment in the Trout Lake area.

## SOCIAL SUPPORTS

We have been assisting seniors with different applications and also donate to KidsSafe and Drug Alert We try to help as much as we can. We supported fundraisers for Métis members with cancer. Every year, we have 10 rooms available for the elders who choose to come to the assembly. Throughout the years, many of the same elders continue to attend. We also have our Region 5 Elder who attend the Region 5 meetings as well as other events

## BOARD REPRESENTATION

Region 5 is proud to have representation on the following boards:

- Northern Gateway - Community Advisory Board
- Apeetogosan Métis Development Inc (AMDI)
- ALPAC
- Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC)
- Slave Lake Housing Authority
- MNA Technical Working Group (TWG)

## RUPERTSLAND INSTITUTE -

## CLIENT RESOURCE ASSISTANT REPORT

Our office has been increasingly busy over the past six months since Hilda, our new CRA, has successfully set up an RLI - Métis Training to Employment Centre in our office. It has been a good, and pleasant transition in the sense that many new contacts have been made, more community partnerships have been re-established and marketing for both our programming is ongoing with a more active office. Our Executive Director and the CRA work well together in serving our members and this partnership has been fruitful thus far in terms of people coming in for membership updates and applications. Members are then introduced to our CRA and are readily informed about RLI programs and funding options. Word of mouth travels fast and members are getting to know our staff who help with any and all inquiries, help complete forms to ensure clients present and future inquires, or basic needs are met and the appropriate referrals are made for a positive and productive interaction.

The working relationship with Region 5 Staff and Client Resource Assistant is both supportive and positive. Our CRA performs as an RLI employee within her working parameters and expectations pertaining to RLI policies and procedures, however, she will go above and beyond in order to ensure members do not miss out on opportunities.

Our CRA attends interagency meetings at the Town of Slave Lake Council Chambers to offer info at a roundtable about upcoming Métis events such as



our free Network Luncheons, our Business Mixer, Governance Workshop, MJC Consultation, etc. As well, Our CRA informs and reminds attendees from other agencies about Region 5 programs, services and all RLI funded programs, summer job, or camp opportunities, and the job board/job search assistance services. Our CRA has also attended on her own time as an active volunteer at the SLNF youth conference trade fair, and a new Community Theatre Group. The CRA is also a new board member with the Slave Lake Adult Education Committee where there is pertinent information sharing and networking taking place, which assists us in learning about gaps in services for job seekers and info on the hidden job market in Slave Lake.

Our CRA helps with marketing and recruitment for all services and programs and participates in marketing on an ongoing basis and looks for any opportunity to attend events to share information on programs for both RLI and Region 5. Some of our CRA activities include poster blitzes where she hand-delivers marketing materials around town monthly to all secondary schools, posting on all Community Boards; Town Library, Multi-Rec Centre, SL Native Friendship Centre, Native Counselling Services of Alberta, Northern Lakes College, and downtown business boards. Our CRA has solidified contacts with all the high schools and touched base with Career and Wellness Coaches sharing information on all current programs. In partnership with the F.C.S.S. Coordinator at the town of Slave Lake, who also attends our Networking Luncheons, our CRA ensures our events and RLI program materials are posted on the town of Slave Lake website.

As an added goal, our CRA makes initial contacts and ensures we are invited to more events to provide an information table and is more than happy to provide school presentations. To date, our CRA has provided 6 successful school presentations on her own, or with an Employment Counselor at all schools in Slave Lake and in the communities of Kinuso, Wabasca, and Red Earth Creek. The Rupertsland Institute mobile RV office has done some marketing trips and provided services in these communities and additionally, in a recent 'Marketing Tour', included announced visits in Smith, Joussard and Grouard. Outreach services to these communities is vital for our membership and for RLI numbers, and these efforts have paid off.

Our CRA has been beneficial in sparking much interest for RLI services and programs and this is reflected in recent recruitment for summer youth program opportunities such as the Enviro Camps and new youth clients from our region for the Job Shadow, ACE Academy Program in partnership with Northern Lakes College, and CAREERS the Next Generation. The NW Regional Manager has linked our CRA with partners to attend and provide a table for the Forest Industry Career Fair hosted by all the Mills in early March including Tolko Industries Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors Ltd., and West Fraser Mills – Slave Lake Pulp/Alberta Plywood. More membership applications and updates flowing through the Region 5 Slave Lake office helps our CRA to receive definite referrals to RLI for services and will serve to help our members. We are pleased with the increase in member participation with RLI. More of our Region 5 members are becoming aware and properly informed of their options through our office and we are glad our youth will be busy with summer programs, which in turn assists RLI to meet new targets for our end of the region in respect to NW regional boundaries.





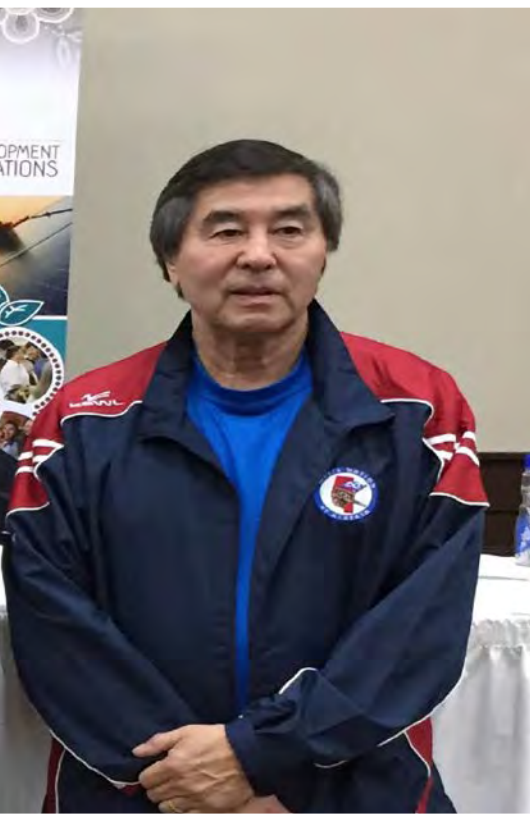
Image Captions

Top Row (Left to Right): 1) Bev New and Elmer Gullion pose with Region 5 Recognition Award recipient, Bill Lafoy at the MNA provincial business mixer. 2) Métis procession toward the Supreme Court in anticipation of the Daniels case ruling.

Bottom Row (Left to Right): 1) Client Resources Assistant (CRA), Hilda Lambert, attends an outreach event to distribute information about RLI programming. 2) NLC building exterior.







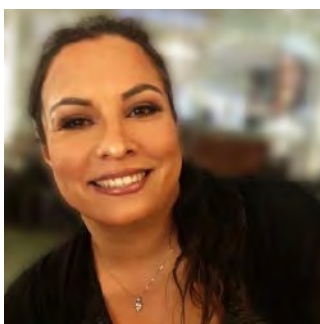


# REGIONAL REPORTS

## REGION SIX



**Sylvia Johnson**  
*MNA Region 6 President*



**Carol Ridsdale**  
*MNA Region 6  
Vice President*

Once again, another year has passed, and Region 6 Métis Nation is reporting on our activities, partnerships and endeavours we have engaged in. Many people have come through our doors, especially since the Daniels Case victory decision and the funding we received for youth.

### COMMUNITY, CULTURAL EVENTS, VOLUNTEERING AND DONATIONS

Region 6 has been very busy over the past year. We bring many events and Cultural Awareness to our communities in the Northwest Region. It is a very large geographic area and each community has specific needs which we endeavour to address. We partner with our Métis Locals and other Aboriginal Organizations to show case our Métis Culture and Pride.

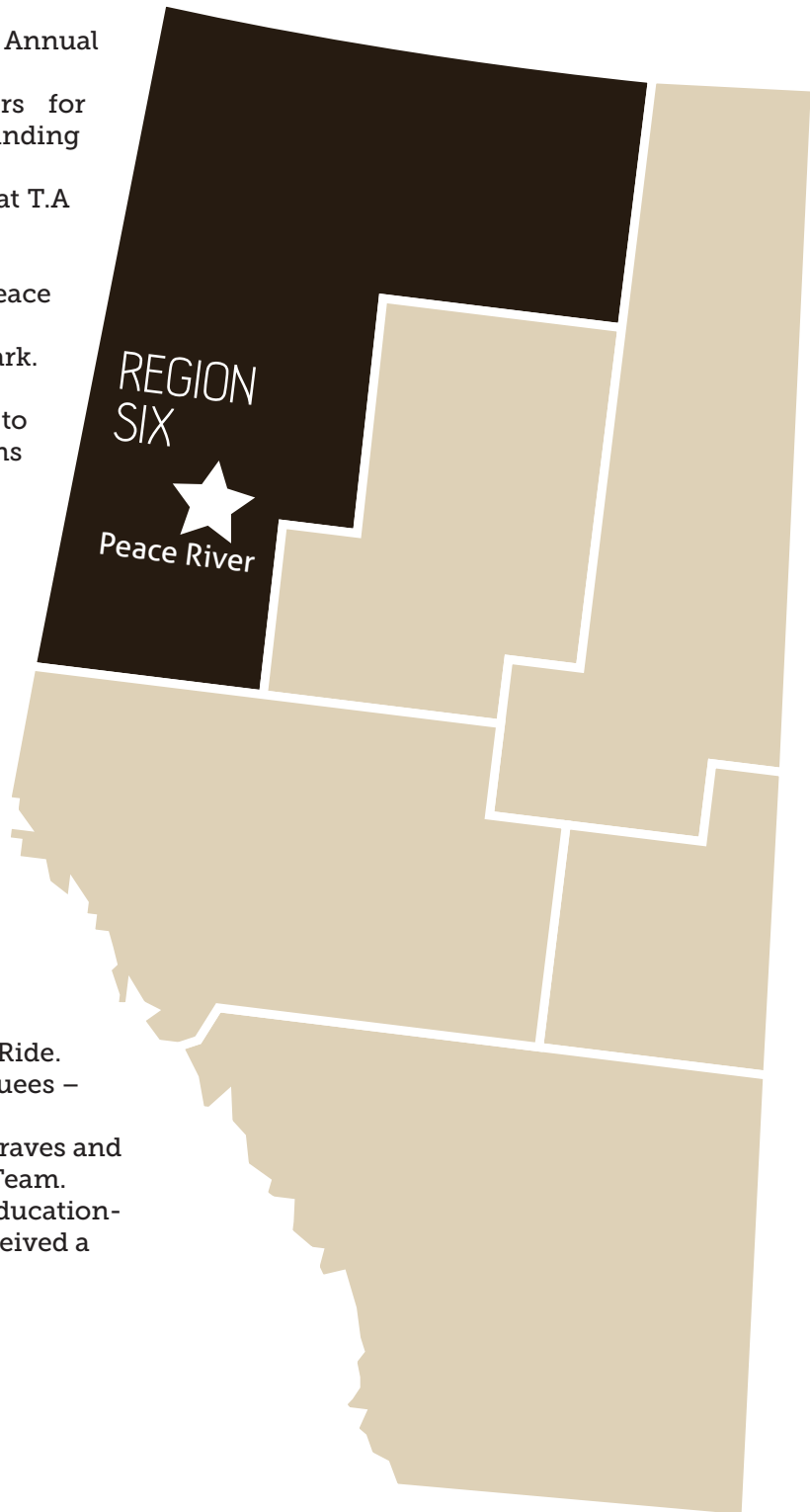
- Heritage Day at Muskoseepie Park, Grande Prairie.
- Youth Camp – Camp Artaban.
- Canada Day.
- Commensuration of Queen Elizabeth.
- Culture Days – Athabasca Hall.
- Debbie Jabbour, MLA- Open House, Peace River.
- Premier Rachel Notley visit to Peace River and Fairview.
- Aboriginal Youth Career Fair.
- Family, Friends & Neighbours - How to Keep Elders Safe.
- Elder Shelter Events.
- Growing the North Conference, Grande Prairie.
- Annual General Meetings: Peace River Métis Local #78, Grande Prairie Local 1990, Fairview Local.
- Métis Awareness Schools: Springfield Elementary, Holy Family, Good Shepherd, T.A Norris, Fairview, Fort Vermilion.
- Métis Week: Flag Flying at Town Hall in Peace River, Métis Open House, Métis Awareness at River Drive Mall, Membership Drive: Fairview & Grande Prairie, High Level, Glenmary School, Métis Fun Night, Bingo, Beading Workshop.



- Jigging and Fiddling Contest at Annual Gathering & Powwow.
- Advocacy for Members: letters for Housing, Harvesting & Funding support letters.
- Remembrance Day Celebration at T.A Norris School, Peace River.
- Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage.
- Community Xmas party, Peace River.
- Canada Day, Family Day in the Park.

Region 6 continues to make donations to members and community organizations to help support and off-set costs.

- Bereavement and Medical Support.
- A Big Black Space featuring Tannis Parenteau.
- 2015 National Aboriginal Day, Grande Prairie .
- Food Donations to Food Bank and individuals.
- Remembrance Day - Royal Canadian Legion # 62.
- Veteran Remembrance and Support.
- Interagency – Pow wow Calendars .
- Canadian Cancer Society - Hair for cure.
- North Peace MS Chapter – Trail Ride.
- Fort McMurray Support for Evacuees – Thank You Bryan Fayant.
- Native Hockey: Grande Prairie Braves and Peace River Aboriginal Hockey Team.
- Marina Brothers Excellence in Education- Ten post secondary students received a \$1000.00 Bursary.







## Image Captions

Top Row: 1) Premier Rachel Notley visits MNA Region Six. 2) Barry and Will.

Middle Row (Left to Right): 1) Métis-style graduation at Glenmary School. 2) Award presentation to Bison Contracting at MNA 3rd Annual Provincial Business Mixer.

Bottom Row (Left to Right): 1) Region 6 members environmental monitoring and following Trans Canada pipeline right of way in Bear Canyon. 2) Métis Youth in an introduction to welding program.



## URBAN PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM YOUTH MOVING FORWARD

One of the most strongly stated goals is to provide our youth with "a foundation on which to build a successful relationship with the workforce." Another stated goal is to provide information and activities to help eliminate barriers to entry into the workforce

and to give them information and skills to promote self-advocacy and self-reliance. Region 6 provided a wide range of activities and workshops aimed at providing the skills and information needed to assist youth to enhance their ability to enter the workforce. Youth Moving Forward II ran from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. During the term of the project, the initiatives that were completed include:

- Books & Supplies- assisting university students with purchase of books and supplies.
- Métis Week activities.
- Beading & Moccasin Making Workshop.
- Cultural Christmas Gathering.
- Reconciliation Workshops at various schools in Region 6.
- Gym, Sewing and Life Skills Night.
- Employability Skills Workshops.
- Youth Entrepreneurships Workshops.
- Cultural Power Point & Video.
- Pre Entry Welding.
- Class 7 and 5 Driver Training.
- Spirit Seekers Conference.
- Elders & Youth at the Park.
- Business Mixer Métis Nation of Alberta.
- Pre Entry to Pipe Fitting.
- Support to Red Feather Métis Dancers.

has been in business for over 25 years and has been a tremendous success with partnership to ClearStream and DMI pulpmill. Over 30 employees have full time maintenance and janitorial positions. We also had 25 employees at Shell Canada this past year working in maintenance and camps. Nesokmahtan Enterprises Inc. has purchased a building and four lots giving our youth programs a great space of their own. Last year Neso paid off the mortgage for the Elders Shelter so now under the leadership of Angie Crerar they are looking at building a new bigger shelter.

The health and well being of our people has always been a priority and a concern to Region 6 Métis Nation and making ourselves available to our membership through our open door policy assisting our members, families, Elders, children and youth. We welcome everyone to come in for coffee or tea and have a visit. We have computer lab available every day and allow people to also photocopy, scan, fax and email. We sell and give away crafts and Métis swag. Métis Urban Housing also has office space in our building to provide assistance to our members applying for housing. We wish all our members a wonderful summer and an enjoyable weekend at Métis Crossing at our 88th Annual General Assembly.

Region 6/Nesokmahtan Enterprises/Northwest Development Society would like to take this opportunity to thank the MNA head office Provincial Council and Staff, Region Six Members, Regional Council and Staff, Bison Contracting and all our community, industry partners and affiliates, Elders, Children, Youth and Families.

## INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS AND BISON CONTRACTING

Region 6 has increased our partnerships substantially proving to be a very successful year for our Locals, Region and members by monitoring, TLU's, workshops and training initiatives. Our company Bison Contracting



## REGION 6 REPRESENTATIVES ON PROVINCIAL BOARDS

- Sylvia Johnson, Minister of Health
- Carol Ridsdale, Minister of Registry and Membership
- Marvin Belcourt, Métis Judiciary Council
- Benita Galandy, Métis Urban Housing/ Métis Capital Housing
- Noella Richarde, Health
- Dusty Gauthier, Youth
- Walter Andreeff, Governance
- Ken Browning, Governance
- Marilyn Lizee, Métis Women Rep
- Doug Crerar, Region 6 best friend
- Merrill Boman, Region 6 best friend

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

- Carol Ridsdale – Sagitawa Friendship Centre and Peace River Museum
- Sylvia Johnson, Barry Dibb – Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
- Angie Crerar, Sylvia Johnson, Barry Dibb – Community Advisory Board Embridge Pipeline
- Eileen Knott, Elder, Land, history and environmental knowledge
- Everett Supernault, Elder, Land and environmental knowledge
- William Belhomme, Elder, Michif Language and history

WITHOUT YOU THERE WOULD BE NO US, SO  
THANKS AGAIN!

Sylvia Johnson, President  
Carol Ridsdale, Vice President  
Louise Cardinal, Office Manager  
Robert McIlroy, Maintenance  
Ruth Kidder, Elder, Peace River Local #78 President  
Angie Crerar, Elder, Grande Prairie Local President  
Wendy Goulet, Cadotte Lake Local  
Barry Dibb, Fairview Local President  
David Smith, Valleyview Local President  
Clara Boman, Elder, Valleyview Local Vice President















# AFFILIATE REPORTS

# APEETOOGOSAN (MÉTIS) DEVELOPMENT INCORPORATED



Annual Report from the Chair & Board  
of Directors for the Period Ending  
March 31, 2015

## 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 \$8,800,000.

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 \$8,000,000 was disbursed in stages.

AMDI has lent out over \$60 MM since 1988 and helped in the creation of 1,000 Métis owned businesses throughout the Province of Alberta, while maintaining our capital base of \$8M. Our success is largely due to our clients who have successfully capitalized on their opportunities. And, we know we have succeeded when many of our clients transfer their loans to banks or credit unions, only to learn later that wished that they could remain 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 2015 to March 2016, AMDI approved \$2.5M in funding assistance to new and existing business, constituting a 40% decrease year over year. It is a reflection of an economy responding to a massive commodity price correction, where the rural communities Regions 1, 2, 5, & 6) and Calgary (Region III) were hit the hardest. Less than \$400K of the loans issued came from outside of Region 4. The vast majority of the lending came from in and around the Edmonton area –



consistent with the level of economic activity Edmonton still appears to enjoy relative to the rest of the province. 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. Incidentally, none of the loan growth related to oil and gas, not because we didn't want to do any of these types of projects, rather, we simply didn't receive any requests for such projects. It should be noted that while oil and gas related projects generally comprise the bulk of our lending in most years –usually 60% or better, this year we did not conduct any loans in this commodity space. None. The elimination of this industry from our loan growth was immediately apparent and yet the caveat we can offer today is that the Métis have responded by substituting away from this area and instead have focused on other areas of the economy that promise some potential for growth and long term durability. Opportunities are abound and Métis entrepreneurs are taking on opportunities in spite of the challenges a difficult economy offers. Our current work-in-progress as of April 1, 2016 was \$2.1M – 300% better than the April 1, 2015 measure of \$713K.



## OTHER INVESTMENTS

### Métis Entrepreneurship Fund Inc.

In conjunction with the Métis National Council, the 3 Métis Capital Corporations in Western Canada and the Federal Government have established a loan pool that is shared between Louis Riel Capital Corporation (Manitoba), Sask Métis Economic Development Corporation (Saskatchewan), and Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Corporation (Alberta) on a project by project basis. The purpose of the loan pool is to enhance each of the 3 Métis Capital Corporations lending capacity to be able to consider loan sizes in excess of current loan limits. In the Fund's design, we endeavored to ensure that it also remain a reliable and sustainable Fund that will serve the Métis for generations to come. To this day, the Fund has retained all of its original capital (and then some) while continuing to enhance each of the 3 Métis Capital Corporation's ability to participate in larger projects without compromising their own portfolio diversification requirements.

### Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (MEAP) Renewal

For over 20 years, Apeetogosan has provided external delivery services to Aboriginal Business Canada's business development program. As part of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) new Aboriginal Economic Development Framework, one initiative is to increase the delivery capacity of its external partners. AMDI has served as a key delivery arm to INAC for over 20 years with demonstrated success. As a consequence of this relationship AMDI continues to serve as Program Delivery Partner to INAC's small business development program. For the 2015-16 fiscal and the 2016-17 fiscal, AMDI will be responsible for direct delivery of \$2M in equity, the result of a two-year renewal of AANDC's equity program. Now called the Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program, or, MEAP, AMDI provides Métis entrepreneurs the single window of access to equity and commercial finance capital to all Alberta Métis entrepreneurs. As you might imagine, this means a lot to AMDI as it ensures better service to our clients and solidifies expectations on timing and capital availability. We often speak of AMDI's single window delivery model. Direct delivery of the small business equity program for Métis entrepreneurs serves to enhance our single window model even further.

### Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.

Pinnacle staff provides applicants an opportunity to access government programs available through AANDC 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 venture. Because the last thing we want is to see anybody fail.

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

During the 2015-16 fiscal, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. assisted in the development of 23 business plans for clients, of which 22 attracted commercial financing from AMDI while one leveraged commercial financing from another financial institution. The direct involvement of Pinnacle helped support a total of \$2.4 M in new term loans to AMDI for the year.

Aftercare is another component of services that Pinnacle provides, ensuring that 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. It should be noted that our consulting arm's commitment to aftercare in the projects that we do is integral to the success of both our clients and our own organization.



## Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program

The Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (MEAP) is a Program Delivery Partnership arrangement we have had with the Federal government for over 20 years. Since inception, our office has delivered over \$14M in contributions to Métis clients comprising equity assistance for business planning, aftercare, and equity towards the capital costs associated with starting or expanding their businesses. For the 2015-16 fiscal, our MEAP administrator completed 25 commercial/business plan/aftercare project authorizations with a total committed dollar amount of \$1.1M averaging approximately \$44,000 in non-repayable contributions to Métis entrepreneurs. AMDI participates as much as possible with AANDC's Contribution program as program criteria have become more inclusive in terms of eligibility, and currently, our MEAP administrator has essentially committed almost all of our entire budget allocation for the 2016-17 fiscal. As you can imagine, we look forward to continuing this relationship with INAC and expanding our activities by aggressively marketing the opportunities that the renewed Program Delivery Partnership provides. If you would like to learn more about what products and services the Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program offers, I encourage you to contact our office.

## Alberta Entrepreneurship Workshops

Spearheaded by the Rupertsland Institute, and in partnership with Ballard Consulting Group, Settlement Investment Corporation, and Apeetogosan, we delivered 6, 2-day entrepreneurship workshops 2016-17, with 6 more scheduled for the fall of 2016. Given the downturn in the economy, there was no better time for two affiliates of the MNAA to coordinate resources that has enhanced both the training and services that 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 basic 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 that they can readily

use to evaluate any opportunity they might consider – a skill that they can understand and use and forever have with them – beyond the workshop classroom.

So far, the workshops have been conducted at 6 locations: High Prairie, Lethbridge, Peace River, Rocky Mountain House, Lloydminster, and Edmonton. 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 that is available to them through the Rupertsland Institute as well as the financial services available to them at Apeetogosan and Settlement Investment Corporation. Course reviews and comments find the workshop “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 it is the best workshop on entrepreneurship being offered.

## Closing Remarks

It was, overall, a modest year for AMDI with loan growth holding our portfolio at \$6.5M. As our general manager says “I’m not going to lie to you, our clients are struggling.” To this end, this has been a difficult year for AMDI as our clients financial performance is reflecting just how brutal and deep the effects the current economic downturn have been. The ‘08-09 recession pales in comparison to what we see on the ground today. One of the benefits of being a member of a vibrant and close community is that everybody acknowledges the struggles that others in the community are going through. Given the close relationship AMDI establishes with its clients, we too feel their frustration. Not surprisingly, our role continues to evolve as our clients make the transition to a new and challenging economic environment, as it is equally challenging to our business model. Increasing flexibility, enhancing repayment options, and increasing advice and counseling - we do not expect our clients to go through these times alone. Our durability and relevance to the Métis community depends on our client's ability to persevere and our aim is to ensure that we do as much as we can to make that happen. This is reinforced as AMDI continues to position itself as the preferred lender of choice 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 participating in it.

In the meantime, we continue to take advantage as well as contribute to the development of new Program initiatives with other Métis capital corporations and the Federal government such as the Métis Entrepreneurship Fund, and additional developmental lending support spearheaded by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA). These initiatives will serve to enhance and compliment AMDI's long-term growth initiative, providing further sustainable and durable support to Métis entrepreneurs seeking to capitalize their commercial endeavors.

The staff of AMDI continues to work very 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, for Mr. Ivy's leadership and management of the corporation, and the Board of Directors for their commitment and numerous contributions to ensuring AMDI continues to play an integral role in the growth of the Métis Nation of Alberta.







Back row, left-to-right: Michael Ivy, Direna Fleury, Charlotte Fecho, Doug Vidic, Keri-Lynne Harrison, Shelley Wiart  
Front row, left-to-right: Allen Thompson, Angela Ladouceur



## CREE PRODUCTIONS (1992) LTD.

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

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 2015-16 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

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

Phone: 780-455-2200  
Toll Free: 1-800-252-7553  
Fax: 780-482-7213

These resources may be accessed by contacting  
Cree Productions.



# ALBERTA MÉTIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## AFFILIATE REPORTS

As in past, the Alberta Métis Historical Society continues to work closely with the Métis Crossing Foundation to deliver programming at our Métis Crossing site near Smoky Lake Alberta. The objective of the programming is to create awareness and to promote retention of our Métis culture and history in a fun and stimulating learning environment.

Work was completed on the Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program in Region Three that researched and manufactured replica Métis clothing for future use as a lending resource for the Métis Nation and its affiliates. This collection was donated to Métis Crossing and has enhanced the ability of the Métis Nation to portray its history at various cultural events held throughout Alberta. One such event was the Historic Fashion show at the MNA Annual Assembly in Grande Prairie

The Métis Nation of Alberta Cultural Exhibit, which was developed in 2000-2001, continues to be located at Métis Crossing and forms part of the cultural exhibit there for the next few years until a permanent museum is built. The trailer unit originally used to house the exhibit was donated to Métis Crossing in 2009 for use in programming at the Crossing.





During 2015-2016, Alberta Métis Historical Society participated in various fundraising events associated with Culture, History and Youth. We look forward to continuing our work in 2017 to ensure that our Métis heritage is preserved and passed down for future generations.

James Atkinson  
President



## MÉTIS NATION HOLDINGS LTD.

In 1997, the 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.

11738 KINGSWAY AVENUE — MNA PROVINCIAL OFFICE, DELIA GRAY BUILDING

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 serious 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. Staff additions have been accommodated on the second floor in the former Rupertsland space.

## 11922 – 121 A STREET – LARRY DESMEULES BUILDING

On May 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings completed the purchase of the building occupied by Métis Urban Housing Corporation. 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. This was a requirement put down by 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 of 2012. The 2012-2013 year saw the interior of the old warehouse and the majority of the old office space demolished. 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.

## 12304 – 111 AVENUE – MÉTIS VETERANS BUILDING

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, Métis Veterans Society, Onion Lake Urban Office and Starbucks. 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.

## 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 MCHC projects and renovations connected with Rupertsland and some of its MES Centres.



# MÉTIS CROSSING



## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Our tenth season of operations started on May 15, 2015 and went to October 30th, 2015. Our primary focus was increasing activity and use at the site in order to share the Métis story with as many people as possible. We attracted longer term campers to generate regular income for the campground. Events were also a primary focus of the season attracting crowds of people to the site. Leon Boychuk-Hunter and Phoebe Surana'Mehit are the Métis Crossing Site Managers and they live on-site year round ensuring the site's upkeep. The farm property is currently under lease to a local farmer named Ryan Franchuk on a cash rent basis. The lease term ends on Dec 31, 2017 and the rental rate is \$35 per acre for 310 acres.

## SITE REFURBISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The year 2015 was dedicated to continuing refurbishing and maintaining the site; renovation activities that emphasized site beautification and function were undertaken. The below section charts some of the developments at Métis Crossing:

### Washhouses

A winterization process was put into practice to ensure minimal effects of wintering on the washhouse. To achieve this, we hired Metro's Contracting to help implement these processes. With a minimal investment of capital and time we were able to properly winterize the washhouse virtually eliminating all damage caused by wintering.

Pay showers have not been implemented because the initial cost is too great to be recouped in a reasonable amount of time so they remain available complementary to campground patrons. The biggest capital cost associated with the washhouses is the delivery of water. A significant capital investment is needed in a water truck to be able to reduce this cost. Using a trailer and truck to fetch water from Smoky Lake has been explored, but a reasonable solution has not yet been found. We continue to use the current water delivery system.





## Campground

The picnic tables in both the upper and lower campgrounds were stained to increase their life span and help slow the effect of weathering on them. This investment will significantly increase the lifespan of the tables postponing the need to replace them.

## Equipment

An exhaustive inventory was performed to track all equipment, which was repaired where possible, and discarded where not possible. An additional inventory was performed for all tents, teepees, and Red River carts. The shelter structures were evaluated for structural integrity and repaired as needed. The new ride-on lawn mower has made keeping up with the grass much easier and more efficient. The two large (20X40) party tents have been frequently used at various events. The tents can be rented to third parties as a value added service to help recoup the initial cost of the tents. The diesel generator is used when necessary to supply power to the site when the existing electrical infrastructure is not practical. It is also available to rent as an added service. A brush mower has been acquired to help maintain the grounds and develop new walking trails.



## Firewood

A large firewood stockpile was gathered for the season and processed for retail purposes. Most of the firewood is gathered from dead fall in the woodlands. The firewood is available to campers for a reasonable price.

## Nature Trails

To ensure clarity along the trails, signage is in place. The walking paths were also evaluated, repaired and maintained. An additional section of trail has been added along the river bank to create a trail loop with a distance of 2.5 KMs. Further expansion of the trail network is scheduled for the 2017 season. Once completed, a total of 5 KMs of trail will be active. Mowing was also conducted on a regular basis in order to enhance the trail's aesthetic and functional appeal. The trails also serve an interpretive function to enhance the visitor experience deepening their understanding of early life along the North Saskatchewan River consistent with the Métis Crossing mandate.

## Grounds

Maintenance of the grounds is an ongoing process. Regular mowing was performed on a schedule to ensure a well-manicured visual presentation. We try to mow as efficiently as possible to reduce labour needs.

## Stage

Snow is cleared from the dance floor throughout the winter to minimise the effects of water damage in the spring. Additionally picnic tables and other items are stored under the band shell during the winter to prevent weathering.

## Cromerty Barn

A historical photograph exhibit has been added to the ground floor of the Cromerty Barn. The images came from the Glen Bow Archives, and depict three eras of Métis history. The exhibit essentially doubles the exhibition space at Métis Crossing. A central circular conference table with chairs and audiovisual equipment allows the space to be used as a presentation

center, classroom, or theatre. The hay loft contains an arrangement of Métis artifacts including homage to our Métis Veterans, beaded garments and moccasins, Hudson's Bay Company attire, a Catholicism display, and informative sign boards that offer historic and contemporary information about Métis culture. The barn continues to be an invaluable cultural asset at the site.

## Giftshop/Administration Building

The water pump was replaced improving reliability and efficiency. Upgrades to the internet connectivity and WIFI have been made in preparation for future events. Insulation upgrades to the cistern have been made to improve water quality and winter wear. A dishwasher has been installed to help accommodate bannock and tea tastings.

## Trees and Shrubs

The trees and shrubs around the Métis Crossing grounds were trimmed and maintained. Particular care was given to greenery surrounding the buildings as they occupy places of visual significance. A partnership with Tremel Tree Nurseries, Scouts Canada, and Métis Crossing resulted in over 30 new trees being planted on site.

## River View Farm Garage

The equipment was inspected and repaired, and tools and supplies were sorted, repaired, and stored neatly, or discarded as necessary. Coal has been acquired to heat the garage in winter.

## Red Shed

The red building contains a Kiln and pottery making equipment, which were thoroughly cleaned and arranged in a sensible manner. Some of the tent inventory is also housed here.

## Outbuildings

The outbuildings were cleaned out and organized for easy access.



## Concession Booth

A dedicated fridge and freezer have been installed. The booth is an attractive asset to prospective clients looking to host various events on site.

## Horseshoe Pitts

The horseshoe pits make a great addition to the site as a fun and easy game that is accessible for all visitors.

## Garden

Small demonstration gardens developed. Perennials have been planted to help beautify different spaces.

## Historic Buildings

In addition to the historic red barn, the Métis Crossing site boasts two historic farmhouses. The farmhouses have been cleaned and prepared for visitors and have additionally been populated with displays of historic museum materials.

## Farm Property

Métis Crossing has ensured regular meetings with the farmer leasing the property to confirm plans for events. Four new gates have been installed, five gates have been repaired and a half mile of fence was replaced in order to ensure unauthorized access is eliminated.

## Playground

The playground was cleaned after years of neglect.

## Zipline

The zip line remains in disuse. New regulations put in place now require engineered drawings prior to licensing and insurance being issued. The preliminary bid came in at \$30,000. Métis Crossing staff are currently exploring alternative avenues for the production of drawings including the employment of NAIT engineering students. In the meantime, the zip line equipment is being properly stored.

## ACTIVITIES

In addition to the regular campsite rentals, visitors, school group tours, the following events were held: National Aboriginal Day:

On June 21st 2015, Métis Crossing hosted an Aboriginal Day Celebration. The event was a partnership with Heritage Canada, MNA Region 1, MNA Region 2, MNA Region 5, the County of Smoky Lake and a number of other sponsors. The event featured various musical and dance performances. Bannock sampling was available. The event saw over 250 people in attendance. We intend to make this an annual event working with Heritage Canada annually.

## Weddings

Two separate weddings were held out at Métis Crossing this year and both wedding parties were extremely pleased with the grounds and facilities.

## Music Festivals

Four music festivals were held over the 2015 season. Participants and organizers were pleased with facilities. Interest in throwing music festivals at Métis Crossing continues to grow.

- June 5, 6, 7 ZION NOIZ Arts and Music Festival [zionnoiz.ca](http://zionnoiz.ca)
- July 11 Jamtron: JAMTRON is an overnight musical gathering held in July. Multiple performers consisting of a variety of genres are showcased throughout the day and night, accumulating to a finale jam that involves many of the performing artists. The family friendly event is organized and presented by The McGowan Family Band, is based out of Edmonton, Alberta. The family of musicians are known for their jam/folk/rock sound, for them this is a unique opportunity to join with family, friends, and fellow musicians in their love of live music within a comfortable outdoor environment. Over





### Image Captions

Top to Bottom: 1) Camping at Métis Crossing. 2) Campers explore the Métis Crossing site. 3) Fiddlers dazzle audiences at National Aboriginal Day at Métis Crossing, and 4) stage hands prepare for Rein Bough Fiddle Music and Arts Festival.



50 people attended this inaugural event with lots of excitement for a follow up.

- July 17, 18, 19 Métis Crossing Country Music Jamboree: A 3 day event that featured country music played by fiddlers of all ages. The event catered to an older crowd consisting mostly of seniors, and was well received. The weather didn't cooperate on Friday and was blamed for the smaller turnout however over 50 people showed up over this weekend and an interest to do it again was expressed. This was the first Jamboree in the past few years.

## School Groups

Métis Crossing hosted many school groups throughout the 2015 season. Some of the schools included Buffalo Lake, Conklin, Smoky Lake, homeschooled children, and a kids camp instructors program. Some of the subject matter focused on during these school tours was Métis culture, history, land use, and settlement patterns.

## Group Camping

Some overnight camping groups included the Jr. Forest Wardens who practiced survival techniques and explored the wilderness. The Edmonton Antique Car Club held their annual summer camping trip at Métis Crossing and even participated in our Aboriginal Day Celebration. A canoe trip down the North Saskatchewan organised by a Church group from Vegreville that camped overnight and used the board room for a first aid training course. Scores of fishermen lured by the elusive sturgeon flocked to the banks at Métis Crossing to try their hand at catching this prized fish.

## Canada Day

Métis Crossing participated in the Town of Smoky Lake's Canada Day Celebration. A trapper's tent and Red River Cart were on display as well as information on Métis Crossing and Métis Culture.



## Fire Fighter Training

In response to the wildfire epidemic in Alberta this year Métis Crossing has partnered with Alberta Forestry, Rupert's Land Institute and Norquest College to develop an onsite firefighting training program. This aims to be a yearly course aimed at providing Métis youth employment opportunities and experience.

## Other Activities

- September 20: Wheelhouse Decompression BBQ
- Friday May 22: A camera crew from APTN visited Métis Crossing to shoot a vignette as part of their National Aboriginal Day Live Broadcast. Host Don Kelly re-created a fur trading expedition with fur trapping expert John Cooper.
- The House-Livingstone Family Reunion is an annual event that gathers one of the pioneering families of the area. This is there chance to gather once a year to catch up with each other from their busy lives. The 3 day family reunion is a good example of how the campground can host these types of family friendly events.

## Daily Operations

The Crossing will be open every day from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm for the season. Tours are available upon request and will be given as required. There is no official tour schedule at this time. The zip line will reopen depending on whether Métis Crossing receives approval for its operation. Métis Crossing is interested in finding a partner, or business to run the zip line on a rental basis.

## Pricing

Some pricing amendments were made as follows. Regular Site Admissions for the Season:

- Family: \$15.00
- Adult: \$7.00
- Youth/Elder: \$4.00
- Age Six and Under: Free
- Camping Powered RV Site: \$25.00
- No Power RV Site: \$20.00
- Tent Site: \$17.00

## SITE FACILITIES

The facilities and programs at Métis Crossing include the following:

- Historic Village
- Barn interpretive Centre
- Barn meeting area
- RV Campground
- Rustic Campground
- Picnic area
- Horseshoe pits
- Gift shop
- Outdoor stage
- Playground
- River's Edge Nature Trail with interpretive signage
- Visitor services (washrooms, parking lots, shower house)
- Zip Lines - Subject to structural review and certification
- Farm Machinery Display
- 2 Restored Homesteads
- Floating Dock in River
- Cross Country Trail
- Programs for 2015: Aboriginal Day and Music Jamboree, Métis Family Reunion, Music Festivals.









# SUMMARY OF MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 87<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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## MINUTES OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA 87th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 8, 2015 AT THE RAMADA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA

With quorum established, Provincial President Audrey Poitras opened the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

### Election of Chair & Co-Chair:

*Motion #1: Bev New moves to cease nominations for Chair, seconded by Melanie Omeniho.  
Motion Carried.*

Following the vote **Bruce Gladue** was elected as Chair.

Nominations were opened for Co-Chair.

*Motion #2: Diane Scoville moves to cease nominations for Co-Chair, seconded by Raye St. Denis.  
Motion Carried.*

Following the vote **Troy McLeod** was elected as Co-Chair.

### Appointment of Sergeant-At-Arms:

*Motion #3: Karen Collins nominated Frank Taylor as Sergeant-At-Arms, seconded by Aaron Barner. Frank Taylor accepted the nomination.  
Motion Carried.*

### Adoption of Agenda:

*Motion #4: Brian Hamelin moves to adopt the agenda as circulated, seconded by Bev New.  
Motion Carried.*

### Selection of Resolution Committee:

Each Regional President appointed one member from their Region to sit on the Resolution Committee as follows:

Region 1 – Bill Loutitt  
Region 2 – Irena Collins  
Region 3 – Wally Garrioch

Region 4 – Darlene St. Jean  
Region 5 – Geraldine Decoine  
Region 6 – Kenda Dodds

The Chairperson advised the Assembly that the Resolutions Committee will meet with legal counsel to determine the validity of the resolutions and will return later in the agenda with their findings.





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**Report of Officers:**

**President – Audrey Poitras**

*Motion #5: Bev New moves to accept the President's Report, seconded by Norma Spicer.  
Motion Carried.*

**Vice President – Joe Pimlott**

*Motion #6: Tom Ghostkeeper moves to accept the Vice President's Report, seconded by Diane Scoville.  
Motion Carried.*

**Secretary – Karen Collins**

*Motion #7: Diane Scoville moves to accept the Summary of Motions from the 86th Annual Assembly held in Settler, Alberta, as read by Secretary Collins, seconded by Brandy Mitchell  
Motion Carried.*

**Treasurer – Bev New**

**Audited Financial Statements – March 31, 2015:**

*Motion #8: Nora Chapdelaine moves to accept the Audited Financial Statements to March 31, 2015, seconded by Tracee McFeeters  
Motion Carried.*



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## **Resolutions – Resolutions Committee & Legal Counsel**

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION#1**

Whereas the Métis Nation of Alberta bylaws should be as easy to follow as possible, and

Whereas certain Articles are not consistent in their wording as they progress through their order,

Therefore be it resolved that the following Articles be changed to read as follows:

Article 25.6 - Reverse "resolution or question" to read "question or resolution".

Article 25.6- Add "question or" in front of "resolution" in both locations in the remainder of this Article.

Article 51.6 - Reverse "resolution or question" to read "question or resolution".

Article 51.6 - Add "question or" in front of "resolution" in both locations in the remainder of this Article.

Article 70.6 - Reverse "resolution or question" to read "question or resolution".

Article 70.6 - Add "question or" in front of "resolution" in both locations in the remainder of this Article.

Moved by Brian J. Hamelin

Seconded by Wally Garrioch

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION#2**

Whereas past practice has shown the process for choosing the Chairperson and Chairperson at Annual Assemblies has been undemocratic and prejudicial, and

Whereas every single vote cast by a Métis Nation of Alberta Life Member should be of equal value, and

Whereas an Ordinary Resolution passed by the Assembly in the past outlining the exact following proposal was arbitrarily and unilaterally discarded by the President at several previous Assemblies,

Therefore be it resolved that a new Article be added to Article 24 "Annual Assembly" to read as follows:

Article 24.6: The selection of Chairperson and Co-Chairperson of the Annual Assembly shall be conducted as outlined below:

- a) Nominations for Chairperson/Co-Chairperson must be made and seconded from the floor.
- b) Nominees will be asked if they will let their names stand in reverse order.





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- c) Where only one nominee remains for position of Chairperson, that person shall be acclaimed to the position. Nominations will now be accepted for position of Chairperson.
  - d) Where only two nominees remain for the position of Chairperson/Co-Chairperson, voting shall firstly be conducted by show of hands. A secret ballot vote shall be conducted if requested by five (5) Lifetime Members if demanded within three (3) minutes of the announcement of the results of the vote by show of hands. The nominee with the most votes shall be the Chairperson and the nominee with the second most votes shall be the Co-Chairperson. If the election is for the position of *Co-Chairperson* only, the nominee with the most *votes* shall be Co-Chairperson.
  - e) Where more than two (2) nominees remain for the position of Chairperson voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. The nominee with the most votes shall be the Chairperson and the nominee with the second most votes shall be the Co-Chairperson.

Moved by Brian J. Hamelin

Seconded by Pat Ronald

***RESOLUTION DEEMED INVALID***

***This Special Resolution was deemed invalid by the Resolutions Committee following lengthy discussion and therefore was not voted on.***

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION#3**

**WHEREAS** Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

**WHEREAS** Article 4.8 defines a Local Community as a Métis Local affiliated with the Métis Nation of Alberta Association and means:

- (a) A minimum of ten (10) Métis Lifetime Members in good standing:
  - i) who have obtained the consent of the Provincial Council to use the name "Métis Nation" in its name; and
  - ii) who have obtained the consent of a majority of the members of their Regional Council at a meeting of the Regional Council; and
  - iii) who are presently incorporated pursuant to the Societies Act of Alberta; or

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 4.8 be amended by removing 4.8 (a) (iii) and replacing it with and adding 4.8 (a) (iv):

- (iii) who shall provide copies of their incorporation documents as required by the **Societies Act, RSA 2000, c S-14** when requested to do so by the Métis Nation of Alberta; and



- (iv) Who shall provide a list of their Métis Local members who have met the Métis definition of Article 6 when requested to do so by the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #4**

**WHEREAS** Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

**WHEREAS** Article 6.1 states 'The Métis Nation shall consist of the following categories of membership:

- (a) Métis Lifetime Member; and

**WHEREAS** Article 10.2 states 'The Métis Nation shall establish and maintain a registry of Members in Alberta together with the following particulars of each person:

- (a) The full name and residential address;
- (b) The date of which the person is admitted as a member;
- (c) The date on which the person ceases to be a member;
- (d) The class of membership of the person

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 10.2 be amended by removing 10.2 (d) in its entirety.

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #5**

**WHEREAS** Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

**WHEREAS** Article 6.1 states 'The Métis Nation shall consist of the following categories of membership:

- (a) Métis Lifetime Member; and





**WHEREAS** Article 10.3 states 'All applications for membership shall be processed at the Métis Nation membership office;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 10.3 be amended by removing "at the Métis Nation membership office" and replacing it with "by the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry"

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #6**

**WHEREAS** Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

**WHEREAS** Article 10.5 states 'upon approval of membership the Métis Nation shall issue a membership card

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 10.5 be deleted and replaced with upon approval of membership the Métis Nation Registry shall issue a Métis ID number.

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #7**

**WHEREAS** Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

**WHEREAS** Article 10.7 states 'any Métis who has been accepted as a Member must sign and take an oath of membership to the Métis Nation'; and

**WHEREAS** Article 10.8 states 'the oath of membership shall be attached as Schedule "A" to these Bylaw and shall form a part of these Bylaws'

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry is totally automated and a Certificate is generated automatically and issued to the applicant;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws be amended by deleting Articles 10.7 and 10.8 in their entirety.



Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION #8**

WHEREAS Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

WHEREAS Article 12.1 states 'The Government of the Métis Nation shall consist of the following but not limited to:

- (a) Provincial Council;
- (b) Regional Council;
- (c) Local Council

BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 12.1 be amended by deleting 'but not limited to;' hereinafter to read: 'The Government of the Métis Nation shall consist of the following:

- (a) Provincial Council;
- (b) Regional Council;
- (c) Local Council.'

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by: Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION #9**

**WHEREAS Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;**

WHEREAS Article 12.3 states 'The Regional Council shall consist of the following Métis Lifetime Members:

- (a) Regional President elected to the Provincial Council for the Region; and
- (b) Regional Vice President elected to the Provincial Council for the Region; and
- (c) The Presidents of each Local Council within the Region'

BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 12.3(a) be amended by deleting 'the Provincial Council for'; Article 12.3(b) be amended by deleting 'the Provincial Council for' and Article 12.3 (c) be amended by adding 'who have met all the requirements of Article 4.8 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Bylaws.'

HEREINAFTER to read:





- (a) Regional President elected to the Region; and
- (b) Regional Vice President elected to the Region; and
- (c) The Presidents of each Local Council within the Region who have met all the requirements of Article 4.8 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Bylaws'

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #10**

WHEREAS Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

WHEREAS Article 14 delineates the POWERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL; and 14.1 states 'each Regional Council shall govern the affairs of their Region'

BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 14 be amended by adding:

- 14.1(a) Each Regional Council shall ensure each Métis Local meets all the requirements of Article 4.8; and
- 14.1(b) Each Regional Council shall request on an annual basis, evidence of active registration as per Societies Act, RSA 2000 as amended from time, and
- 14.1(c) Each Regional Council shall request on an annual basis a list of the Métis Lifetime Members of the Local; and
- 14.1 (d) Each Regional Council shall confirm with the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry that all Métis Local members have met the requirement of Article 6.2

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #11**

WHEREAS Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

WHEREAS Article 15 delineates the POWERS OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL; and 15.1 states "each Local Council shall govern the affairs of the Local Community"



BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 15 be amended by adding

15.l(a) Each Métis Local shall provide evidence of active registration as per Societies Act, RSA 2000, c S-14 as amended from time to time, and

15(b) on an annual basis provides a list of Métis Lifetime Members of the Local as per Article 6.2 to the Regional Council."

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #12**

WHEREAS Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

WHEREAS Article 17.1 defines the Executive Officers of the Métis Nation shall consist of the following:

- (a) President (elected Province Wide)
- (b) Vice-President (elected Province Wide)
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Treasurer

BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 17.1 be amended by adding elected Province Wide to 17.1(c) and 17.1(d):

- (a) President (elected Province Wide)
- (b) Vice-President (elected Province Wide)
- (c) Secretary (elected Province Wide)
- (d) Treasurer (elected Province Wide)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these changes will be effective at the 2018 Métis Nation of Alberta elections and thereafter.

Moved by Norma

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEEMED INVALID***

***This Special Resolution was deemed invalid by the Resolutions Committee and therefore was not voted on.***





### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #13**

WHEREAS Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

WHEREAS Article 23.1 states -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) If any Provincial Council member, without reasonable excuse is absent from three (3) consecutive Provincial Council meetings;
- (c) A Provincial Council member resigns by delivering a written resignation to the Secretary of the Métis Nation;
- (d) 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;
- (e) If a Provincial Council member becomes registered in a Band list or in the Indian Registry according to the provisions of the Indian Act, R.S.C.;
- (f) If a Provincial Council member other than the President or Vice President no longer resides in the Region they represent.

WHEREAS Provincial Council members are all elected in a ballot box election process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Article 23.1 be amended by deleting 23.1(b) in its entirety and renumbering Article 23.1.

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #14**

**WHEREAS Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;**

WHEREAS Article 25.3 (a) states -Each Lifetime member shall be entitled to vote at the Annual Assembly provided:

- (a) The Lifetime member is personally present at the Annual Assembly; and
- (b) The Lifetime member has registered at the Annual Assembly; and
- (c) The Lifetime member has not withdrawn from membership and

WHEREAS Article 25.3(b) states -the Lifetime member has registered at the Annual Assembly; and



WHEREAS Article 25.3 (c) states -the Lifetime member has not withdrawn from membership; and

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry registers all Annual Assembly delegates; and any member who has self-terminated their membership is no longer an active member;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

Article 25.3(a) be amended by inserting "during the business meeting portion of between present and the Annual Assembly; and

Article 25.3(b) be amended by inserting as a delegate between registered and at; and Article 25.3(c) be deleted in its entirety.

HEREINAFTER ARTICLE 25.3(a) shall read: The Lifetime member is personally present during the business meeting portion of the Annual Assembly; and

25.3(b) shall read: the Lifetime member is registered as a delegate by the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry.

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION #15**

WHEREAS Article 39.1 states The Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution;

WHEREAS Article 25.7 (a) states – Special Resolutions passed at an Annual Assembly are effective from the date that they are registered with the Registrar of Corporations of Alberta by the Secretary of the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta is a registered society under Societies Act, RSA 2000, c S-14; and






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**WHEREAS the correct name, address and contact information is as follows:**

Corporate Registry Service Alberta Box 1007 Station Main Edmonton, Alberta TSJ 4W6	South Counter Mezzanine Floor, John E. Brownlee Building 10365-97 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3W7	Telephone: 780-427-7013 RITE line within Alberta 310-0000 Fax: 780-422-1091  E-mail: cr@gov.ab.ca
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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

Article 25.7 be amended by deleting the Registrar of Corporations of Alberta and replacing it with Corporate Registry Service Alberta

HEREIN AFTER ARTICLE 25.7 shall read: Special Resolutions passed at an Annual Assembly are effective from the date that they are registered with the Corporate Registry Service Alberta by the Secretary of the Métis Nation;

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

***RESOLUTION DEEMED INVALID***

*This Special Resolution was deemed invalid by the Resolutions Committee and therefore was not voted on.*

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION #16**

Whereas, Articles 4.12 states Métis Judiciary Council means a judiciary council established under Article 29 of these Bylaws; and

Whereas, Articles 29 further defines the composition, terms of service, candidate qualifications and how the role of an individual Métis Judiciary Council member will cease; and

Whereas, Article 30 define the powers of the Métis Judiciary Council; and

Whereas, Article 31 defines the rights of parties before the Métis Judiciary Council; and

Whereas, Article 32 defines the Métis Judiciary Council Procedure on Conflict of Interest of Provincial Council Members; and

Whereas, the Métis Judiciary Council should under no circumstances be a body that is used for personal reasons or to resolve frivolous issues or issues that have no merit to the Métis Nation of Alberta Members; and



Whereas, the current wording of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws in Article 29, Article 30, Article 31 and Article 32 ratified at the 1995 Annual Assembly are outdated and allow for issues to be brought forward in a manner that is not consistent with judicial practices in other jurisdictions;

Whereas, it is incumbent upon the Members of the Métis Nation of Alberta to ensure that the MJC is governed by bylaws that ensure the MJC operates at the highest judicial standard possible;

Whereas, there must be a complete and thorough review of the MJC and its current establishment, including but not limited to how matters are brought forward, its powers and rights of the parties; and

Whereas, the Métis Judiciary Council has existed in its present format since 1996;

Therefore be it resolved that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws be amended 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; and

Be it further resolved that a complete and comprehensive review is conducted, and all Métis communities and members are consulted on the redesign of our judicial process that will operate at the highest judicial standard possible; and

Be it further resolved that the current operations of the MJC shall be suspended until the review is concluded and brought back to this assembly for ratification.

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

**RESOLUTION DEEMED INVALID**

*This Special Resolution was deemed invalid by the Resolutions Committee and therefore was not voted on.*

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #17**

**Whereas**, the Métis Nation of Alberta members believe in accountability and transparency; and

**Whereas**, the Métis Nation of Alberta members are deserving of a fair presentation of financial information;

**Whereas**, the Métis Nation of Alberta as a corporate entity has developed to become a





Complex organizational structure, one in which the registered society, on behalf of its members, owns as a shareholder, or has other corporate interests in various affiliates/bodies/entities/ subsidiaries/etc.; and

**Whereas**, the Métis people in Alberta, including the membership of the Métis Nation of Alberta have a right to know the true financial position of the organization, inclusive of a disclosure of all corporate holdings, whether these exist as shares or other corporate interests, and in order that members can discern in an open and transparent way the current status of the organization from a financial risk and benefit perspective.

**So, therefore be it resolved** that Article 35.5 be added to the bylaws to state that:

The Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council present financial information as according to the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). At each Annual Assembly, the Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council must disclose through an audited, consolidated Financial Statement, relevant financial information for all corporate affiliates/bodies/entities/subsidiaries/etc. associated with the Métis Nation of Alberta – and that this include Corporate Structure and Shareholder Agreement or similar information, as well as personal expenses for elected officials and staff persons (e.g. travel), all to be audited and signed by a duly qualified auditor; and

**Therefore, be it further resolved** that Article 57.5 be added to the bylaws to state that:

At each Regional Annual Assembly, Métis Nation of Alberta Regional Councils must disclose through an audited, consolidated Financial Statement, relevant financial information for all corporate affiliates/bodies/entities/subsidiaries/etc. associated with the Regional Council – and that this include Corporate Structure and Shareholder Agreement or similar information, as well as personal expenses for elected officials and staff persons (e.g. travel), all to be audited and signed by a duly qualified auditor; and

**Therefore be it further resolved** that an Article 76.5 be added to the bylaws that states:

At each Local Annual Assembly, the Métis Nation of Alberta Local Councils must disclose through an audited, consolidated Financial Statement, relevant financial information for all corporate affiliates/bodies/entities/subsidiaries/etc. Associated with the Métis Nation of Alberta Local Council – and that this include Corporate Structure and Shareholder Agreement or similar information, as well as personal expenses for elected officials and staff persons (e.g. travel), all to be audited and signed by a duly qualified auditor; and

Moved by Melanie Omeniho

Seconded by Joy Sinclair

***RESOLUTION DEEMED INVALID***



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***This Special Resolution was deemed invalid by the Resolutions Committee and therefore was not voted on.***

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION #18**

*Whereas*, the Alberta Elections Act calls for positions outside of the elected officials to select the Chief Electoral Officer; and

*Whereas*, it can be perceived that the elected Provincial Council has a bias when selecting the Chief Electoral Officer for the next election terms; and

*Whereas*, the Métis Nation of Alberta already has a body, the Métis Judiciary Council, which is arms-length from the Provincial Council elected officers; and

Whereas, the Métis people of Alberta were trying to develop fair and impartial means to maintain elections when they identified in the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta that states Article 30.1.b [The Powers of the Judiciary Council shall be] To review and decide all matters respecting the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election Bylaws where there is a dispute.

*Therefore Be It Resolved that:*

*Schedule "C" Election Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association; Article 4 - Chief Electoral Officer; 4.1 be amended to read:*

4.1 The Métis Judiciary Council shall appoint a Chief Electoral Officer.

Moved by Melanie Omeniho

Seconded by Joy Sinclair

***RESOLUTION DEEMED INVALID***

***This Special Resolution was deemed invalid by the Resolutions Committee and therefore was not voted on.***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION#1**

WHEREAS, at a Métis youth gathering on Friday August 7, 2015, youth present agreed that it would be desirable to create a Métis Youth Council to represent the priorities and concerns of Métis youth in Alberta.

WHEREAS, the Métis Nation of Alberta once had a youth council which creates a precedent for the establishment of a youth council.

WHEREAS, youth want to ensure representation at every region and consultation with Métis youth from across the province in establishing a Métis youth council; and





WHEREAS, the MNA provincial council can be instrumental in developing the terms of reference and other documentation that may be required to establish the proposed youth council.

BE IT RESOLVED 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 88<sup>th</sup> annual general assembly.

Moved by Brett Chernow

Seconded by Audrey Poitras

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #2**

WHEREAS the Métis Nation in Canada will be celebrating 200 years of the Métis Nation Infinity Flag; and

WHEREAS the awareness of the 200 year celebration must be shared with Canadians and the world; and

WHEREAS we Métis collectively must ensure this is celebrated.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED the MNA thereby put in place prior to January 1, 2016 a plan of action to ensure all regions, locals and Métis citizens alike may be active in flying the Métis Nation Infinity Flag.

AND FURTHER that all levels of the MNA government work with other governments; Municipal, Provincial, Federal and Indigenous to encourage the raising of the Métis Nation Infinity Flag for the year 2016 and may I not hesitate in saying in all time henceforth.

Moved by Sarah Stephens

Seconded by Theresa Majeran

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #3**

WHEREAS, solitary confinement is widely abused and is on the rise in federal correctional institutions in Canada;

WHEREAS, Aboriginal people account for 23.2% of federal prison inmates and for 31% of inmates placed in solitary confinement, where they spend on average 16% more time than non-Aboriginal inmates;

WHEREAS, solitary confinement has contributed to the deaths by suicide of a number of Aboriginal inmates over the years, including Ashley Smith in 2007 and Eddie Snowshoe in 2010;



WHEREAS, solitary confinement, particularly when used as punishment or applied to juvenile populations or offenders with mental disabilities, has been banned by the United Nations;

WHEREAS, in August 2011 the United Nations Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council, urged States “to prohibit the imposition of solitary confinement as punishment – either as a part of judicially imposed sentence or disciplinary measure” and recommended that they “....develop and implement alternative disciplinary sanctions to avoid the use of solitary confinement”; and

WHEREAS, the current Government of Canada has ignored all calls to end or curtail the practice of solitary confinement in federal institutions;

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT this Assembly condemns the use of solitary confinement as a disciplinary measure or its use and abuse by prison authorities on Aboriginal offenders, juvenile offenders and offenders with mental disabilities; and urges the Government of Canada to implement the recommendations made by the United Nations Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council in August 2011.

Moved by Muriel Stanley-Venne

Seconded by Joseph Pimlott

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

#### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #4**

Whereas past practice has shown the process for choosing the Chairperson and Co-Chairperson at Annual Assemblies has been undemocratic and prejudicial, and

Whereas every single vote cast by a Métis Nation of Alberta Life Member should be of equal value, and

Whereas an Ordinary Resolution passed by the Assembly in the past outlining the exact following proposal was arbitrarily and unilaterally discarded by the President at several previous Assemblies,

Therefore be it resolved that the selection of Chairperson and Co-Chairperson of the Annual Assembly shall be conducted as outlined below:

- a) Nominations for Chairperson/Co-Chairperson must be made and seconded from the floor
- b) Nominees will be asked if they will let their names stand in reverse order
- c) Where only one nominee remains for position of Chairperson, that person shall be acclaimed to the position. Nominations will now be accepted for position of Co-Chairperson
- d) Where only two nominees remain for the position of Chairperson/Co-Chairperson,





voting shall firstly be conducted by show of hands. A secret ballot vote shall be conducted if requested by five (5) Lifetime Members if demanded within three (3) minutes of the announcement of the results of the vote by show of hands. The nominee with the most votes shall be the Chairperson and the nominee with the second most votes shall be the Co-Chairperson. If the election is for the position of *Co-Chairperson* only, the nominee with the most *votes* shall be Co-Chairperson.

- e) Where more than two (2) nominees remain for the position of Chairperson voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. The nominee with the most votes shall be the Chairperson and the nominee with the second most votes shall be the Co- Chairperson

Moved by Brian J. Hamelin

Seconded by Morris Trudel

***RESOLUTION DEFEATED***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #5**

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is currently in the process of overhauling the Alberta school curriculum to develop and expand content for students on the history of residential schools;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta will incorporate recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to ensure students learn more about the legacy of abuse.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta be involved in this process, ensure the incorporation of the recommendations is completed in an adequate and respectful manner and include curriculum support resources and teacher training.

Moved by Carmen Wells

Seconded by Dave Waniandy

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #6**

WHEREAS, it is widely acknowledged that Métis Elders can play a meaningful role in providing guidance and support to Métis men and women incarcerated in the federal prison system.

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Prisons for Canada has indicated that a list should be prepared of Métis Elders who would be willing to provide supports for Métis offenders in federal institutions; and

WHEREAS, it would be desirable for Métis Elders to be identified for this purpose throughout the Métis Homeland;

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the MNA take steps to identify Métis Elders in Alberta who are currently serving as Aboriginal Elders in federal and provincial institutions and remand centres, in the Province or who wish to do so;



THAT the President of the MNA raise this matter at the MNC Board of Governors to engage the MNC and all Governing Members in the effort to identify Métis Elders serving or prepared to serve as Aboriginal Elders in federal and provincial institutions and remand centres; and

THAT a list of Métis Elders serving or prepared to serve Aboriginal inmates in federal and provincial institutions and remand centres, be compiled and provided to the Commissioner of Prisons for Canada by the end of 2015.

Moved by Joseph Pimlott

Seconded by Muriel Stanley-Venne

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #7**

WHEREAS, The Métis Nation is and has been governed under a Not-for-Profit Societies Act since its renewal in the 1960s;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Métis people to develop a Governing structure that is compatible with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;

WHEREAS, the Métis people need to take their fight to all the levels of governments on legislation, policies, and program issues that is productive for the Métis peoples.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Métis Nation conduct Research to develop a Governance Framework Model for the Métis people and secure the necessary resources to conduct this study.

Moved by Bryan Fayant

Seconded by Joe Blyan

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #8**

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Members of the Métis Nation of Alberta to ensure that the Métis Judiciary Council (MJC) is governed in a manner that ensures the MJC operates at the highest judicial standard possible;

WHEREAS, the Métis Judiciary Council should under no circumstances be a body that is used for personal reasons or to resolve frivolous issues or issues that have no merit to the Métis Nation of Alberta Members; and

WHEREAS, the current wording of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws in Article 29, Article 30, Article 31 and Article 32 ratified at the 1995 Annual Assembly are outdated and allow for





issues to be brought forward in a manner that is not consistent with judicial practices in other jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, there must be a complete and thorough review of the MJC and its current establishment, including but not limited to how matters are brought forward, its powers and rights of the parties and the adequacy of previous decisions that have been made; and

WHEREAS, the Métis Judiciary Council has existed in its present format since 1996 and its operations and functions happen behind closed doors without any transparency to MNA Members and to date little to no information is provided to the Members of the MNA on its operations or the decisions it makes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a complete and comprehensive review is conducted, and all Métis communities and members are consulted on the redesign of a Métis judicial process that will operate at the highest judicial standard possible.

Moved by Norma Spicer

Seconded by Doreen Poitras-Hayes

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #9**

WHEREAS, there have been many forest fires in Canada this summer; and

WHEREAS, there were many evacuees who had to leave their homes; and

WHEREAS, Cold Lake in Region 2 were host as an evacuation centre; and

WHEREAS, in many instances the community was somewhat caught off-guard; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNA work toward an emergency preparedness plan, including a budget that ensures all Regions and Locals are ready to help with disaster relief; and

FURTHER, where applicable that there be a Métis trained with the required certification to step up; and

FINALLY that the Métis be prepared to step up and provide and participate in the instance of culturally appropriate needs.

Moved by Tasha Gabriel

Seconded by Karen Collins

***RESOLUTION PASSED***

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #10**

WHEREAS, many First Nation, Métis and Inuit children died while attending residential schools;



WHEREAS, these children were generally unceremoniously buried by residential school authorities, sometimes in mass, unmarked graves, without informing parents, guardians or the community of their resting place, and without according them the respect due to the deceased; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to identify these children, to locate the sites where they were buried by residential school authorities, and to ensure their proper re-burial where necessary and appropriate.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly condemns the callous and disrespectful manner in which Aboriginal children who died in residential school were treated by the Church and school authorities; and support efforts to identify Aboriginal children who died in residential school and locate their remains;

That this Assembly further directs MNA Provincial Council to take all steps at its disposal to urge Church and Government authorities to collaborate with Métis, First Nation and Inuit communities to locate sites where Aboriginal children who died in residential school are presently buried, to identify their remains and to provide them with the respectful and honourable burial they deserve.

Moved by Muriel Stanley-Venne

Seconded by Joseph Pimlott

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

### **ORDINARY RESOLUTION #11**

A request was made for the Assembly to pass a resolution that the MNA hold a Special Assembly to deal with Ordinary Resolution #8, relating to the review of the Métis Judiciary Council.

Moved by Wendy Goulet

Seconded by Darlene Lennie

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

*Motion #10: Melanie Omeniho moves to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 pm August 8, 2015.*

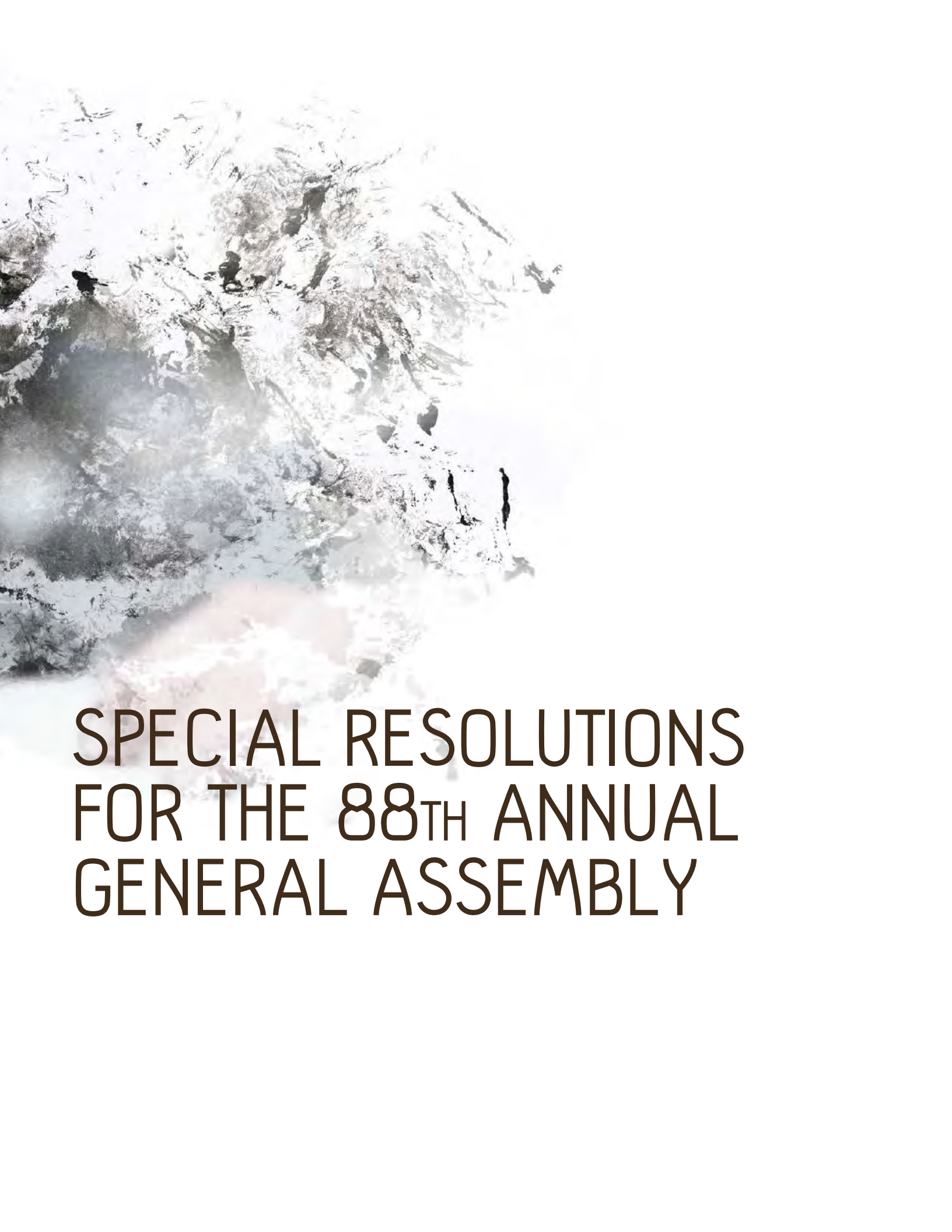












# SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 88<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# SPECIAL RESOLUTION #1

## RESOLUTION ON NEGOTIATING A MODERN DAY TREATY WITH THE CROWN

WHEREAS it has been the longstanding goal of the MNA to advance the Métis Nation's inherent right of self-government and self-determination within Alberta through negotiating a modern day treaty relationship with the Crown, which recognizes the MNA's unique self-government, respects Métis rights throughout Alberta and addresses outstanding Métis land claims;

AND WHEREAS through the strong political organization and efforts of the MNA and Métis leaders like Harry Daniels, section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* includes the Métis Nation and states,

- (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.
- (2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.
- (3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) "treaty rights" includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada has recently confirmed in the *Daniels* case that the Federal Government has the jurisdiction and responsibility pursuant to section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* to establish a meaningful relationship with the Métis Nation that advances reconciliation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following objective of the MNA be added to Article 1 of the MNA Bylaws as Article 1.8:

To negotiate, on behalf of the Métis in Alberta, a modern day treaty relationship with the Crown through a "land claims agreement" or other arrangement as called for and contemplated within the meaning of section 35(3) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Moved by Bev New

Seconded by Karen Collins (KC)



# SPECIAL RESOLUTION #2

## RESOLUTION ON OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS Article 1.3 of the MNA Bylaws sets out that it is an objective of the MNA “to promote, pursue, and defend the Aboriginal, legal, constitutional, and other rights of Métis in Alberta,” which includes asserting and advancing Métis rights that are protected within section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, including dealing with the Crown’s constitutional duties and obligations owing to Métis in Alberta and addressing outstanding Métis land claims in Alberta;

AND WHEREAS Articles 10.7 and 10.8 state:

- 10.7 Any Métis who has been accepted as a Member must sign and take an oath of membership to the Métis Nation.
- 10.8 The oath of membership shall be attached as Schedule “A” to these Bylaws and shall form a part of the Bylaws.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following oath of membership be attached to the MNA Bylaws as Schedule “A”:

I agree to the Metis Nation’s Bylaws and policies, as amended from time to time, 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 Metis in Alberta, including negotiating and arriving at agreements that advance determine, recognize and respect Métis rights. In signing this oath, I also recognize that I have the right to end this authorization, at any time, by terminating my membership within the Métis Nation.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this oath of membership be a requirement for all future individuals to sign as a part of their application for membership in the MNA;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT all existing members be provided notice of this new oath of membership.

Moved by Bev New

Seconded by Karen Collins (KC)

# SPECIAL RESOLUTION #3

## RESOLUTION ON TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS it is now an objective of the MNA “[t]o negotiate, on behalf of the Métis in Alberta, a modern day treaty relationship with the Crown through a “land claims agreement” or other arrangement as called for and contemplated within the meaning of section 35(3) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.”

AND WHEREAS other Métis Nation governments, including, the Manitoba Métis Federation, are pursuing their own negotiations with the Crown on behalf of their members, and their bylaws include provisions that state that participation in a land claims agreement under the meaning of the *Constitution Act, 1982* to which that Métis Nation government is not a party to results in automatic termination of membership;

AND WHEREAS Article 8.1(a) of the MNA Bylaws already recognize that a Lifetime Membership in the MNA shall terminate upon “[e]ntry 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.”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the following be added as Article 8.1(d) of the MNA Bylaws as a reason for termination of membership in the MNA:

Participation in a modern day treaty or “land claim agreement” with the Crown under the meaning of the *Constitution Act, 1982* to which the Métis in Alberta are not a party.

Moved by Bev New

Seconded by Karen Collins (KC)



# SPECIAL RESOLUTION #4

Whereas the Provincial bylaws need clarity in the right of recall; and

Whereas there are many inconsistencies in the issue of recalling the Provincial President or Vice President; and

Whereas we need consistency in the process so that people can be advised on how to bring forward issues related to the Provincially elected positions; and

Whereas the current bylaws read as follows:

23.2 A President or Vice-President may be removed from office through the following process:

- a A minimum of Twenty-One (21) days notice of a Local Community Meeting to approve an ordinary resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice - President must be given to members of all Local Communities in Alberta; and
- b A written resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice - President must be approved by seventy-five (75%) percent of all Local Communities in Alberta who have held meetings and given their members a minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice of the meeting; and
- c The written resolution approved and signed by seventy-five (75%) percent of the Local Communities in Alberta shall be sent to their Regional Council and
- d Upon receipt of the written resolution from the Local Council the Secretary of each Regional Council shall give a minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice of a meeting to the members of the Regional Council to vote on the written resolution; and
- (e) A meeting each Regional Council shall be held and if seventy-five (75%) percent of the members of each Regional Council vote to remove the President or Vice - President then each Regional Council shall send a written resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice President to the Provincial Council; and
- (f) Within twenty-one (21) days of the receipt of a written resolutions from seventy-five (75%) percent of the Regional Councils signed by seventy-five (75%) percent of the members of each Regional Council the Provincial Council shall remove the President or Vice - President and the position shall be declared vacant.

Therefore be it resolved that the current Article 23.2 be removed in its entirety and replaced with the following article: (highlighted parts indicate recommended changes):

- a) 23.2 A Provincial President or Provincial Vice-President may be removed from office through the following process:
  - a. A minimum of Twenty One (21) days notice of a Local Community Meeting to approve an ordinary resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice - President must be given to members of all Local Communities in Alberta; and
  - b. A written resolution demanding the removal of the Provincial President or Provincial Vice -President must be approved by seventy-five (75%) percent of the number of Metis individuals that voted in that community during the election; and
  - c. The written resolution approved and signed by seventy-five (75%) percent of the Local Communities in the Region shall be sent to their Regional Council; and Upon receipt of the written resolution from the Local Councils the Secretary of each Regional Council shall give a minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice of a meeting to the members of the Regional Council to vote on the written resolution; and
  - d. A meeting each Regional Council shall be held and if seventy-five (75%) percent of the members of each Regional Council vote to remove the Provincial President or Provincial Vice - President then each Regional Council shall send a written resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice \_President to the Provincial Council; and
  - e. Within twenty-one (21) days of the receipt of a written resolution from seventy-five (75%) percent of the Regional Councils signed by seventy-five (75%) percent of the eligible voters who voted in the previous election Regional Council the Provincial Council shall remove the Provincial President or Provincial Vice - President and the position shall be declared vacant.

Darryl Shott MNA member: 003501 Region 1

Secunder: MNA MEMBER: Wendy Goulet MNA number: 004809 Region 6



# ORDINARY RESOLUTION #1

Ordinary Resolution submitted by: Métis Nation of Alberta Local 2002 Buffalo Lake

WHEREAS: The Métis Nation of Alberta("MNA") Local 2002 Buffalo Lake is situated on the Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement and comprised of Métis holding membership within the MNA, and

WHEREAS: The MNA has an extensive Genealogy Research Centre (GRC), with staff having over thirty years collective research and genealogy experience, and

WHEREAS: Confirmation of Métis Status requires historical proof of an ancestor who received a land grant or a script grant under the Manitoba Act or the Dominion Lands Act which would require proof of Métis ancestry to the 1800s, and

WHEREAS: the Ewing Commission set up in 1938 in Alberta to review the situation of the Métis in Alberta, recommended that land be set aside for the Métis with limited self-governing authority over hunting, fishing and trapping, and

WHEREAS: In the 1960s, a Cabinet Order-in-Council removed the settlements of Marlboro, Touchwood, Cold Lake and Wolf Lake from the Métis regime, and

WHEREAS: In 1990, Accord Legislation passed giving the Métis people – all Métis People, not just certain Métis , 1.25 million acres of land on eight settlements remaining after- via the Métis Settlements Act, the Métis Accord Implementation Act, the Métis Land Protection Act and the Constitution of Alberta Amendment Act, and

WHEREAS: Confusion has arisen as to the definition of Métis as a result of litigation, public policy and lack of progression on the Métis Settlements, thus putting at risk assurances that the land set aside for the Métis remains for all Métis and not only certain Métis.

THEREFORE: be it resolved that:

1. The Métis Nation of Alberta make it an official policy that all persons living on Settlements and claiming to be Métis and benefit from the rights of land ownership, voting, and holding office on a Settlement must hold membership within the MNA.
2. Moreover that the MNA lobby the Government of Alberta and the Federal Government to effect same as the MNA membership is the only trustworthy method of assuring Métis heritage and bona fides.

Moved by: Jack Ladouceur

Seconded by: Brian Ladouceur

Dated: July 08, 2016

# NOTES

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# VISION

*Together we will continue to build a strong Métis Nation*

# MISSION STATEMENT

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

# MISSION STATEMENT

1. *We believe we are continuing to build on the foundation for future generations;*
2. *We believe in fairness and respect for all people;*
3. *We believe we need to work in unity and harmony;*
4. *We believe all Métis people are part of the nation;*
5. *We believe in Métis participation in building our nation;*
6. *We believe in encouraging and assisting Métis people to achieve their goals;*
7. *We believe in honesty and professionalism;*
8. *We believe we will abide by our governing structure; and*
9. *We believe we will achieve self-government.*

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