Never More Forgotten People

The True Canadians

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

94TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 4–7, 2022

Table of Contents

Presidential Greetings 2

Dignitary Greetings 4

Special Feature 6

Department Reports

- Children and Family Services 10
- Consultation 18
- Department of Health 23
- Environment and Climate Change 32
- Intergovernmental Relations and EcDev 44
- Métis Identification and Registry Systems 49
- Truth & Reconciliation 55
- Youth Programs and Services 58

Regional Reports

- Region One 66
- Region Two 70
- Region Three 76
- Region Five 88
- Region Six 96

Affiliate Reports

- Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. 108
- Cree Productions 114
- Métis Child & Family Services Society 115
- Métis Crossing 117
- Métis Judiciary Council 122
- Métis Nation Holdings 123
- Métis Urban & Capital Housing Corporations 126
- Rupertsland Institute 134

Special Resolutions 146

Provincial President Audrey Poitras

As President of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), it is an honour and a privilege for me to provide Citizens with this annual report detailing achievements made on your behalf at the local, regional, and provincial levels of our Nation. I'm so pleased to report that since our last Annual General Assembly (AGA), the MNA has accomplished a great deal of work toward achieving the long-held goals of Métis people.

For decades, we've known that the governance system we're operating under has never been a representation of our inherent right to self-determination and self-government. Today, the MNA is on the verge of realizing what our ancestors started over a century ago: Full recognition of the right to govern ourselves. So many Métis people gave their lives so we may finally receive Canada's acknowledgment and confirmation of this right.

Since signing our *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* (MGRSA) with Canada in June of 2019, the MNA has worked hard to address the key priorities outlined in the agreement. Priorities such as:

1. Develop our own Constitution
2. Come to a fiscal financing arrangement with Canada
3. Finalize an intergovernmental relationship agreement with Canada
4. Develop a transition plan to move from the *Societies Act* to a Métis government model
5. Address outstanding land claim issues and the sorry legacy of Métis scrip
6. Collaborate on federal legislation that recognizes our Métis government in law

To achieve the first point, the MNA established a Constitution Commission, as directed by Citizens, with the intention to develop and have a Constitution approved before September of 2022. Unfortunately, by March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected all aspects of our lives and everything we were doing to meet this directive. Our first consultation phase was delayed because of health and safety concerns. Following health measures, the Commission first held virtual meetings with our existing structures: Provincial Council, Regional Councils, Women's Council, Youth Council, Judiciary Council, and MNA Affiliates. Eventually, we were able to embark on the second phase of consultation in person and completed 20 meetings in communities across the province. Additionally, we received several written submissions from Citizens who could not attend in person. The Commission has reviewed all the feedback and completed a third draft for this Assembly.

MNA technicians continue working with Canada to finalize a *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and an *Intergovernmental Relationship Agreement* that will support the new Métis government model. A Transition Committee has also been established, as directed by a 2021 AGA resolution, to work with Provincial Council, regions, and locals to transition out from the *Societies Act*.

I'm also pleased to say that based on recent meetings with federal ministers, we remain on track for federal legislation to be introduced in the House of Commons this fall. Our Métis Nation is now on the brink of receiving what's been overdue to us for generations; Recognition by Canada of the MNA as a level of government in federal legislation.

To mark this turning point in our history, my fellow Citizens, I encourage you to sing out our anthem:

"We are proud to be Métis
Watch our Nation rise again
Nevermore forgotten people
We're the true Canadians"

With my respect,

Audrey Poitras
President
Métis Nation of Alberta

Provincial Vice-President Dan Cardinal

Tansi kakiyaw kiyawaw!

The past year has been a challenging one due in great part to the continued presence of COVID-19. During these difficult times, I know for many of our people it must seem that we have been in an unending season of hopelessness. I know that for a lot of you, there has been the loss of loved ones, the loss of income, and much loneliness from the loss of human connection which I am sure is both overwhelming and challenging under these circumstances. I want all Citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to know that the MNA has worked hard to provide supports and create new programs to help Métis Albertans during this trying time, and we will continue to do so. As Provincial Vice President, I have reached out to many MNA Citizens across all regions to make them aware of the programs available to assist them. Over the past year, I have been honoured to represent the MNA at events and social gatherings when requested by President Poitras. In addition, I have attended many meetings with the boards of which I am part, including the Métis Crossing Experience Company, Edmonton Food Bank, Métis Child and Family Services, and the fundraising committee for the Sacred Heart of the First Peoples. These meetings have been fruitful; in 2020 our Métis Crossing board approved the construction of a 40-room lodge. This lodge, a boutique style service with a bistro and gathering centre, is now open and accepting reservations. We are looking forward to hosting a grand opening in the future for the lodge and gathering center, both of which have been delayed due to COVID-19 closures.

I have also had the opportunity to attend numerous events that celebrated Métis culture, history, and development. In Batoche on Sept. 2, 2021, many of our finest singers and fiddlers performed for Alberta Day at the fall gathering. The performances were great. From Oct. 21 to 24, 2021, I attended the Michif Language Conference near Medicine Hat. I also participated in Métis Week activities in Lac La Biche and St. Albert and attended two MNA Region 3 business mixers in Calgary. On March 5 and 6, I attended the Residential Schools Survivors gathering in Edmonton. Listening to their stories was very painful, but it was a necessary step in preparing our delegates to tell their stories to Pope Francis. The MNA and myself are aware this is just a very small step on the journey to reconciliation.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Annual General Meetings for many of our locals. Local 1904 in St. Albert on March 21, Local 845 in Rocky Mountain House on March 25, and Local 492 in Red Deer on March 26. On the May long weekend, I attended the St. Albert Métis Festival organized by Métis Child and Family Services. May 27, I attended the Métis Festival in Fort McMurray organized by Local 1935. That morning I was honoured to give the morning prayer in Cree at Our Lady of the Rivers School in Fort McMurray.

This spring the MNA Provincial Council also approved unanimously the adoption of a Pride Flag as a mark of inclusiveness for all our MNA Citizens. A special meeting took place on June 4, in Grande Prairie which approved the postponing of our elections until September 2023, so the work on our Constitution can continue. From June 8 to 11, I attended the Hills are Alive Celebration at the Eagle's Nest Ranch near Medicine Hat. This was a very enjoyable weekend of fiddle music and Métis Crafts.

I am looking forward to spending more time working for and visiting with our MNA Citizens in the coming year.

Merci, Hiy Hiy, Thank you,

Sincerely,

Dan Cardinal
Vice President
Métis Nation of Alberta

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

August 4-7, 2022

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the 94th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

Since it was established in 1928, the MNA has dedicated itself to advancing the well-being of Alberta's Métis community. This Annual General Assembly offers an important opportunity to review the organization's accomplishments over the past year, discuss key issues and set goals and priorities for the future.

I would like to thank the dedicated organizers for their hard work in ensuring this year's assembly could still take place while respecting public health guidelines. I am certain that delegates will make the most of this chance to network and share knowledge, experiences and expertise at this important gathering.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and productive meeting.

Sincerely,

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

MÉTIS NATION

Please accept my warmest congratulations on hosting the MNA's 94th Annual General Assembly! Today, more than ever, it's essential that we join together to celebrate our collective successes and breathe renewed life into our Métis democracy.

Over the past two years, we Métis have only come closer together, cared more deeply for one another, more fully expressed our love for one another and once again proven our collective resiliency as Métis people. And that's thanks to each of you!

Through your collective efforts, we stand on the precipice of finally achieving the vision that our ancestors fought for: the full recognition of our inherent Métis rights, including our inherent right to self-government. And, with that recognition, the ability to self-determine our own Métis future. One of health, prosperity and unbridled pride in being Métis.

For nearly 100 years, the Métis Nation of Alberta has helped to lead our collective journey forward by setting a positive example of transparency, accountability, democracy and respect for our Métis citizens that continues to inspire and uplift the entire Nation. As President of the Métis National Council, it is an incredible honour to witness and be a part of that journey.

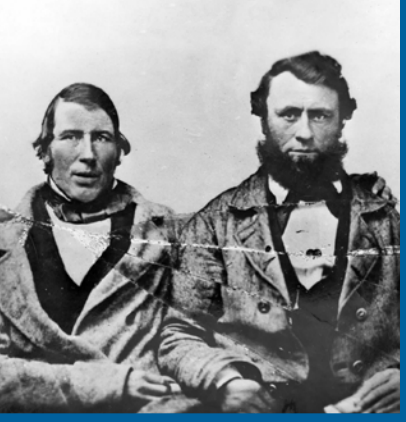
I raise my hands to each of you for your tireless efforts and reaffirm the MNC's commitment to working respectfully alongside the MNA to achieve our ancestors' visions of Métis self-government and self-determination. We can do anything, as long as we do it together!

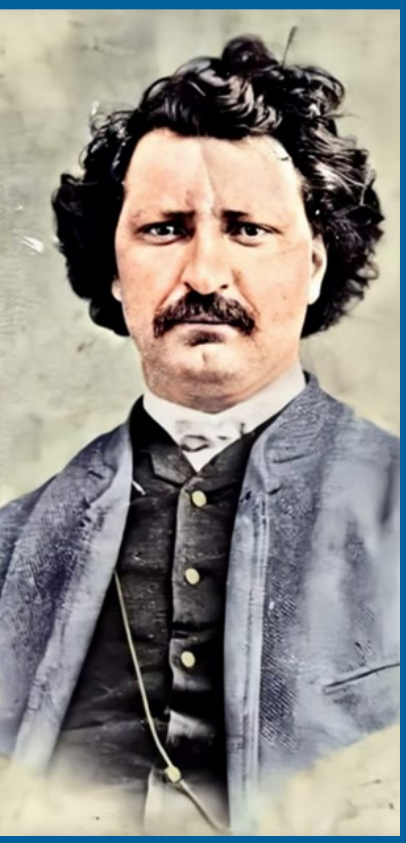
Thank you, again, for all that you do. Be proud, be safe and always be proud to be Métis.

Cassidy Caron

President

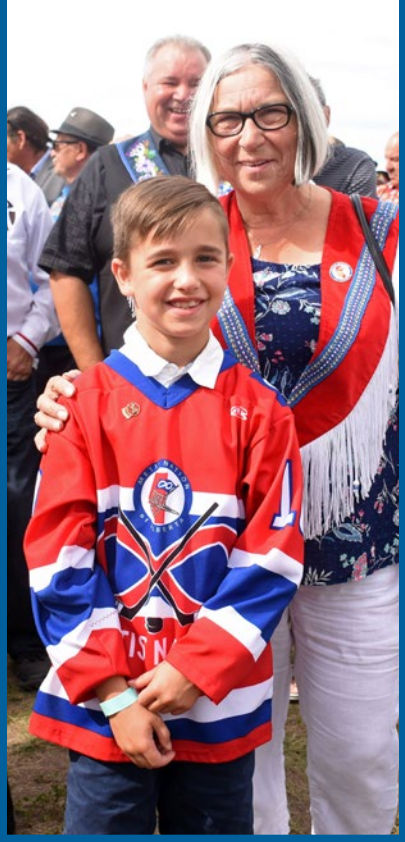
Métis National Council





Never More Forgotten People

The True Canadians



Area di attesa
Waiting area

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Children and Family Services

The Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) Department of Children and Family Services (CFS) is committed to supporting the strength of Métis children and families through programs and services that are embedded in culture and traditional ways of knowing. The Department of CFS focuses on the development and implementation of programs in the areas of early learning and childcare, early literacy, family-friendly cultural resources and activities, family camps, and children and family supports, all of which strengthen family inclusiveness and provide a safe space for all Métis children and families. Through the prioritization of programs, services, and opportunities, we strive to maintain and enhance connections with family, community, and culture. We believe Métis families are the heart of community, and our Métis children are our future leaders whom we should inspire and encourage!

Early Learning and Child Care Initiatives

Gear Up for School

The MNA's Department of CFS develops and delivers early learning programming for Métis children in Alberta and their families. The Gear Up for School Program was first launched in 2018 to ensure all Métis children are given adequate tools to support school readiness by reducing financial burdens placed on Métis families every schoolyear. Through this program, we provide Métis families with school supplies for children entering preschool, kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2. The goal being to support Métis children in having the best possible start to their educational journey.

Through the 2020-2021 school year, 1,715 Métis early learners across Alberta received school supplies through the Gear Up for School Program. This program has demonstrated great success in all MNA Regions. Métis

families who participated in the Gear Up for School Program expressed heartfelt gratitude for providing additional tools supporting school readiness for their children. The following is just one of the many responses we received from MNA Citizens who participated in the 2021-22 Gear Up for School Program:

"We received our school supplies today and all I can say is WOW and thank you. What an amazing gift for our children for back to school. To say they were excited would be an understatement. Then, to open the envelope to find a $100 Walmart gift card was the cherry on top. It will be put to good use, and we can't thank you enough. We are very proud and grateful to be a part of the Métis Nation. Thank you."
– The Garcia Family

Oskaya Ayamichikewak (Young Readers) Program

In October of 2020, the Department of CFS was proud to announce a partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library through the Oskaya Ayamichikewak (Young Readers) Program. This program promotes early learning literacy with the goal of supporting and inspiring a love of reading among Métis children and families through age-appropriate books and encourages family and community connections. Once enrolled, Métis children receive books delivered to their home every month, free of charge, from birth until the child's fifth birthday.

To date, 1,113 Métis early learners across the province have accessed the Oskaya Ayamichikewak (Young Readers) Program!

The Oskaya Ayamichikewak (Young Readers) Program is ongoing and available to eligible MNA Citizens and their families. To register or learn more about this program, please email **youngreaders@metis.org** and follow the link to complete the online registration form.

"My kids absolutely love getting mail! (Let's be honest, nothing really comes in the mail these days!) We always have to sit down and read the new stories as soon as we get them. As a parent, I love the variety - they aren't always books I would think to buy. It has encouraged lots of conversations and opened their eyes to new language. And of course, I love that they'll cuddle up with me to read their new books!"
– MNA Citizen

Family Camps

Frosty Reels Family Camp

The Department of CFS was honoured to host 32 Métis families in our first in-person event following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The Department of CFS was excited to be able to gather again to host the Frosty Reels Family Camp at Camp Wohelo, located in Pigeon Lake. This camp took place each weekend of March 2022.

Connection to community through land-based cultural activities have been proven to improve the overall wellness of Métis families, and we believe the Frosty Reels Family Camp did just that. Métis families learned how to set a net under the ice on Pigeon Lake using the ingenious Métis invention, "the Prairie Jigger." In addition to teaching different fishing methods, knowledgeable Métis harvesters Keith Grant and the Letendre family, taught families about Métis history and stories of the Pigeon Lake region, educating on how fishing sustained Métis harvesters there for many generations. Ice fishing on Pigeon Lake ended with fish and chips on the frozen lake using fish caught during the family camps, a warm dinner, and a cozy family movie.

Families attending this family camp also learned how to process fish scales to create beautiful art with Métis knowledge-holder Pearl Sandor. They were also gifted fishing rods and bucket seats to foster and encourage them to continue in their journey of knowledge and connection to the land.

> *Truly hit every mark. The organizers were amazing. We loved being able to chat with the MNA staff over the weekend. The chaperones were great with the kids so much so that my kids still talk about Tracy to this day. We loved to have the harvesters on hand for questions and connection and the local elders on hand as well for connection to the traditional sense of the experience. This was a top-notch experience all around. We were blown away by the professionalism and experience all around. Phenomenal."*
> **– MNA Citizen**

Connecting Through Culture Family Retreat

The Connecting Through Culture Family Retreat took place at the historic Métis Crossing for three weekends in February and March 2022. This Family Retreat brought together Métis families and knowledge-holders to strengthen family bonds, create lasting memories, and be unreservedly immersed in Métis ways of life.

Facilitated cultural experiences, traditional cuisine, and a weekend stay in the newly completed Lodge were just some of the highlights experienced by families in attendance, along with horse drawn sleigh rides, ice skating, and snowshoeing! Five exciting signature Métis Crossing experiences were featured throughout the family retreats, including Tales from the Trapline, Métis Traditional Living Skills, Whispers of the Stars, Hide Tanning Demonstrations, and a tour of the newly established Vision, Hopes, and Dreams Wildlife Park. The Department of CFS was overjoyed for the opportunity to support 33 Métis families in this memorable experience that will certainly not soon be forgotten. We look forward to hosting more family camps throughout the coming year!

"As a family we wanted to thank you from the bottom of my hearts for the best experience anyone could ever asked for. We learnt so much from this and we will continue to learn. Métis Crossing was so beautiful inside and out. The people that work there the whole weekend were unbelievable. They did so much for us all. So, thank you so much for everything you do and everyone else. Would go back in a heartbeat. Thank you." **– The Ouellette Family**

Programming and Resources

Métis Family Resource Program

The Métis Family Resource Program (MFRP) works in conjunction with Alberta Children's Services to ensure Métis children, youth, and families are culturally connected and supported. This program aims to strengthen family and promote community connections through Métis culture, client-centred culturally sensitive approaches to wellness, culturally appropriate family plans, and advocacy and community-based referrals.

The MFRP routinely supported 25 Métis families involved with Alberta Children's Services by providing advocacy, referrals, cultural connections, and support. Additionally, the MFRP assisted in the registration of 37 children in Alberta Children's Services care from every region across the province. All 37 of these Métis children are now Citizens of the MNA and are connected to their community, culture, and history. The MFRP is also proud to announce a continued collaboration with Alberta Children's Services regions across the province who meet on a bi-monthly basis. These meetings are an opportunity for the MNA to remain connected to Métis children and to offer supports to the guardians and caregivers of these children. This gives families culturally sensitive connections and supports across the province.

Another important goal of the MFRP is to foster a greater understanding of Métis culture, values, and beliefs within those who work with and care for Métis children and families. As such, the MFRP focused on the creation and delivery of a Métis-specific cultural awareness training program offered specifically to stakeholders involved with Alberta Children's Services. This training provides education to Alberta Children's Services on Métis specific cultural and historic information with the intent to strengthen the working relationship between Métis Albertans and Alberta Children's Services .

> ***I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the outstanding work you did facilitating the training. I have been in government for over 25 years and taken a lot of trainings. This was one of the best I have ever taken. Your knowledge, political astuteness, mindfulness, and sensitive way of delivering sometimes difficult material is incredible. I also very much admired your professional boundaries when responding to questions that you may not have had the answer to and the way you redirected sensitive situations with dignity and kindness. These are gifts. I hope you have a great week and know that you are appreciated. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us and for all you do for Métis children, youth, young adults, and families in Alberta."***
> **– Thomas Woodburn (Indigenous Connections Advisor, Alberta Children's Services)**

Supports and Services Navigator

The Supports and Services Navigator (SSN) provides navigation support to Métis Albertans in accessing programs and services best suited to their specific needs. The SSN can provide information and guidance while Métis Albertans are navigating programs, supports, and resources to ensure the appropriate connections and information are being accessed.

The top five areas of need indicated were:

1. Non-insured health benefits
2. Financial assistance inquiries
3. Rupertsland Institute
4. Citizen benefits
5. COVID-19 Information and Supports

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Bridging Connections Program

FASD is a lifelong disability that affects the brain and body of people who were exposed to alcohol in the womb. We know living with FASD involves strengths and challenges. Each person is impacted differently and may need supports in different parts of their lives. The Department of CFS was proud to announce the launch of the FASD Bridging Connections Program in summer 2021. The FASD Bridging Connections Program offers support and information to Métis Albertans who may be impacted by FASD. This program walks alongside Métis families connecting them to support networks, culture, resources, and community.

The Bridging Connections Program has supported five individuals directly through the program by providing connections in the areas of housing, Indigenous parenting programs, MNA Citizenship, FASD Networks, and mental health and addictions supports. Additionally, we have reached approximately 100 individuals and professionals indirectly, with providing FASD-specific information and referrals in areas such as mental health services, internal navigation, addictions counselling, income support, and justice supports. As this is a new

program, the Department of CFS has been working hard to share program details to Alberta FASD Networks, FASD Service Providers, and community agencies and partners across the province. Distribution of program posters and handbills have been sent out to 56 different organizations in hopes to increase community awareness and connection.

The program has been prioritizing our resource reach by way of virtual presentations on the FASD Bridging Connections Program, delivered to three FASD Networks across the province. In addition to the FASD Bridging Connections Program specific presentations, we also offer and deliver FASD Métis Cultural Awareness Training to FASD Networks, FASD Service Providers, and community agencies with the overall goal to improve education on Métis cultural and historical information along with FASD-specific information and resources. This training focuses on Métis history and culture, the effects of colonization, reconciliation, the legal frameworks, the modern experience of the Métis people, and the program and resources through the MNA and its affiliates. This training increases awareness and understanding for FASD Networks, FASD service Providers, and other professionals so they can better work with Métis Albertans who may be impacted by FASD.

Community Information Sessions

The Department of CFS hosts Community Information Sessions on FASD focused topics and promote the health and wellbeing of Métis Albertans by providing information and resources on healthy living practices. This past year the MNA hosted sessions on domestic violence, mindfulness, disabilities, and family planning.

Leading Change: Understanding Domestic Violence

The Department of CFS hosted "Leading Change: Understanding Domestic Violence" in partnership with the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters on May 27, 2021. This information session had 98 people register and 55 people attend. Some topics covered during the session were: what gender-based violence looks like, causes of violence, and how to promote healthy relationships. The topic of this information session promoted healthy living practices and provided information on healthy relationships.

Mindfulness for Métis Families

The Department of CFS invited presenter Keith King, who is a Métis registered nurse and Ph.D. student, to host a session on "Mindfulness for Métis Families." This session was hosted on June 22, 2021, and had 110 people register and 50 people in attendance. This session's topic provided an overview of mindfulness, techniques for parents, fun activities for kids and youth, and a bedtime activity that can help improve sleep and reduce wakefulness at night.

Community Disability Workshop Series

The Department of CFS hosted a series of three community disability workshops in partnership with the Gateway Association. The three sessions, were: Understanding Disability in Alberta (May 19, 2021); Understanding Disability in your Community (June 2, 2021); and Understanding Disability in Your Home (June 16, 2021). In total, there were 73 people who attended the three workshops where they learned about disability diagnosis, disability, and resources. These workshops were tailored for caregivers of children, youth, and adults to provide specific information and resources. This session's topic of disability includes those living with FASD and provided useful information and resources for caregivers to explore and access.

Let's Get Real

On March 2, 2022 the Department of CFS hosted "Let's Get Real" with presenter Angela Kemble from Northwest Central FASD Network. This session covered the valuable concepts of sexual consent, contraception, drugs and alcohol, pregnancy and FASD. 12 people registered for the event and four attendees were present. Attendees learned the importance of setting boundaries and making healthy decisions, along with identifying what high risk behaviors could result in creating and impacting major life changes.

Family-Friendly Resources and Activities

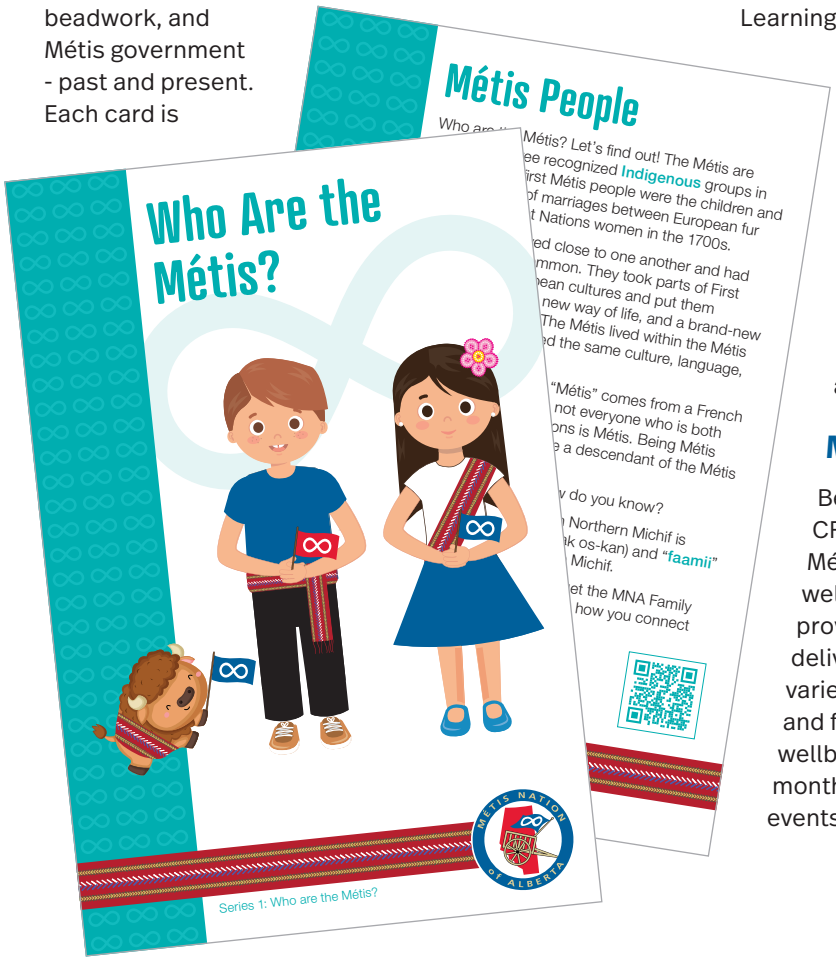
As the COVID-19 pandemic continued and in person events were limited, the focus of CFS was on producing quality virtual resources accessible to communities across the province. These resources were designed to bring families together, learn something new, and participate in something fun. Some of the resources designed include Pink Shirt Day (reached 5,055 people through Facebook and Instagram), Métis Veterans or Remembrance Day (reached 7,308 people through Facebook and Instagram), and Orange Shirt Day (reached 11,811 people through Facebook and Instagram), Sock Puppet DIY (reached 4,882 people through Facebook and Instagram), Honouring Métis Women (reached 5,169 people through Facebook and Instagram), flower

beadwork (reached 16,009 people through Facebook and Instagram), National Indigenous People's Day (reached 7,664 people through Facebook and Instagram), spring themed coloring pages (reached 19,637 people through Facebook and Instagram), blueberry bannock (reached 27,231 people through Facebook and Instagram) and worms in dirt (reached 3,177 people through Facebook and Instagram) recipe cards. All of these activity sheets and resources are available on the MNA website, to access them please visit **albertametis.org**.

Early Years Culture Cards & Extension Activities

The Department of CFS is committed to creating meaningful opportunities for families to learn more about Métis history and culture to promote a strong cultural identity for the future of the Métis Nation. Over this past year, the Department of CFS has been working hard to develop and release the first series of culture cards to connect Métis early learners to foundational learning around Métis culture and history.

This first series is packed with foundational knowledge that includes child-friendly information on Métis identity, the Métis Homeland, the birth of the Métis Nation, Métis clothing, Métis beadwork, and Métis government - past and present. Each card is colourful, engaging, includes relevant Michif translations, and extension activities to further the child and family's learning and connection to the Métis Nation.



The Department of CFS is excited to announce the release of this project is set to be for Summer 2022!

Community Partnerships

The Department of CFS is happy to respond to requests from families, schools, and organizations asking for information on Métis identity, culture, and history, as well as provide information on programs and services delivered by the MNA so community organizations and partners can better serve Métis children and families.

We believe educating and working to dispel common myths and misunderstandings around Métis identity, as well as having a presence within communities, helps to ensure a positive cultural identity for the future of the Métis Nation. Encouraging Métis families to connect with the MNA, promotes cultural connection and belonging so they know they are supported by the Métis Nation in every stage of life.

For information on our involvement in Champs Vallee School's Land-Based Learning Day, scan the QR code.

Art-Based Mental Health Kits

In March 2022, the Department of CFS was happy to partner with the MNA regional offices and the Save the Children organization, in the coordination and distribution of 800 art-based mental health kits. These kits were intended to support mental wellness for Métis children and families across all MNA Regions through various art methods, supplies, and activities.

MP Psychology

Beginning in January 2022, the Department of CFS formed a partnership with MP Psychology, a Métis-owned practice that promotes healing and wellbeing through relationship and scientifically proven methods. This partnership was created to deliver information, strategies, and resources on a variety of different topics geared towards children and families that promotes their overall health and wellbeing. The sessions are offered virtually every month throughout the year. Please see the following events that were held throughout the year.

MP Psychology Information Sessions

Mindfulness

A session titled "Mindfulness" was held on January 18, 2022, and had 144 registrants and 52 attendees. Mindfulness teaches specific skills to manage stress and negative/anxious thoughts. Attendees were taught practical skills on decision making, getting along with others, and increasing their sense of wellbeing.

Negative Self Talk

On February 15, 2022, a session titled "Negative Self Talk" was held and had 58 registrants and nine attendees. This session taught attendees to identify negative and positive thoughts and how they can influence and impact oneself and others. Attendees were given tools to recognize ways of thinking as positive or negative, along with some visualization techniques to change their thinking patterns. These tools can help participants live their lives in a more positive way, as well as learn self-love and self-advocacy.

Self-Care

On April 20, 2022, a session titled "Self-Care" was held and had 25 people registered and 10 attendees. This topic informed on what self care is and why is it so important to our overall wellbeing. Self-care can enhance your happiness and help you feel healthier, which can in turn make your relationships stronger and more fulfilling. The program looked at factors such as not having time for self-care and how you can still relieve stress by setting aside a few hours once a week for a self-care day.

MP Psychology Learning Circles

In partnership with MP Psychology, the Department of CFS hosted Learning Circles on a variety of topics to assist children, teens, and families by offering informative strategies, skills, and resources aimed to in promote the health and wellbeing of Métis children and families. These Learning Circles were offered virtually every week over 10 weeks. These four Learning Circles were hosted during February 18 – April 29, 2022, and were well-received and attended by community. The Learning Circles will continue to be offered over the next year on a variety of topics.

The Circle of Security Parenting Program

This Learning Circle provides a new approach to parenting developed from over 50 years of attachment research. Participants will gain confidence in raising a secure child as they learn about the parenting map of attachment. Parents learned how their own trauma can affect their

parenting style and gained knowledge on strategies to resolve it. This learning circle had 11 active participants join in and participate over the 10-week period.

The Wisdom Within

Participants learned four primary skills during this learning circle, mindfulness, interpersonal effectiveness, emotional regulation, and distress tolerance. This learning circle was skills-based and promoted healthy ways to cope with stress that taught about regulating emotions, living in the moment, and improving relationships with others. There were 22 active participants that joined in and participated over the 10-week period.

Kids (7-12 years old) - Be the Boss (of your own emotions)

This learning circle was best-suited for children aged seven – 12 years old. They were able to participate in games and other fun activities that helped them learn ways to take control of their own feelings. There were 14 participants that joined in this learning circle. One participant's feedback was, "it was a safe space for my daughter."

Teens (13-17 years old) - Let's Talk Anxiety

This learning circle was for teens between the ages of 13 – 17. Teens were able to gain empowerment by learning how to identify their anxiety triggers. By learning this, they attained coping strategies to better manage nervousness and anxiety. There were 10 participants that joined in this circle. One of participant's feedback was, "I liked about how the instructor was very human and explained her own personal events."

The Department of Children and Family Services is excited to continue to provide opportunities to Métis families across the province and looks forward to making long lasting connections with community. Check out the MNA website to get up to date information and access to program information. ■

Consultation

Consultation is the formal, legal process all levels of government must undertake with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) whenever they consider actions that may impact the collective rights, claims, and interests of the Métis Nation within Alberta. This is in accordance with the Government of Canada's duty to consult Indigenous Peoples, both federally and provincially, including the MNA as the representative government of the Métis Nation within Alberta.

To ensure effective engagement of the MNA, and its Citizens, in the consultation process, the MNA has implemented regional consultation offices in accordance with the *Regional Consultation Protocols*. As directed by each Regional Consultation Committee, the regional consultation office conducts engagements with MNA Citizens of an affected region to ensure Citizens have a voice whenever changes to the land are made, or when legislative, regulatory, or policy changes may impact them.

This year, the Department of Consultation dealt with numerous projects that triggered the Government of Canada's duty to consult. There are two major successes highlighted in this year's report:

- Establishing a partnership with Parks Canada on their urban parks project.
- Intervening in a proposed Confined Feedlot Operation project near Pigeon Lake.

MNA and Parks Canada Reach Contribution Agreement on National Urban Parks Project

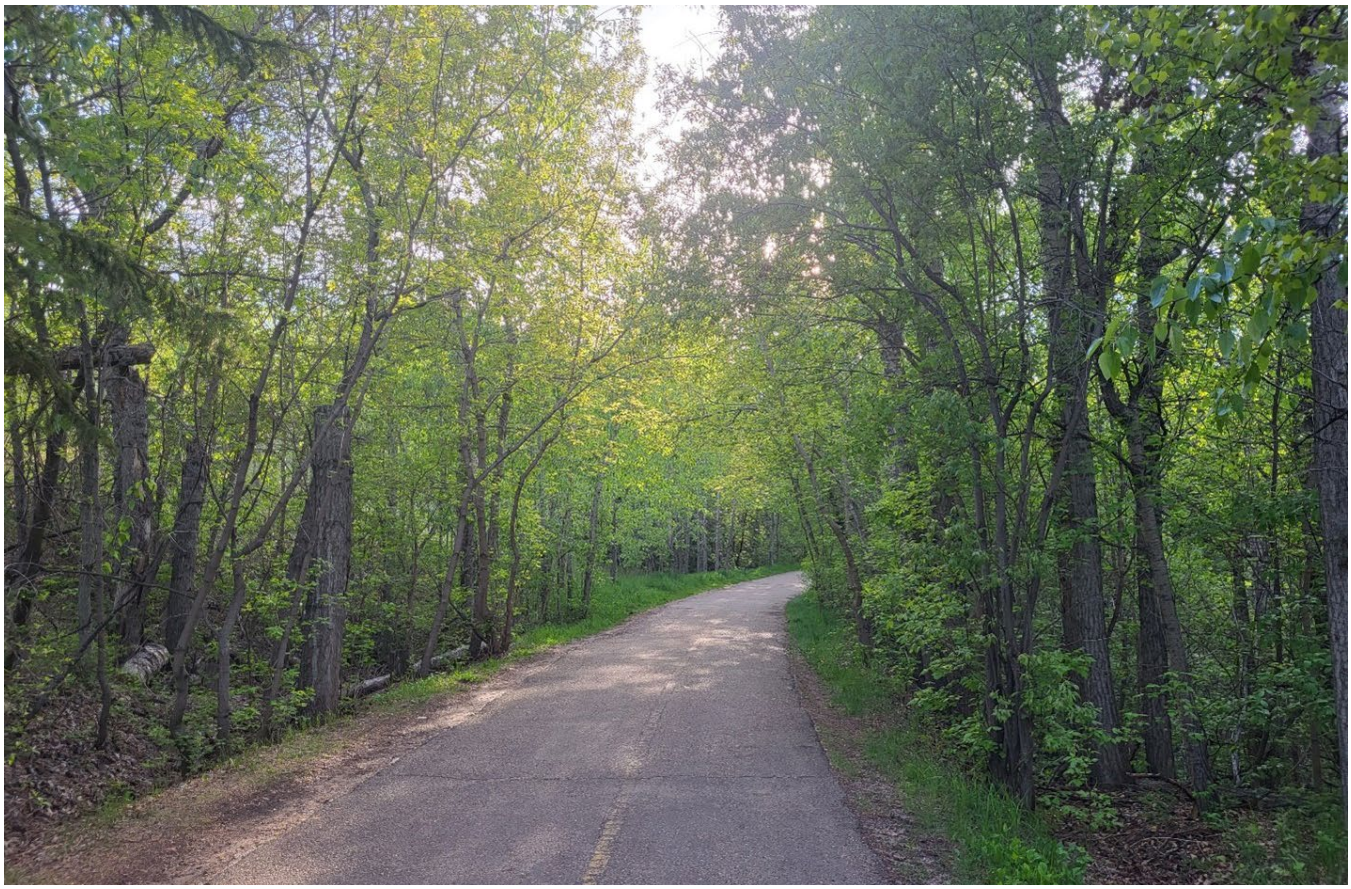
Through a groundbreaking partnership, the MNA's Department of Consultation and Parks Canada have reached a second contribution agreement requiring Park's Canada to consult MNA Citizens regarding the Government of Canada's proposed project to establish a national urban park in Alberta.

This partnership comes on the heels of an initial contribution agreement between MNA Region 2 and Parks Canada that made the integration of input and insights from MNA Region 2 Citizens and staff on the Parks Canada project possible. MNA Region 2's Consultation Coordinator played a key role in the development of the partnership between the MNA and Parks Canada, as well as the resulting contribution agreements.

If successful, the urban parks project will designate national park status to certain (currently undecided) urban green spaces across the country, including in Alberta. The development of such a project requires Parks Canada to consult potentially affected Indigenous peoples, including the Métis Nation within Alberta as represented by the MNA. However, given the novelty of the project, Parks Canada, while enthusiastic, was initially unsure as to how to consult with the MNA. MNA Region 2's Consultation Coordinator worked with Parks Canada to familiarize them with our consultation process, delivering a presentation to more than a dozen Parks Canada staff in April 2021. As a result, Parks Canada and the MNA's Region 2 were able to reach the initial contribution agreement, for which all deliverables were completed by April 2022.

Opposite Top: The Edmonton River Valley is one of Parks Canada's proposed locations for a National Urban Park. Mill Creek Ravine, Edmonton River Valley.

Opposite Bottom: Edmonton River Valley as seen from Saskatchewan Drive.



Under the initial contribution agreement, the consultation coordinator conducted approximately 25 to 30 interviews with MNA Region 2 Citizens and MNA staff. The final report concluded, Citizens were extremely interested in the continued development of this project specifically for its potential to preserve the natural environment and promote respect for nature within urban settings. Furthermore, Citizens indicated interest in initiatives related to the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, as well as healing centre(s) that the creation of a national urban park could help make possible.

Given the breadth of the project, the Consultation Coordinator negotiated with Parks Canada to engage the MNA as a whole and secured the Department of Consultation's future involvement in the project by ensuring the inclusion of MNA President Audrey Poitras during the public media release. President Poitras appeared among other stakeholders, including representatives from the City of Edmonton, First Nations, and the Government of Canada.

This second contribution agreement will provide capacity for the Department of Consultation to engage Citizens from all affected MNA Regions.

The MNA Department of Consultation looks forward to a continued partnership with Parks Canada's national urban parks project and to continuing to promote Métis rights, claims, and interests through honest and respectable collaborations with Canada.

Photos taken March 2019 on Pigeon Lake, youth learning to ice fish.

MNA Weighs in on Confined Feeding Operation at Pigeon Lake

The MNA recently weighed in on an application to the Alberta Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) seeking approval to establish a confined feeding operation at Pigeon Lake. The MNA's Department of Consultation staff determined the project, if approved, could have devastating impacts on Métis harvesting rights and Citizen health. A confined feeding operation refers to operations which enclose livestock for the purpose of growing, sustaining, finishing, or breeding. In this case, the application proposed a feedlot containing 4,000 head cattle next to Pigeon Lake.

The MNA Department of Consultation was not notified by the NRCB about the application for the feedlot; however, based on concerns raised by MNA Citizens in a meeting on May 17, the MNA requested an extension to submit a response to the NRCB opposing the feedlot application. The NRCB granted a brief extension of only 10 days, and the MNA submitted its detailed opposition response on Friday, May 27, 2022. Métis Citizens have a constitutional

right to harvest, which includes fishing and related activities (such as fish scale art) in Pigeon Lake, Alberta, and the Department of Consultation is obligated to advance and protect those rights.

Background research conducted by MNA Consultation staff regarding Pigeon Lake clearly demonstrated Métis people have used, and continue to use, Pigeon Lake for historical and contemporary rights practices. A fish health report generated by the MNA's Department of Environment and Climate Change, which included Citizen input, contributed greatly to supporting the MNA response to the NRCB which makes clear MNA Citizens would be directly affected by the feedlot if approved. Pigeon Lake was identified as both one of the most frequented lakes in Alberta as well as one of the lakes of greatest concern by MNA harvesters in the fish health report.

Research indicates the primary concern associated with Pigeon Lake given the current levels of harmful algal blooms. Feedlots are known to contribute heavily to harmful algal bloom growth and to increases in harmful pathogens such as listeria, salmonella, and E. coli. Pigeon Lake is at particular risk to harmful algal bloom growth due to its poor circulation and reliance on surface runoff and groundwater. The large amount of toxins associated with confined feeding operations can also asphyxiate fish and aquatic animals and make it difficult for gilled animals to breathe, not only reducing the number of fish available but also negatively impacting the health of the fish.

The response by the Department of Consultation to the NRCB outlined these concerns as they related to the large amount of toxins associated with feedlots. Métis harvesters can be exposed to toxins through skin contact with contaminated water, consumption of contaminated water or fish/shellfish, or through breathing in toxins released in the air. Further, the Department of Consultation noted that in addition to regularly hosting many individual Métis harvesters, Pigeon Lake is also the location of two separate annual camps organized by the MNA which are aimed at the intergenerational transfer of knowledge; the Frosty Reels family camp held in March and the Oskâyak Kapayshiw youth camp held in August. Both camps host dozens of Métis youth each year, who are particularly vulnerable to the dangers posed by harmful algal bloom formation associated with projects like cattle feedlots. If approved, the feedlot operation could put both camps at risk if the lake were to become too dangerous to host MNA youth.

The feedlot application remains under review by the NRCB. The Department of Consultation awaits the decision of the approval officer to determine whether the MNA will be granted standing as a directly affected party to make further submissions in the NRCB process. The Department of Consultation will make every effort to ensure that meaningful consultation is undertaken with our Nation in respect to the project and its potential impacts on Métis rights, claims, and interests at Pigeon Lake. Should such consultation occur, the Department will work to alleviate those impacts to MNA Citizens wherever possible.

Reviewing Canada's Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework

The Department of Consultation undertook a review of Canada's Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework and developed materials to collect feedback from MNA Citizens regarding their views on the matter. The Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework is designed to provide guidance on the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge, respecting the confidentiality of Indigenous Knowledge, and establishing and maintaining collaborative relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Engaging MNA Citizens on this initiative took the form of surveying, interviews, and engagement sessions. Recognizing the challenges and safety concerns of the engagement process due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all interviews and engagement sessions were conducted virtually. Throughout the course of this study, we heard from Citizens across the province, conducted 42 individual interviews and, as a result, received a great deal of valuable information on Indigenous Knowledge related topics ranging from protection from authorized disclosure to ensuring Indigenous Knowledge is presented within the right context.

However, these are only a few of the numerous projects the Department of Consultation participated in. Our department is also tasked each year with flexibly responding to and prioritizing the many proposed industry and government projects, policies, and legislation which require consultation with the MNA.

Our day-to-day work includes:

- **Meeting with government departments or industry partners** to share information about projects, policy, and legislation drafts, or to develop processes for active consultation areas.
- **Negotiating capacity** for the Métis Nation to meaningfully participate in consultation.
- **Responding to questions and concerns** raised by Citizens, the Government of Canada, or the proponent of a project.
- **Demonstrating the existence of Métis rights, claims, and interests** through historical records research, Citizen engagements, and traditional land use studies.

- **Defining and recording concerns or potential impacts** of a project on Métis rights, claims, and interests.
- **Designing and negotiating mitigation and accommodation measures** to offset potential impacts.
- **Drafting and supporting legal interventions** to regulatory tribunals and courts where potential impacts have not been meaningfully addressed.

As always, the Department of Consultation is ready to respond to emerging needs related to the protection and advancement of Métis rights, claims, and interests in Alberta.

In the work of Métis Consultation, we are continuously learning and innovating our approaches to protect Métis rights, claims, and interests. As always, the Department of Consultation is ready to respond to emerging needs related to the protection and advancement of Métis rights, claims, and interests in Alberta.

Upcoming projects for this year include beginning the process to review, update, and amend the MNA - Canada Consultation Agreement of 2018, as set out in the agreement. We aim to build in Section 35 rights recognition into binding articles, and implementation and capacity commitments by Canada to facilitate multi-year operational funding negotiations.

The Department of Consultation will begin phase 2 of the Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative and the Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund projects. These are federal initiatives will play a role in the Department's ability to assess impacts to Métis rights for future industry activity, as well as address the impacts Citizens have identified for aquatic ecosystems utilized in the exercise of their rights.

This year will focus on filling gaps in our Traditional Land Use data by conducting baseline mapping, field studies, literature reviews, and historical research for high priority areas in Alberta. This will better inform the department's project reviews for impacts to Métis rights.

We look forward to working with our Citizens over the next year. ■

The Consultation Department as of June 2022. From Left to right: Theo Peters, Cheryl Gordon, Tyler Weeks, Maren Jensen-Joyce, Walter Andreeff, Ashley Shaw, Garrett Tomlinson, Anna Ross. Missing from the department photo: Wynter Ducharme and Amy White.

Department of Health

Over the past year, the Department of Health has served Métis Albertans through two branches of work: community-based programs, as part of our Community Wellness Pillar, and community-based research, as part of our Health Research and Advocacy Pillar. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Health has continued to successfully adapt to COVID-19 restrictions by expanding the use of virtual means of communication and connection. Additionally, we have successfully grown our team, continued to produce grant deliverables, and secured funding to sustain programs and research portfolios. Below is a brief description of our programs and projects over the past year.

The Community Wellness Pillar

Cancer Transportation Program – The Cancer Transportation Program offers financial assistance for Citizens who need to travel to and from cancer-related medical appointments. This program is available to Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Citizens of all ages, residing in Alberta, who must travel a minimum of 50km one-way to attend such appointments. Individuals are responsible for finding their own transportation to and from appointments and will be reimbursed for specific costs associated with travel, such as parking or bus fares.

Community Wellness Advocate Program – The Community Wellness Advocate (CWA) Program aims to support Métis Albertans to improve their overall mental health and wellness through a broadened definition of mental health grounded in a Métis perspective. Since launching in January of 2022, the Community Wellness Advocate has successfully achieved this by providing Métis Albertans with information and referrals, ongoing support for enrolled individuals, and financial support to access a mental health professional.

Wellness Program – The Wellness Program is a partnership with Alberta Blue Cross and Homewood Health to provide 12 hours of free professional, confidential counselling or life skills training. Maintaining your mental wellbeing can be hard and the MNA Wellness Program provides self-directed opportunities through goal oriented, short-term counselling to improve personal wellbeing, manage relationships and family, address workplace stress or challenges, take control of finances, or develop life skills.

Medically Necessary Accommodations Program – The Medically Necessary Accommodations Program assists MNA Citizens in accessing free, safe, and reliable accommodations when travelling to Edmonton for medically necessary appointments or treatments, including dental appointments. This program is available to MNA Citizens, aged 18 and older, living in Alberta and who must travel at least 50km from their home address to attend a medically necessary appointment in the city of Edmonton.

Tobacco Reduction Program – The Tobacco Reduction Program offers three commercial tobacco reduction interventions: QuitCore, Peer Support Group, and Quit Retreat. Each intervention provides MNA Citizens with resources and tools to support their commercial tobacco-related health goals. These culturally relevant interventions are an opportunity to connect with other MNA Citizens going through a similar experience of reducing or quitting their tobacco use in a safe environment.

Youth and Adult Dental Programs – Through a collaborative partnership with the University of Alberta School of Dentistry, Métis youth aged 3-16 and adults requiring dental hygiene, and emergency dental services, can access safe and affordable dental services at the Kaye Clinic in Edmonton, Alberta.

The Health Research and Advocacy Pillar

Alberta Métis Cancer Strategy Project – This project focuses on four main goals:

- Develop a cancer strategy that centers the self-determined priorities of Métis Albertans
- Improve health care providers' understanding of Métis cancer journey experiences
- Develop culturally meaningful resources to support Métis Albertans on their cancer journey
- Share knowledge of Métis experiences of cancer

This project is funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer.

Chronic Disease Project – This project aims to explore health outcomes and barriers to accessing care for Métis Albertans living with Type 1 and 2 diabetes. This project is being delivered by the MNA in collaboration with the University of Alberta's School of Public Health and is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Life Promotion Project – Focusing on the development of life promotion programming supports, this approach aims to support the development of experiences, relational resources, and social conditions that engage Métis people with life. This year, community engagement reports and life promotion resources detailing Métis-specific approaches and knowledge on promoting life, will be released. This project is funded by the Alberta Health Services Honouring Life program.

Maternal and Child Health Project – Building on our previous Ehawawisit (with child) project, which investigated maternal and neonatal health, this project examines the health outcomes and experiences of Métis children in Alberta. This project is being done in partnership with the University of Alberta Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

The MNA's COVID-19 Response

The MNA COVID-19 response plan and subsequent initiatives were developed to help guide the MNA's public health response to COVID-19 at an operational and community level. The strategic goals of the MNA's response were to: better understand the experiences and impact of COVID-19 on MNA Citizens through Métis-specific surveillance; reduce the exposure and transmission of COVID-19 by supporting the MNA and affiliates in implementing public health measures; and supporting access to testing, personal protective equipment, evidenced-based health information, and vaccines. The final goal of the MNA's COVID-19 response was to ensure continuity of existing programming, both regional and affiliate. The MNA COVID-19 response has been supported with funding from Indigenous Services Canada and provincially through Alberta Health.

The Community Wellness Pillar

Cancer Transportation Program

The Cancer Transportation Program is made possible through our partnership with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC). This program is significant, as it gives Citizens some financial relief during these incredibly difficult times and many Citizens have stated they would not be able to attend their appointment had it not been for the support of the MNA and CPAC. This was one participant's feedback:

> *I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the Cancer Transportation Program that has been a blessing for me and my family when it comes to me making my appointments at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton."- MNA Citizen*

From April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, the Cancer Transportation Program was used a total of 99 times (often for multiple trips), with reimbursement costs totaling $39,660.00. The reimbursement costs include mileage and parking.

Community Wellness Advocate Program

Information and Referral – As of May 25, 2022, the CWA has responded to 91 inquiries originating from almost all MNA Regions and has provided 133 referrals; 68% of these were directly related to mental health services. Additionally, the CWA also provided a total of 71 instances of follow-up support.

Enrolled Individuals – In this program, individuals receive system navigation, regular follow-up appointments, and assistance in setting and achieving mental wellness-related goals. As of May 25, 2022, four individuals have enrolled in this service and all individuals were provided with at least one referral; 57% of these referrals were directly related to mental health.

Financial Support – The Financial Support Program supports registered MNA Citizens to access a registered mental health professional. The MNA can provide eligible Citizens up to $150 per session for up to six sessions to a total of $900 per individual, per fiscal year. As of May 25, 2022, six people have enrolled in the Financial Support Program, all of whom reside in MNA Region 4. A total of thirteen hours of counselling has been supported through the program so far.

Region 1	0
Region 2	1
Region 3	4
Region 4	32
Region 5	1
Region 6	2
Region Undisclosed	50
Region Outside of Alberta	1
Total	**91**

Table 1: Number of Information & Referral services provided by the CWAby MNA Region

Children/Families	1
Disability Supports	2
Emergency/Crisis	1
Employment	2
Financial Supports	9
Food/Basic Needs	2
Health	4
Indigenous Services	3
Information/Referral	1
Legal	2
Mental Health/Addictions	91
Service Type Unknown	4
Seniors/Older Adults	6
Shelter/Housing	1
Violence/Abuse	1
Volunteer/Donations	1
Youth Service	1
Total	**133**

Table 2: Number of Referrals given by referral type – Information and Referral Service

Employment	1
Financial	1
Mental Health/Addictions	4
Service Type Unknown	1
Total	**7**

Table 3: Number of Referrals given by referral type - CWA Enrolled Service

Medically Necessary Accommodations Program

The Medically Necessary Accommodations Program offers short-term and long-term accommodations to MNA Citizens. Our short-term accommodations are available at the Chateau Louis Hotel. Long-term accommodations are provided at the Métis Capital Housing Corporation's Renaissance Tower in Edmonton, where one 1-bedroom suite and two 2-bedroom suites are available; one of which is a fully accessible unit. In 2021 the MNA added an additional 2-bedroom suite at the Renaissance Tower.

The Medically Necessary Accommodations program continues to be essential in supporting MNA Citizens through their medical journey, as one Citizen indicated:

> ***We have been blessed by this program as my son was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma cancer in Early January 2022. While having his treatments and numerous trips to Edmonton and Grande Prairie, we were so unsure on how financially we would be able to make these necessary trips for him. I reached out to MNA in Edmonton and was so grateful to hear they were able to assist with some travel and accommodations for our trips for medical appointments with my son [...] Hiya Hiya. Without these programs we could not have financially afforded these trips and most likely more to come."***
> **– MNA Citizen**

From April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, a total of 111 MNA Citizens accessed our short-term accommodations and 26 MNA Citizens accessed our long-term accommodations.

Tobacco Reduction Program

The MNA Tobacco Reduction Program has offered three tobacco reduction interventions over the past year.

Intervention 1: QuitCore (QC) is a free group support program (online and in-person) that provides individuals with the tools, strategies, and skills they need to reduce or quit their tobacco use. It also provides an opportunity to share and connect with other MNA Citizens who are trying to achieve similar tobacco-related goals. QC consists of six sessions occurring once a week for 120 minutes. Topics covered include, but are not exclusive to, tobacco cessation techniques, stress management, nutrition and physical exercise, individual goal planning, and relapse prevention. Sessions are facilitated by the MNA's Community Prevention Practitioner and an Alberta Health Services (AHS) co-facilitator. At the end of the program, participants receive a QuitKit and a $500 Nicotine Replacement Therapy Benefit Coverage Card. Since January 2021, 64 MNA Citizens have completed QC.

Intervention 2: QuitCore Peer Support Group (PSG) is paired with QC. Those who graduate from QC are eligible to join our PSG and gain access to continued support and connection following the completion of QC. From February to May 2021, 20 MNA Citizens were enrolled in the PSG.

Intervention 3: Quit Retreat (QR) is a cultural intervention partnered with Métis Crossing to bring QC graduates and their families together to enjoy a weekend on the land connecting to traditional Métis cultural practices. Culture plays an important role in an individual's commercial tobacco cessation. The first QR occurred virtually on July 17, 2021. Some of the activities included a traditional tea ceremony, canvas dot painting, and finger weaving. 14 participants attended our first QR.

Wellness Program

The MNA Wellness Program, in partnership with Alberta Blue Cross and service provider Homewood Health, offers 12 hours of free professional counselling and life skills support to all MNA Citizens and their dependents. Over the past year, the MNA Wellness Program delivered more than 1,263 hours of counselling to 514 MNA Citizens.

The following figures provide a snapshot of the utilization of the MNA Wellness Program. It must be noted the MNA does not have access to confidential information or details related to the treatment of any MNA Citizen. De-identified aggregate (group) data related to utilization is received to support the development of internal MNA resources. A regional breakdown of services is not available to the MNA in order to maintain strict confidentiality of Citizens accessing this service.

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Cases
Female	114	61	90	97	362
Male	54	31	31	34	150
Not Specified	0	0	0	2	2
Total	**168**	**92**	**121**	**133**	**514**

Age Group	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Cases
20 and Under	23	11	27	32	93
21 - 30	32	22	23	26	103
31 - 40	48	20	27	34	129
41 - 50	34	20	27	34	129
51 - 60	19	12	12	11	54
61 and Over	12	7	12	6	37
Total	**168**	**92**	**121**	**133**	**514**

COUNSELING SERVICES PROVIDED

Category	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Cases
Addiction	4	2	1	3	10
Crisis/Trauma	17	4	10	10	41
Culture & Identity	0	0	1	2	3
Family	18	12	13	23	66
Health	3	2	0	1	6
Marital/Relationship	27	12	6	13	58
Psychological	82	53	81	76	292
Social	1	1	3	0	5
Work	4	2	1	2	9
Total	**156**	**88**	**116**	**130**	**490**

LIFE SKILLS PROVIDED

Issue	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Cases
Career Coaching	0	1	1	0	2
Childcare and Parenting Services	2	0	0	0	2
Financial Coaching	3	1	1	1	6
Grief and Loss Coaching	1	0	1	0	2
Jumpstart Your Wellness	1	0	0	0	1
Legal Advisory Services	2	2	1	1	6
Relationship Solutions	1	0	1	1	3
Stress Solutions	2	0	0	0	2
Total	**12**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**24**

Source: Homewood Health (2022). Métis Nation of Alberta Annual Statistical Report February 2021 to February 2022.

Youth and Adult Dental Programs

This past year, the MNA supported referrals to the University of Alberta School of Dentistry Kaye Clinic, located in Edmonton. Restorative services (fillings), hygiene services (cleanings), and emergency services (extractions and root canals) were provided to MNA Citizens. The table below highlights the number of Citizens who have accessed this program.

MNA Dental Program	Patients
Youth Program	129
Adult Program	105
Total # of appointments attended*	**372**

*Note: the total number of appointments is higher than the patients referred as it reflects a need for multiple visits for certain procedures. Source: University of Alberta School of Dentistry.

The Health Research and Advocacy Pillar

Alberta Métis Cancer Strategy Project

The MNA's Alberta Métis Cancer Strategy Project is fortunate to have many partnerships that give us the ability to conduct the research necessary to support Métis Albertans on their own cancer journey. Our partnerships include Métis Albertans and their families, St. Elizabeth Health, Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research, Alberta Health Analytics and Performance Reporting Branch, CANHelp Working Group at the University of Alberta, Super Good Creative Inc., CCA, AHS, and the CPAC.

Three resources were created to share Métis Albertans' experiences and to support others at various stages in the cancer journey.

1. Cancer Journey Video Supports: This resource is comprised of four videos featuring Métis Albertans sharing their cancer journey experiences. Each story illustrates a different aspect of the cancer journey and features tips that may be helpful to other Métis Albertans on a cancer journey.
2. Miyooayaan (Wellness): Métis Guide for Wellness with Cancer: This guide shares insights through the voices and experiences of Métis Albertans on a cancer journey. Each chapter focuses on a different stage of the cancer journey and offers tips and recommendations shared by Métis Albertans. These insights are intended to support Métis Albertans and their families at any stage of their cancer journey.
3. MNA Cancer Resources and Supports Webpage: This webpage features a list of trusted cancer supports, created to support Métis Albertans and their loved ones on a cancer journey. The webpage is accessible through the MNA website.

Chronic Disease Project

The Chronic Disease portfolio's primary project is titled 'Transitions in Care', which explores Métis Albertans' experiences living with Type 1 and 2 diabetes. The Transitions in Care project aims to explore health outcomes and barriers to accessing diabetes care for Métis Albertans living with Type 1 and 2 diabetes. This has been accomplished through an approach that combines quantitative (Phase 1) and qualitative, community-engaged research (Phase 2). Phase 1 involved the collection of data through a retrospective population cohort study based on Alberta administrative health data. Phase 2 gathered stories, narratives, and experiences from Métis Albertans with diabetes using an online survey (completed in August 2020 with 862 participants) and one-on-one interviews (completed in Fall 2021 with 40 participants). This two-phased approach is critical to understanding the influences of distal social determinants of health relating to interactions in the health care system, as experienced by Métis Albertans. Further, the knowledge gained from Métis Albertans about their experiences of living with diabetes and accessing diabetes care will help inform the planning of culturally meaningful and socially competent diabetes care.

This year, data from the Phase 2 survey (862 survey respondents) and interviews (40 participants), was analyzed, revealing key themes for barriers, facilitators, and solutions for managing diabetes as experienced by Métis Albertans. This includes: access to traditional foods and medicines, building community connections, access to culturally safe health care providers, and access to non-insured health benefits to cover the cost of medications and equipment for managing diabetes (i.e., test strips, glucose monitors, insulin).

Life Promotion Project

This year the Life Promotion project focused on the development of two deliverables.

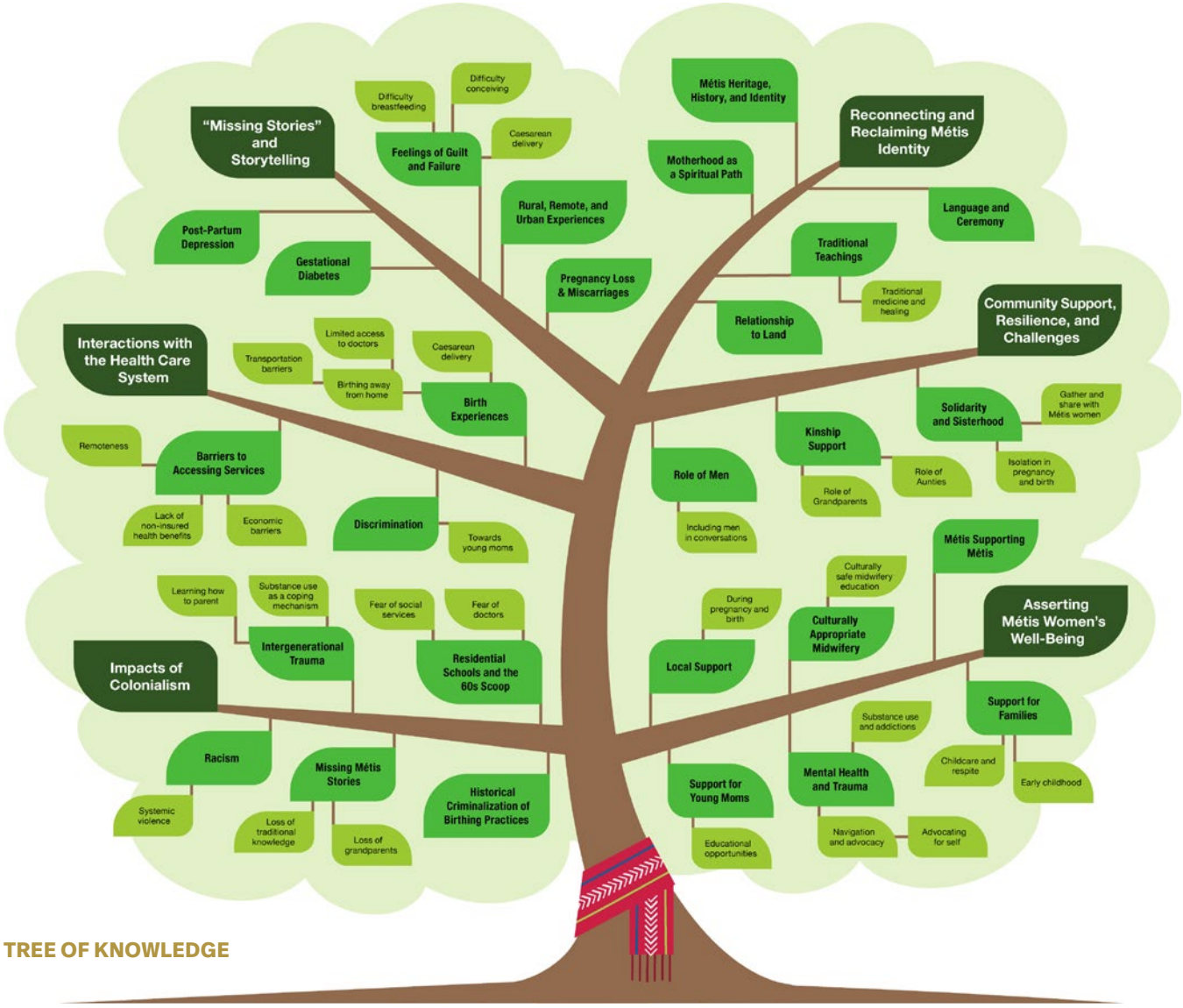
1. The community report 'What We Heard – Developing a Life Promotion Plan for the MNA' which describes how we gathered Métis experiences, knowledge, and perspectives to inform a Métis-led response to suicide. This report details Métis Knowledge Holder experiences and perspectives related to suicide, and academic research findings on the use of Indigenous Knowledge in addressing suicide. Together, this knowledge has expanded our response to suicide to

one that recognizes distress, suffering, and suicide in the overall context of life itself and chooses to shift from an exclusive focus on individual problems to one centered on community strength and capacity.

2. The 'MNA Life Promotion Guide – Weaving Together Métis Knowledge and Practice' which is intended to guide the development, implementation, and evaluation of life promotion programming. In 2021, we held three engagement sessions with MNA program practitioners who offer cultural and community-based programs for young people. We investigated how these MNA programs promote life and the barriers preventing this work within these sessions. We combined this knowledge with previous research to create the content for our life promotion guide. Our guide describes life promotion from a Métis perspective, key strategies to enhance and promote life, recommendations on implementing life-promoting programming, and tailored tools and resources to support additional MNA program needs. While this guide is designed specifically to support programs offered by the MNA, this guide may support others wishing to promote life, including community members or other stakeholders.

Maternal and Child Health Project

Our previous maternal health project, ""Ehawawisit (with child): Maternal and Perinatal Health Outcomes Among the Métis in Alberta, and the Influence of Proximal, Intermediate, and Distal Determinants of Health", released 3 reports titled: "Ehawawisit (with child): the Epidemiology of Maternal and Neonatal Health Among the Métis in Alberta", "Ehawawisit (with child): Experiences and Perspectives of Métis Women on Pregnancy, Birth, and



TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

Motherhood", and "Ehawawisit (with child): Diabetes in Pregnancy Amongst Women of the Métis Nation of Alberta". These reports present the findings of the research project, including the results of the epidemiological analyses and maternal health gatherings with Métis women.

Building on the Ehawawisit (with child) project, the current project within the Maternal and Child Health portfolio is "Lii Zaanfaan: Understanding the Health and Well-Being Trajectories of Métis Children in Alberta". This project is a partnership with the University of Alberta and is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The project aims to examine the health outcomes and experiences of Métis children aged 10 and younger in Alberta.

The MNA's COVID-19 Response

Understanding the Experiences and Impact of COVID-19 on Métis in Alberta

The MNA completed the final waves of *Misi Yehewin (Big Breath)*, a three-wave survey aimed at better understanding the impact of COVID-19 and public health measures on Métis living in Alberta. More than 2,500 responses over the three waves informed MNA COVID-19 related programming and supports. *Misi Yehewin* also provided key information to support advocacy efforts at all government tables. A community report is currently in development supported by academic partners at the University of Alberta. Preliminary results of this survey informed COVID-19 program development such as the grocery card and harvesting supports, child wellness benefits, recreational supports, affiliate supports, and dissemination of funds to support regional initiatives.

The MNA also leveraged a partnership with Alberta Health through our Information Sharing Agreement to better understand the weekly and cumulative impact of COVID-19 on the Métis Albertans.

Transmission Reduction

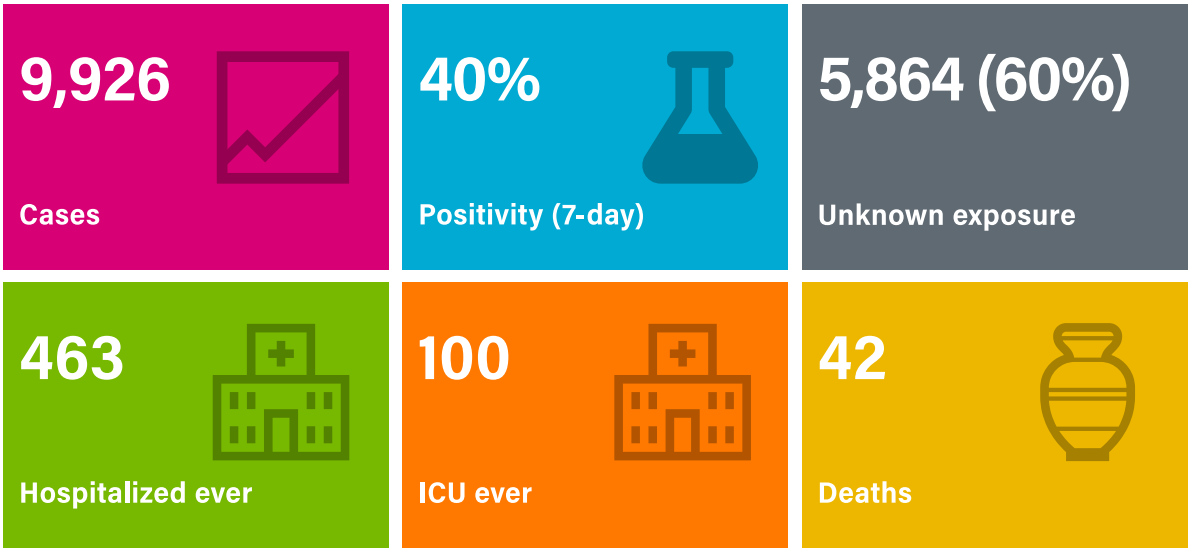
The MNA provided more than 14,000 rapid test kits, access to K95 and surgical masks, and hand sanitizer through the provincial head office and regional offices. The MNA also provided eight "Vacci-Nation" virtual discussions to provide evidenced-based information related to COVID-19 and vaccination in a culturally safe setting. The MNA administered 3,215 doses of COVID-19 vaccines through six MNA-led vaccine clinics across the province supported by AHS.

Continuity of Programming

All departments within the MNA were provided with support to transition key programming, including cultural activities, to virtual platforms. Examples include health programming (e.g., the MNA's QuitCore Tobacco Reduction Intervention and the MNA's Opioid Awareness and Naloxone Training); child and family services programming (e.g., virtual storytelling, online cultural worksheets, and virtual parenting/mental health educational sessions); youth programming (e.g., virtual cultural activities, virtual Youth and Senior's Gatherings, and book clubs).

Affiliate and Regional Responses

The MNA was able to provide regional offices and affiliates with funding to continue supporting Citizens based on regional or affiliate needs assessments. Please view



*June 1, 2022. Source: Alberta Health (2022). COVID-19 in Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Citizens

the regional and affiliate reports for details of their programming and responses which included sustaining existing programming, supporting cultural continuity through cultural opportunities, increasing navigation related to COVID-19, and developing and implementing supports to support mental wellbeing during the pandemic.

Conclusion and What's Next

The Department of Health is pleased to announce many future projects, upcoming programs, and the release of numerous resources, all aiming to improve the health outcomes of Métis Albertans. Not only does our department strive to improve health outcomes, but we also want to ensure Métis voices are heard and represented in the health care system.

Our existing programs continue to grow, and we will work hard to provide support for Citizens. We value the feedback our programs receive and hear there are still gaps and needs to meet. We share those needs with key stakeholders and seek funding opportunities to sustain and expand our existing programs. Over the next year, we will continue offering:

- Cancer Transportation Program
- Community Wellness Advocate Program
- Medically Necessary Accommodations Program
- Tobacco Reduction Program
- Wellness Program
- Youth and Adult Dental Programs

What's Coming:

Community Wellness Pillar

- The Community Wellness Advocate is increasing program visibility within the Métis community to encourage participation and enrollment by presenting to a variety of organizations across Alberta. It is hoped this will lead to an efficient referral process so service providers can feel comfortable referring Métis clients to the CWA. Furthermore, to increase cultural safety outside the MNA and their affiliate organizations, the CWA will be available to host presentations and educate service providers on how to provide culturally safe care to Métis Albertans.
- The Tobacco Reduction Program will be hosting QuitCore, Peer Support Group and the second Quit Retreat. The Region 3 Calgary Office will host the first in person QuitCore from October 4 – November 8, 2022. Virtual programming for QuitCore will start up again in the fall, with our first program running Tuesday's September 13 – October 18, 2022, 6pm-8pm and Thursday's November 3 – December 8, 2022, 6pm-8pm. Coming in the fall of 2022, the Peer Support Group will relaunch and those who have graduated from any MNA QuitCore will have an opportunity to reconnect and access ongoing peer support from others who have experienced QuitCore and are going through a similar journey. Lastly, September 16 – 18, 2022, we are happy to announce a second Quit Retreat will be occurring in-person, on the land, at Métis Crossing.

Health Research and Advocacy Pillar

- The Alberta Métis Cancer Strategy Project is moving into its final year, which will involve validating the Alberta Métis Cancer Strategy priorities and recommendations with Métis Albertans and finalizing the MNA Cancer Strategy. The Métis Cancer Care Course and an epidemiological report on cancer incidence and mortality among Métis Albertans will also be released.
- The Chronic Disease Research Portfolio will release a series of reports, including epidemiological reports on arthritis and diabetes, and a community report outlining the experiences of Métis Albertans living with Type 1 and 2 diabetes, as well as barriers and facilitators to accessing quality diabetic care. We will also release other materials such as a resource page, guidebook, and presentations for the Métis community to support those and their families living with Type 1 and 2 diabetes.
- The Life Promotion Project is set to release the community report 'What We Heard – Developing a Life Promotion Plan for the MNA' and 'MNA Life Promotion Guide – Weaving Together Métis Knowledge and Practice'. Both will be available on the MNA website, and printed copies will be available on request from the Department of Health.
- The Maternal and Child Health Research Portfolio is working on a survey for Métis caregivers of children aged 10 and under. The launch of the survey is planned for 2022 – 2023. In addition, gatherings for Métis families will be held between 2023 – 2024. ■

Environment and Climate Change

The Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) Department of Environment and Climate Change works in a variety of areas and disciplines to address environmental concerns and promote sustainability. From counting berries to creating podcasts and providing feedback on federal strategies, the team is focused on serving MNA Citizens on multiple levels to ensure traditional practices are preserved, and future generations are resilient to changing environments.

In the past year, the Environment team has been busy with biodiversity monitoring projects, conducting educational programs, exploring the procurement of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area in the Province as well as listening to Citizen concerns, and gathering feedback about how to best support Citizens and environmental stewardship.

The Climate Change team has had multiple focuses as well, including increasing solar energy capacity in the province with many projects completed to date and others in progress alongside focusing on implementing the MNA's Climate Change Action Plan. Increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy is instrumental in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and reduces the Métis Nation's carbon footprint overall. Along with mitigation and conservation efforts, the MNA is committed to understanding how climate change will affect Citizens and how to best adapt to changing climate and extreme weather events.

Department Highlights

Gathered monitoring data for over **50** **plant, wildlife, and fish species!**

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Saved:
300 **metric tonnes**
equivalent to the carbon sequestered by 360 acres of mature forest annually.

Citizens engaged through Environment and Climate Change events: **2,074**

Askîy Community-Based Monitoring Initiative

The Askîy (Cree for "Earth" or "land") initiative aims to undertake environmental monitoring using methods that braid Métis traditional knowledge with western science. This initiative was developed through a three-phase approach, with the final phase implementing monitoring activities. In March 2020, the Environment team initiated the monitoring phase by launching a series of projects aimed at addressing the concerns of MNA Citizens across Alberta. The projects have generally focused on traditional plants, fish, and wildlife.

Plant Projects

Traditional Plant Monitoring

To monitor the health of plants MNA Citizens traditionally harvest, the MNA launched a project in 2020 to monitor locations across Alberta. A total of 36 monitoring sites were established across Alberta, with six in each MNA Region. At each site, the number and types of traditional plants were counted within one meter of a 50-meter line (transect). This work is completed on an annual basis to establish baseline monitoring data which can be used to detect changes over time.

Figure 1. Traditional Plant Monitoring: MNA Environment and Climate Change staff examining traditional plants at Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park in summer 2021.

Figure 2. Traditional Plant Camps: Plant camp participants gather around Knowledge Keeper, Natalie Pepin, during a plant walk at the Peace River Lookout in Region 6.

Project highlights:

- In 2021, 18,000 plants were counted, consisting of 17 species of berries and medicinal plants. The most counted species were blueberry (35%), wild rose (23%), saskatoons (21%), and raspberries (14%).
- 81,500 flowers and buds from 1,200 plants were counted in the spring to compare to fruit produced on those same plants later in the summer.
- Fruit was produced for 0-31% of the flowers counted across all plant species, with the most productive being raspberries (31%), beaked hazelnut (16.7%), and blueberry (15.9%). Low productivity is suspected to have resulted from high temperatures and low rainfall last summer..

Future work:

- In 2022, monitoring activities will continue to help the MNA build a baseline dataset from which changes and long-term plant health trends can evaluated.

Traditional Plant Camps

In the fall of 2021, four in-person Traditional Plant Camps were hosted across Alberta to facilitate the transfer of Métis traditional knowledge and engage with Citizens regarding traditional plant harvesting practices. At each event, participants were given an opportunity to learn about traditional plants and their uses from a Métis Knowledge Keeper, Natalie Pepin, through a combination of storytelling, cultural activities, and a guided plant walk. MNA staff also taught participants methods used for the MNA's ongoing traditional plant monitoring project.

Project highlights:

- Traditional plant camps were held at the following locations:
  - Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park near Lac La Biche (MNA Region 1)
  - Devonshire Beach in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park (MNA Region 5)
  - Peace River Lookout at Peace River (MNA Region 6)
  - Moose Lake near Bonnyville (MNA Region 2)
- 76 people participated in the four plant camp events consisting of MNA Citizens (60%), non-Indigenous (28%), and First Nations (12%).
- Participants learned how to identify, harvest, and the potential uses for a variety of plant species available at the location where the plant camp was held.

Future work:

- Funding has been obtained to support another series of plant camps to be held in the summer of 2022.

Traditional Plant Harvesting Survey

In March 2022, an online survey was launched to engage MNA Citizens regarding their experiences harvesting traditional plants, plant uses, and feedback to consider for future plant-related events received. The purpose of the survey was to provide an opportunity for knowledge sharing between members of the MNA community.

Project highlights:

- 422 MNA Citizens responded to the survey, of which 98% (414) shared what plants they harvest, and 73% (306) shared specific uses for these plants.
- Most MNA Citizens (76%) who participated in the survey were either active plant harvesters (51.6%) or had experience harvesting plants for personal use in the past (25.1%).
- Learning the proper ways to harvest plants, plant identification, and plant preparation for use (e.g., food, medicines) were the most requested hands-on learning activities MNA Citizens would like to see offered at future events.

Future work:

- Survey data will be summarized and shared with the MNA community later this year. Feedback and suggestions will be used to inform the development of future plant events.

Figure 3. Traditional Plant Harvesting Survey Word Cloud: A word cloud depicting plants harvested and utilized by MNA citizens, as shared through the Traditional Plant Knowledge Survey.

Rural Plant Harvesting Student Research Project

In past engagements, MNA Citizens shared concerns regarding plant harvesting in both urban and rural areas. The MNA has been partnering with the University of Alberta through their Sustainability Scholar program to hire students to investigate these concerns. In 2020, a scholar was hired to examine concerns regarding plant harvesting in urban areas. During the summer of 2021, the MNA hired another scholar to investigate concerns regarding harvesting in rural areas.

Project highlights:

- Research was completed regarding pesticide and herbicide use across Alberta to examine how it may impact MNA Citizen's ability to harvest traditional plants.
- Information was compiled regarding weed abatement strategies across Alberta, how to identify if chemicals have been used near a berry patch, and potential barriers Citizens may face when attempting to access berry patches.
- The Sustainability Scholar recommended the MNA:
  - Begin toxicological monitoring in areas of importance for harvesting traditional plants
  - Advocate for stricter regulations regarding spray chemical usage
  - For areas treated with spray chemicals to be communicated to MNA Citizens (e.g., through signage or web app) to ensure they can make informed choices about where to harvest

Future work:

- The MNA is developing a rural plant harvesting guide to share the results of the Sustainability Scholar's research with MNA Citizens later this year.

Fish Projects

Fish Health Community Monitor Program

In August 2021, the MNA launched a fish health community monitor program. The purpose of this program is to collect waterway/waterbody specific information to help the MNA detect changes to fish populations and health. This program uses online report forms to collect information from MNA Citizens regarding fishing activities, the size and health of fish caught, and the palatability of fish kept for food. Seasonal prize draws were held to reward Citizens who participated in the program.

Project highlights:

- By the end of March 2022, MNA Citizens submitted 96 fishing trip reports, 23 fish health reports, and 20 palatability reports.
- Fishing trips were reported for 36 unique waterways or waterbodies across Alberta, with the most frequented locations including Pigeon Lake (11.4%), Wabamun Lake (10.4%), and Lac La Biche (8.3%).
- Fish measurement and visual health assessments were provided for 14 Walleye, six Northern Pike, two Lake Whitefish, and one Burbot. Fish health ratings (1-5) assigned by Citizens ranged from 3-5, with an average of 4.4.

Future work:

- This program will continue to accept reports from Citizens throughout the year and offer seasonal prize draws. Data collected will be monitored to detect changes in fish health and abundance in reported waterbodies and waterways.

Lake Fish Monitoring

In the winter of 2021-2022, the MNA ran a series of ice fishing surveys focusing on sampling fish from five lakes across Alberta. A team of Métis harvesters and MNA staff members travelled to each lake and fished using gill net and rod and reel. Each fish was measured, weighed, and examined for health indicators. Tissue samples from whitefish were collected for contaminant testing. Harvesters took fish home to eat, where they filled out surveys to share fish health information with MNA staff.

Figure 4. What a Catch: A collage of photos Citizens shared with the MNA through fish health community monitor report forms.
Photo credit: Jerry McConnell, Randy Flammand, Lorna Cattleman, Samantha Plett, Henry Aaker, Duane Brown, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

Project highlights:

- Fishing surveys were held at Lac La Biche, Moose Lake, Lesser Slave Lake, Pigeon Lake, and Sturgeon Lake.
- A total of 43 fish were caught across all lakes: 24 Lake Whitefish, six Walleye, 13 Northern Pike, and one Burbot.
- 17 fish were sent to labs for mercury and hydrocarbon contamination testing, results are still pending.

Future work:

- Another round of fishing surveys are being planned for the upcoming ice fishing season (January – March 2023). New lakes will be targeted to investigate Citizen concerns.
- The MNA will continue to engage with MNA Citizens about fish health and harvesting.

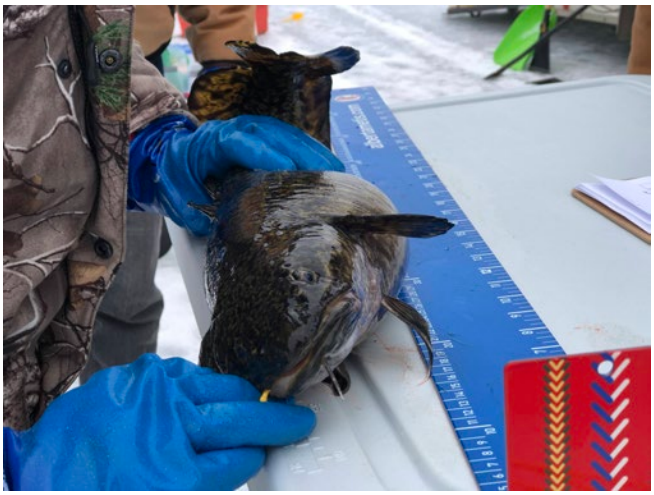


Figure 5: Ice Fishing Surveys: An MNA harvester measures a burbot which was caught in a gillnet set on Sturgeon Lake.

Wildlife Projects

Migratory Bird Harvesting Survey

The MNA, with funding support from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), completed its migratory bird harvesting survey for the 2021 harvesting season. The primary purpose of this survey was to collect harvest data from MNA harvesters in Alberta to share with CWS to inform migratory bird conservation. However, the MNA expanded the survey scope to include upland game bird harvest

reporting and exploring unique names MNA harvesters use for the birds they harvest.

Project highlights:

- 496 Citizens participated in the survey for the 2021 harvest season.
- 4,257 birds, consisting of 34 bird species, were reported to have been harvested in 112 Wildlife Management Units across Alberta.
- The most common migratory bird species harvested were Mallards (780) and Canadian Geese (790).
- The most common game bird species harvested were Ruffed Grouse (1,030) and Spruce Grouse (167).
- We recorded 39 unique Métis named migratory birds and game birds.

Figure 6. Migratory Bird Survey Graphic: The Migratory Bird Harvesting Survey was advertised using this image (above) on social media.

Future work:

- Funding has been secured to continue annual harvest surveys and expand them to examine additional harvesting activities.
- An online portal to host annual harvest surveys for MNA Citizens is being developed.

Chronic Wasting Disease & Caribou Conservation Engagements

In July 2021, the MNA launched Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and caribou conservation engagements to share information about CWD in Alberta, inform Citizens about Alberta's CWD surveillance program, and to gather concerns regarding CWD and its potential impacts to Citizens. Additionally, engagements were held to inform Citizens about the state of caribou herds in Alberta and the potential threat of CWD, and to gather feedback regarding the MNA's potential role in caribou conservation.

Project highlights:

- Four virtual engagement sessions were held with a total of 20 attendees to discuss CWD and caribou conservation.
- The online survey received 174 responses.
  - Participants identified a variety of barriers to MNA Citizens participating in the CWD surveillance program including unawareness of CWD and surveillance programs, distrust of government, and high effort/cost required to submit deer heads for testing.
  - The primary concern expressed by participants was the spread of CWD across cervid populations in Alberta, especially species MNA Citizens harvest for food (e.g., moose, deer, and elk) and vulnerable caribou populations.

Future work:

- CWD updates and surveillance information will continue to be shared with MNA Citizens during the fall hunting season to bring more awareness to this issue.

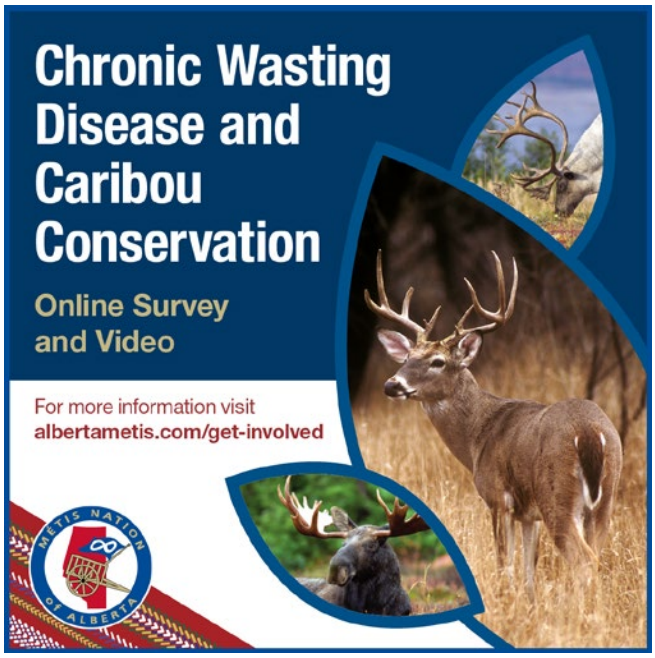


Figure 7. CWD Caribou Conservation Engagement: The CWD & Caribou Conservation Survey was advertised using this image (above) on social media.

Environmental Conservation Initiative

The Environmental Conservation Initiative aims to undertake conservation projects that will provide protection to the lands, waters, and air Métis Citizens rely on across Alberta to practice their culture and traditions. This initiative was recently developed in response to an expansion of the Environment team's activities, as they secured funding to support a project aiming to develop a Métis-led conservation area in Alberta. Projects undertaken through this initiative will work in tandem with Askîy to fulfill the goals of the MNA's environmental pillars.

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) Project

In 2019, the MNA secured funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada to support the development of a Métis-managed IPCA in Alberta. The project was developed with three phases: Planning, Evaluation, and Implementation. During the Planning Phase, the MNA researched existing IPCAs and looked at potential avenues to establish one. Citizen engagements were held to examine the vision MNA Citizens had for a Métis IPCA. The MNA is currently in the Evaluation phase, during which efforts are focused on evaluating potential IPCA sites and building partnerships to help establish a Métis IPCA in Alberta. The final phase, Implementation, will occur once an IPCA site has been selected.

Project highlights:

- The following goals outline the values expressed by MNA Citizens during engagements, clarifying what they feel a Métis-led IPCA should encompass:
  - Ecological Protection
  - Harvesting Opportunity
  - Education and Outreach
  - Relationship Building Opportunities
  - Healing the Land
  - Citizen Involvement and Accessibility

Figure 8. IPCA Site Visit: MNA staff joined members of the Edmonton and Area Land Trust for a field evaluation of a potential IPCA site.

- The Citizen informed goals have been used to establish IPCA site evaluation criteria for the MNA to consider when examining potential sites.
- Potential partnership discussions have been carried out with the Edmonton and Area Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Alberta Conservation Association, and Alberta Environment and Parks.
- Field assessments of potential sites began in October 2021.

Future work:

- Locating and evaluating potential IPCA sites and partnership opportunities will continue until a site is established.
- Establishing a first Métis IPCA site is expected to occur before April 2023.

Native Bee Conservation Program

In May 2022, the MNA launched a program to support conservation of native bee species in Alberta. MNA Citizens received Native Bee Conservation Kits consisting of a bee nesting box, an Alberta native wildflower seed pack, and pollinator educational materials provided by the Edmonton & Area Land Trust. By setting up bee nesting boxes and planting native wildflowers, MNA Citizens provide food and shelter for Alberta native bees.

Project highlights:

- 529 MNA Citizens registered for a Native Bee Conservation Kit prize draw.
- 99.4% indicated they would like to obtain a kit through a future program if not chosen as a winner.
- Approximately 240 Native Bee Conservation Kits were provided to MNA Citizens in Spring 2022.

Figure 9. Bee nesting box: A bee nesting box set up in an MNA Citizen's backyard.

Future work:

Launch a fall survey for MNA Citizens to report back on whether bees used their nesting boxes this summer.

Explore opportunities to offer more Native Bee Conservation Kits to MNA Citizens next year.

Renewable Energy Initiative

The goal of this initiative is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by generating energy from renewable resources while providing community benefit, cost savings, and energy sales. This initiative acts at two scales: micro-generation, and community generation.

Métis Crossing Solar Project

The Métis Crossing Solar Project (MCSP) is an MNA-owned community-generation solar project to be located on 30 acres of land at Métis Crossing. It is a collaboration between the MNA, the Town of Smoky Lake, and Smoky Lake County. The solar farm has been designed to fit in with the on-going development of Métis Crossing and is a key initiative under the MNA Climate Change Action Plan. MCSP will serve as a model for collaboration and partnership while respecting Métis governance, simultaneously uplifting the community partners and upholding Métis traditional values.

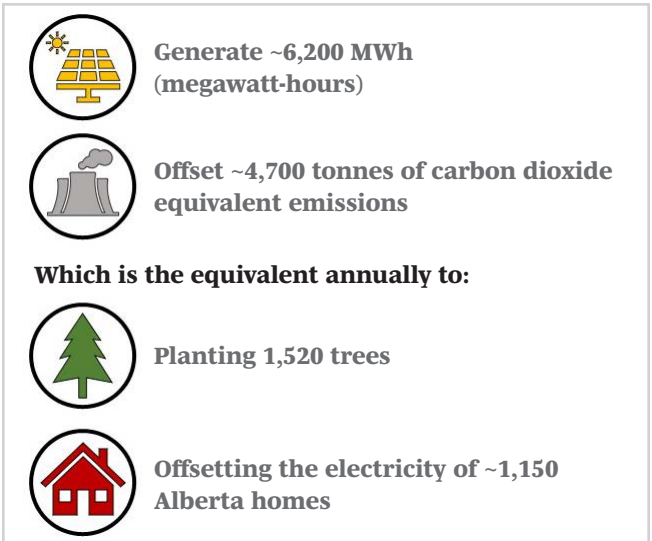
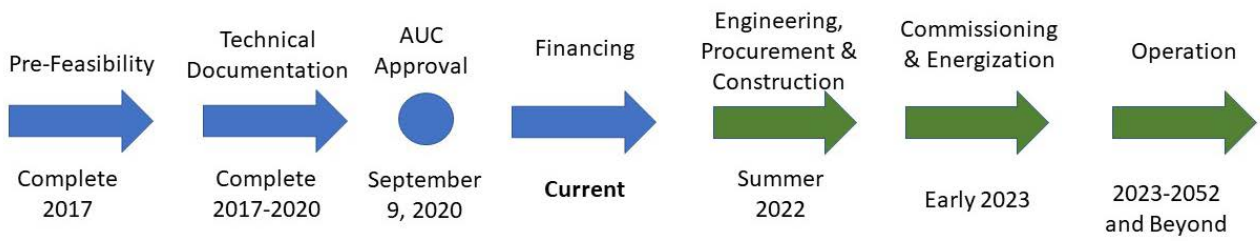


Figure 10. Solar and EE Graphics

The 4.86 MW AC solar facility will reduce GHG emissions generating economic and community benefits for partners. It will result in emissions reductions of approximately 4,700 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent per year: equivalently powering 1,200 Alberta homes or preserving 5,500 acres of forest. The project will contribute to the Town of Smoky Lake and Smoky Lake County through tax

Above: Figure 12. Métis Crossing Solar Project Drone Picture. **Below:** Figure 11 MCSP (Métis Crossing Solar Project) Timeline Visual.



revenue, local economic activity, and contributions to a local community development fund.

Construction of the solar project will begin in summer 2022 with a target energization date of early 2023.

Solar Retrofits at MNA Buildings

Since August 2021, the MNA has retrofitted an additional two of its buildings with solar systems. To date the MNA has completed 37 solar retrofits at MNA and MNA affiliate-owned buildings and residential units. These systems help offset the buildings carbon footprint as well as reduce energy bills.

The following buildings and sites have been retrofitted with a total of 530 kilowatts of solar capacity:

Figure 13. Delia Gray Microgen solar array

- Edmonton:
  - MNA Provincial Office (completed in 2021)
  - Apeetogosan Office (to be completed in 2022)
  - Larry Desmeules Building for Métis Housing
  - Five Métis Housing residential units.
- Calgary:
  - MNA Local 87 Hall and House
  - 20 Métis Housing residential units
- MNA Region 1 Office in Lac La Biche
- MNA Region 2 Office in Bonnyville
- MNA Region 5 Office in Slave Lake
- Elders Caring Shelter in Grande Prairie
- Tail Creek Campground in Stettler County
- Métis Crossing Workshop and Lodge (completed in 2021)

These projects will reduce 300 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually and save the MNA and its affiliates approximately $56,000 on electricity bills every year. This is the equivalent to planting 5,000 trees, removing over 90 vehicles from the road each year, or powering over 70 Alberta homes.

Future work:

- The MNA will sell carbon credits through the Alberta Emissions Offset system to create additional revenue from these green energy projects.
- The MNA intends to install new solar systems on additional MNA and its affiliate properties that will approximately double the current generation capacity, pending funding availability.

Energy Efficiency and Energy Management Initiative

Reducing the energy footprint of a building can be an effective way of lowering monthly expenditures and is a vital part of transitioning towards a climate friendly future. The MNA is accomplishing this by facilitating the retrofitting of MNA and its affiliate buildings.

Energy efficiency and safety upgrades have been completed in six MNA and affiliate buildings including heating, lighting, plumbing, window, and electrical upgrades. All upgrades are aimed at improving the buildings' energy efficiency, reducing their overall carbon footprint, as well as improving safety and livability for residents and visitors.

Some highlights of these energy retrofits completed include:

- Delia Gray Building (Edmonton) – Roofing upgrade for solar retrofitting and repairs, lighting upgrade to efficient LED bulbs, new efficient furnace, and hot water tank.
- Elders Caring Shelter (Grande Prairie) – Heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades, new efficient water heater tanks.
- Region 2 Office (Bonnyville) – Lighting upgrades, and foundation repairs.
- Local 87 House and Hall (Calgary) – Efficient window upgrades, fire doors, and concrete repairs.

Opposite: Figure 14. Region 1 Solar – Lac La Biche

Left: Figure 15. Tail Creek Campground lighting upgrade

Below: Figure 16. MNA Climate Change Action Plan Goals

- Region 6 Sure Start building (Peace River) – Asbestos abatement, and mold remediation.
- Tail Creek Campground (Stettler County) – Upgrades to electrical system, lighting upgrade, new hot water tanks, low-flow fixtures, and new safety fencing and gate.

Future work:

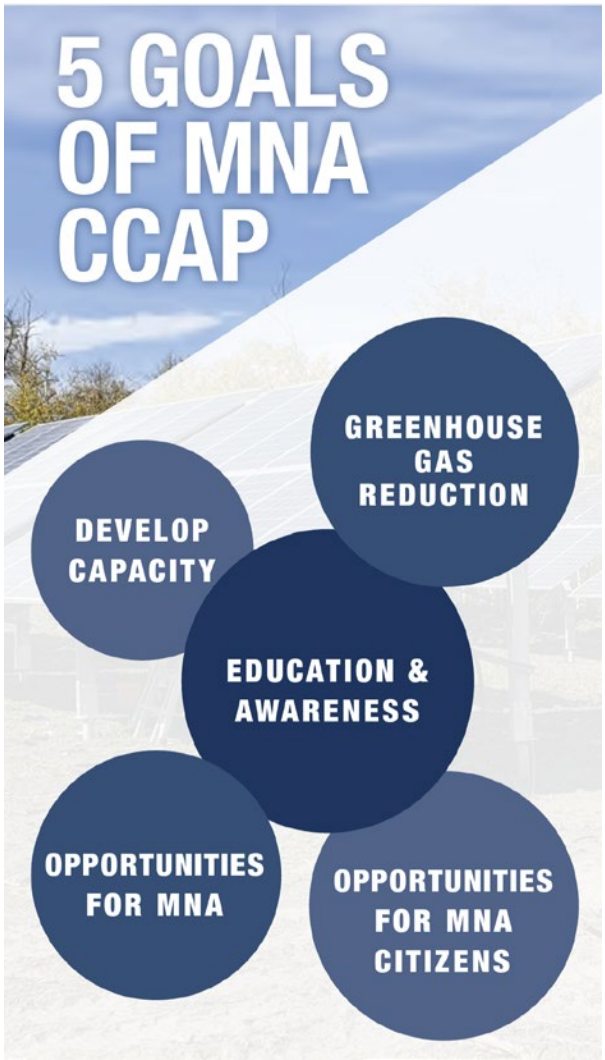
The MNA continues to work with funders to secure new opportunities in making MNA and affiliate buildings more energy efficient and climate resilient through retrofits.

Citizen Engagement Initiative

The Climate team is working on diverse ways to engage and educate MNA Citizens on the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and related topics of interest. The engagement initiative is evolving to address current situations and connect with Citizens across Alberta.

Community Garden Project

The community garden planted at the Delia Gray Building (Provincial Office) in Edmonton supports sustainable practices and education. During garden construction, staff volunteers helped plant vegetables and plants with traditional Métis uses. This garden area was designed in partnership with Natalie Pepin, a Métis permaculture consultant, with sustainability and promoting the growth of native plants in mind.



- In August 2021, a video about late summer seed planting was released on multiple social media platforms. The video demonstrated the process of planting vegetable seeds at the MNA community garden. Also introduced the garden's connections to sustainability, food sovereignty, and culture.
- In October 2021, the Environment and Climate teams joined an episode from the podcast series: *Our Foods: Chatting about Métis food Sovereignty*, created by Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research and the University of Alberta Faculty of Native Studies. The Climate team provided a detailed overview of the MNA's community garden and highlighted the importance of gardening to Métis food sovereignty.

Future work:

- The MNA Climate team will keep working on developing the garden's front area to be a centre for education on traditional Métis permaculture growing techniques and plant uses for MNA Citizens and the public.

Engagements with Métis Youth

Youth + Climate Change Social Media Campaign

- This three-phased social media campaign was aimed at emphasizing the importance of the land to Métis people. As well as addressing the connections between humans and climate change and helping create climate-conscious habits. The last phase of the series invited people to preserve the land for future generations, by sharing Métis youth Makenzie Osmond's project and her story about raising awareness for the Indigenous water crisis in Canada.

MNA Climate Team & Youth Climate Action

- This presentation during the MNA Youth Leadership Conference addressed the importance for youth to engage on climate issues. It provided an informative and interactive way to share information about climate change, emphasized how climate change can involve internal and external reflection, and how climate justice is tied to concepts such as intersectionality and self-care.
- The breakout rooms during the session allowed for more interactive communications with youth participants, they were offered the opportunity to share their interests related to this topic.

Future work:

- The Climate team will keep on planning engagements for youth involvement and with a focus on education for future generations.
- The feedback from previous engagements will guide the Climate team for planning future activities for Métis youth and establish baseline data for future youth engagements.

Health and Climate Change project

This project was aimed at educating MNA Citizens about the intersectionality of climate change and health, communicating previous feedback from Métis Albertans, and developing a toolkit to address the issues Métis Albertans are currently facing in terms of health and climate change.

Figure 18. Youth Leadership Conference: MNA Climate Team staff Morgan Hrycak on the Youth Leadership Conference

Highlights:

- Four virtual engagements for education and discussions were held in January 2022. The sessions presented information about the health impacts of climate change, climate change adaptation, land-based learning, intersectionality, and how MNA Citizens can be agents of change.
- The Climate team discussed some current climate and health issues with Citizens during the sessions, which helped the Climate team connect with the Citizens and learn about their experiences, to guide future MNA initiatives.
- A follow-up survey was sent out to engagement participants for gathering information on MNA Citizen thoughts, and concerns regarding the Health and Climate Change project.
- The survey results demonstrated the importance of addressing both physical and mental health impacts of climate change, the need for education and information resources on health and climate change that integrate traditional teachings, and the importance of ensuring food and water security for MNA Citizens in the face of climate change, especially for vulnerable groups such as seniors and people with pre-existing or chronic health conditions.

- The Climate team developed the *Health and Climate Change Toolkit* with internal collaboration with both the Departments of Health and Communications from the MNA.

Future work:

- The feedback from Citizens through the engagement sessions and follow-up survey will be used to guide future work for the Climate team to offer more support to Citizens in need.

Figure 19. Health and Climate Toolkit Graphics 4

Conclusion and What's Next

Our Climate team will continue to build upon the initiatives under the Climate Change Action Plan, a five-year framework directed by MNA Citizens and their values, to ensure the long-term effectiveness and success of these climate initiatives. We will continue to collaborate and work on behalf of the MNA and its affiliates to fulfill the mandate from Citizens to act on climate change.

Our Environment team will continue to investigate and monitor Citizen's environmental concerns under the Askiy Initiative. Ongoing monitoring efforts will be used to establish baselined data to help the MNA detect environmental changes and trends. We will also continue our efforts to secure lands for environmental conservation and create opportunities for MNA Citizens to engage in land stewardship, and practice culture and traditions.

Collectively, the Department of Environment and Climate Change intends to continue engaging with MNA Citizens to hear concerns and feedback which will be used to inform the development of new projects and programs. We also intend to provide MNA Citizens with the knowledge, tools, and opportunities to adopt sustainable living practices, reduce their carbon footprint, participate in the environmental conservation, and increase awareness of environmental issues and potential impacts.

We encourage Citizens to reach out and provide any comments, questions, or ideas for our Environment team at **environment@metis.org** or our Climate team at **climate@metis.org**. ■

Sustainability and Climate Change Topic Survey

This survey was designed to gather Citizen feedback and interest on climate change and sustainability topics and received 276 responses from MNA Citizens.

What we heard: Which topic would you like to learn the most in the future? (Select up to five)

This feedback will direct planning, resource sharing, as well as guide future engagements.

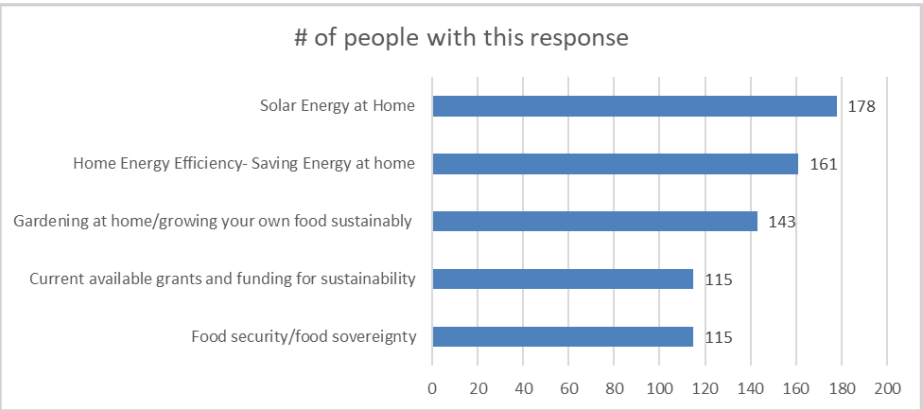


Figure 20. Survey Question - Which topic would you like to learn the most in the future

Intergovernmental Relations & EcDev

Intergovernmental Relations

In the past year the Department of Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) has grown substantially. We went from two full-time staff and one part-time student to five full-time staff and one part-time student, along with three summer students to work with us this summer. This growth has helped the department take advantage of new opportunities to address the needs of Citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), such as justice capacity building, United Nation Declaration Act engagements, continuations of working on implementing United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), as well as continuing work to support our executive office and Citizens to ensure they have complete access to supports and services.

The Department of IGR is constantly working at the federal level to access opportunities to serve the needs of MNA Citizens in meaningful ways. We are often an end point of calls from MNA Citizens and others who do not fit into other department portfolios. These calls often uncover needs we do not have the ability to address, but it is also information that can be taken to governments to show MNA community needs.

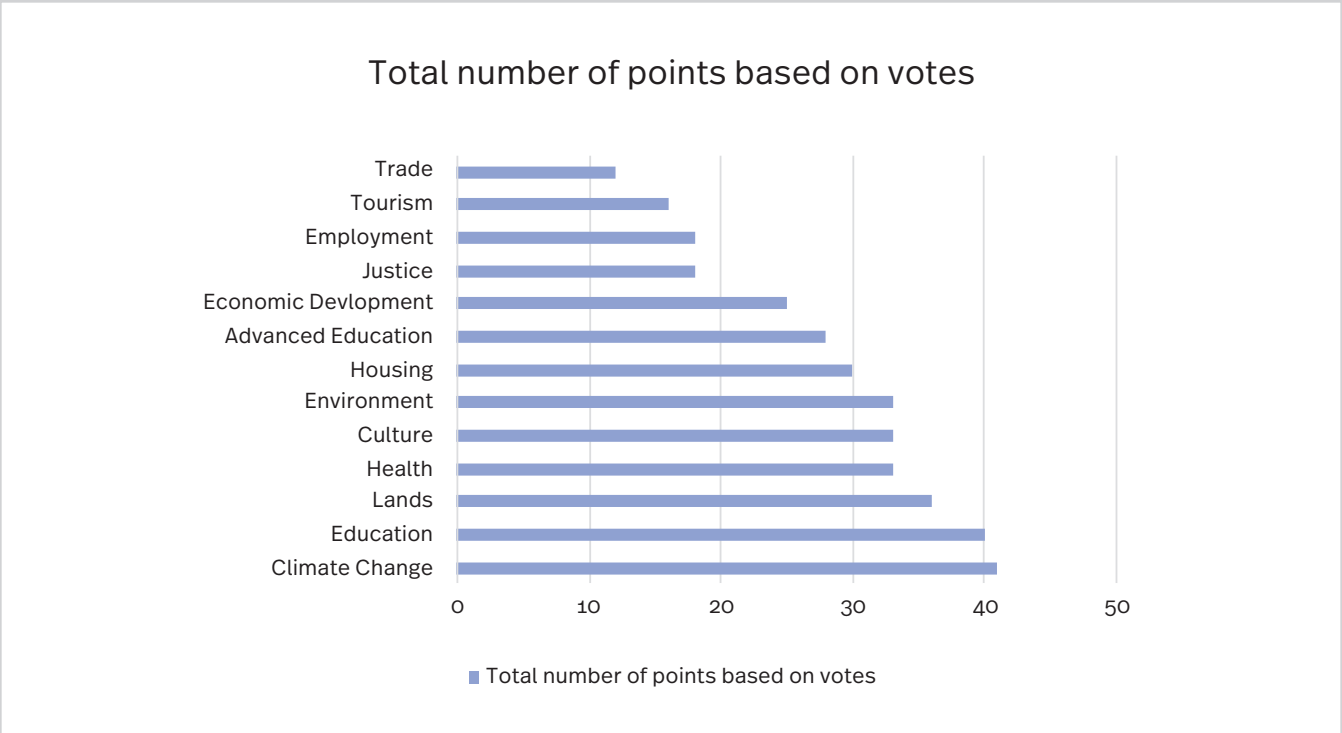
Continuing UNDRIP Work

On June 21, 2021, the UNDRIP Act (also called the United Nations Declaration Act, "*UNDA*") received Royal Assent and came into force. The Act provides a roadmap for the Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples to work together to implement the Declaration. The Act directs Canada to take measures to ensure federal laws are consistent with the Declaration, table annual reports on progress to Parliament, and develop an action plan for implementation of the Act.

The IGR team, along with the Governing Members of the Métis National Council (MNC) and its staff, have been working with Justice Canada on the action plan, reviewing annual reports required by the legislation, and ensuring the consistency of laws. The MNA has also engaged, and will continue to engage, with Justice Canada to identify MNA specific priorities for the consistency of law. One change the MNA has pushed for with the Justice Canada, and was implemented in July 2022, was changes to the *Migratory Bird Convention Act* regulations. Previously, the regulations did not include the MNA making migratory bird harvesting a "grey area" for Métis harvesters. With this change, the grey areas have been removed and it is clear to provincial enforcement that Métis harvesters can harvest migratory birds. We will continue to identify other measures that should be taken in alignment with the priorities of MNA Citizens.

2021 Annual General Assembly Engagement

At the 2021 MNA Annual General Assembly (AGA), the Department of IGR asked Citizens to identify their top three priorities for implementing UNDRIP out of a list of prioritized areas. Citizens were given three different coloured sticky notes with colours representing a numerical value to be placed on what priority areas were most important to them. The chart below shows the outcome.



Interestingly, the top priority identified was climate change. Citizens identified the need to address this threat to future generations, and the ability to continue cultural practices on the land. In other words, our youth said they wanted a future, and our seniors said they wanted a future for our youth.

The second most identified category was education. This is both education for Métis people, but also education for others on the Métis. An educated population will ensure continuing advancement of Métis rights. Educating Citizens on Métis culture and history is also important for building a strong Métis Nation and to heal as a community. We also recognize strong education for non-Métis about the Métis is central to improving relations and advancing reconciliation. People do not know who we are and that impacts how they see us as Indigenous people in Canada, which then impacts the way governments and others work with us.

Education is identified within Articles 14 and 15 of UNDRIP.

The third priority was lands. This priority ranges from protection from government encroachment and settling outstanding land claims, to securing land for the Métis Nation in Alberta. "Lands" also refers to recognition of the Métis right to access lands and protect those lands from adverse impacts, as is the purpose of the duty to consult obligation of the Crown.

Climate Change and Environment are included within UNDRIP at Article 29 Section 1:

"Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programs for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination."

Health, culture, and environment all tied for the fourth priority but are viewed as weaving throughout all of the top priorities.

This information has shaped our engagement with Canada in implementing the UNDA and continuing to move our government forward. Each priority is being further reviewed for any legislation, policy or regulation changes that could be made to align with the UNDA.

MNA Justice Strategy

At the 2021 MNA AGA at Métis Crossing, an ordinary resolution was passed that directed the MNA to develop a Justice Strategy. In response to the ordinary resolution The Department of IGR has planned a series of engagements with Citizens to build the strategy. Engagements will begin in the fall of 2022. The goal is to have a final draft Justice Strategy ready for AGA consideration in 2023.

At the same time, the Government of Canada has announced it will be developing, in collaboration and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, a federal Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS) to address systemic racism within the justice system. Specifically, the federal IJS is intended to:

1. Address injustices, combat prejudice, and eliminate all forms of violence, racism, and discrimination against Indigenous peoples
2. Promote mutual respect and understanding, as well as good relations, including through human rights education
3. Ensure Canada is held accountable on progress through regular reporting and oversight

The work being done to develop the MNA Justice Strategy will be used to inform our work in developing the IJS with Canada. In this way, we will continue to work to ensure the needs and interests of MNA Citizens are part of the strategy, and that we are finding ways to meet Citizen's needs in this area.

Métis Justice Advocate

In additional response to the 2021 ordinary resolution to develop a justice strategy, the MNA has hired a Métis Justice Advocate (MJA) to support the development of the MNA Justice Strategy and to begin identifying opportunities for Citizen support related to the justice system. In April 2022, an MJA was hired, and work has begun to engage Citizens on building our Justice Strategy and while beginning to build our ability to support our Citizens who have been impacted by the justice system.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Team continues to undertake initiatives to support and promote economic growth for Métis Albertans by:

- Identifying commercial and industrial investment opportunities
- Promoting Métis businesses
- Fostering strategic relationships with the business community
- Developing joint venture opportunities

ALBERTA MétisWorks

Alberta Métis Works

AlbertaMetisWorks.ca

The Alberta Métis Works public business directory and procurement platform is open to any business. The directory spans across all industries and services including financial professionals, lawyers, contractors, oil & gas service providers, tourism operators, and more.

- With over 230 registered MNA Citizen-owned businesses featured on the website; Alberta Métis Works is one of the largest collections of verified Métis businesses in Canada.
- The directory has seen a 25% increase in registrations over the past fiscal year, with nearly 50 new Métis businesses signing up in 2021/2022.
- On a monthly basis, the site averages over 6,900 unique visitors and more than 31,000 page views.

While Alberta Métis Works was designed to be a business directory, it is a tool to create meaningful connections and help businesses find opportunities across Alberta and beyond. This includes:

- Procurement project opportunities from MNA industry partners.
- Connecting businesses with funding and support opportunities offered through Apeetogosan, Business Link, Government of Alberta, or any other relevant opportunities.
- Promoting training and employment opportunities through Alberta Métis Works with the help of our affiliates, our partners, and government.
- Upon request, providing support letters to registered Métis businesses applying for procurement opportunities.

This program is supported by our affiliates, partners, businesses, Citizens, and MNA Provincial Council through the MNA's Provincial Economic Development Strategy. Métis business owners and community members guide our program development through continued feedback and engagement. As part of the MNA's business engagement priorities, we aim to connect with each business at least once per year.

Marketing the site to industry has led to several business-to-business relationships being built, mainly in the oil and gas industry. Industry has been using Alberta Métis Works to seek out Métis contractors where they have project opportunities. Alberta Métis Works also connects businesses to learning opportunities through Apeetogosan, Business Link, and the Government of Alberta. Employment opportunities, grant programs, and funding opportunities are also shared with Alberta Métis Works businesses to help the business community grow and succeed.

Alberta Métis Works also assisted Business Link in promoting their Small Business Week webinar 'Future of Indigenous Business'. A total of 18 Métis businesses registered for this free event that took place on October 20, 2021. This forum supported entrepreneurs and small business owners by providing tools, resources, and guidance to help them start or grow their business.

Topics of discussions included:

- Indigenous entrepreneurship in Canada.
- The future of Indigenous business in Canada.
- The #IndigenousMade campaign.
- How to use technology to grow your business.
- Fireside chat from Bobbie Racette, Virtual Gurus.

Cree Productions

The 2021/2022 fiscal year saw the Economic Development team taking over the administration and operations of Cree Productions, an MNA affiliate. Cree Productions provides Métis-themed merchandise and cultural items such as sashes, flags, hoodies, orange shirts, books, and much more.

A thorough review of the business was conducted to include analyses of suppliers, inventory system, product line, storage, finances, and e-commerce options.

A full range of products can be found on the MNA website at **albertametis.com**, or by emailing **creeproductions@metis.org**.

Building Strong Relationships

In the spirit of reconciliation, the MNA takes a strategic approach toward businesses whose projects affect Métis people and our traditional lands; therefore, it invites organizations to engage in a mutually beneficial relationship.

The MNA prioritizes business relationships based on key principles as its foundation. These principles do not impose obligations. Instead, their binding power arises from the good faith and integrity of the parties involved. In the growing climate of reconciliation, this principle-based approach appropriately reflects traditional Métis socio-legal ways of relationship building.

The MNA follows these key relationship principles:

- Fairness
- Honesty
- Integrity

These principles also include these values:

- Educating partners about the MNA and Métis culture.
- Identifying mutual commercial opportunities.
- Learning about our partners.

The MNA's overall industry relations and economic development principles are to:

- Attract investment into Métis communities.
- Advance reconciliation.
- Promote professionalism.
- Encourage education.
- Benefit Métis Citizens.

When businesses engage with the MNA following these principles, they are implementing and affirming a traditional Métis approach toward relationship building. This is one way in which industry can help advance reconciliation; choosing to inform its projects with these principles. The MNA recognizes those organizations that wish to better engage in reconciliation but are not sure how or where to start. Through the MNA's approach, industry will learn about and implement traditional Métis principles and this is a meaningful step toward reconciliation.

In exchange for engaging with Métis principles and using them to inform business practices, the MNA offers its endorsement to businesses regarding projects that may impact Métis people or traditional lands. This approach offers unique advantages and the MNA may:

- Support a company or project, which may help it be more competitive when bidding.
- Offer access to the MNA's network of businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Give access to or knowledge about projects of interest to benefit prospective companies.
- Supply a detailed summary of the services and capabilities of Métis businesses across Alberta.
- Assist with providing access to MNA Regions and communities for consultation purposes.

The MNA is proud to have developed strategic relationships with the following organizations in 2021/2022:

- AKSIS - Edmonton's Indigenous Business & Professional Association
- Arnett & Burgess Oilfield Construction
- Avid Energy Services and Apex Well Servicing
- Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)
- Cascade Projects
- Crescent Point Energy
- EPCOR
- Flint Energy – A Division of ClearStream
- G.N.S Industrial Trailer Services LTD.
- Single Source Project Management Inc.
- Wilcia Management Inc.

Going Forward

The Department of IGR will continue to work to support our Citizens and the advancement of Métis rights in Alberta. We are working to develop new justice supports and establish key relationships or partnerships that will support our ability to support Citizens. We will also continue to find ways to make change to systems and institutions in Canada that are in dire need of reform. This isn't easy work, and we may not always get the exact results we need but we will keep trying to move forward one step at a time.

In economic development, the MNA will continue to seek opportunities to develop relationships with willing partners throughout Alberta through the Declaration of Relationship process, as well as continuing to grow Alberta Métis Works' business listings to continue our support of economic growth for Métis Albertans. ■

Métis Identification and Registry Systems

The Registry Department is committed to maintaining its integrity for identifying Métis in Alberta, while providing consistent support and service to its Citizens and MNA applicants.

With COVID-19 restrictions still affecting in-person intake at both the provincial and regional offices, we were surprised to see the volume of applications received. This past year, the department received a total of 6,469 Citizenship applications by way of email, mail, or registry sessions. During this same period, Citizenship was issued to 4,894 applicants.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions affecting in-person gatherings for much of the year, we were able to facilitate registry sessions throughout the province during the month of August when restrictions were lifted. These were well attended and garnered a good amount of interest resulting in 283 Citizenship applications received, as well as 117 harvesting applications. This is evidence self-identifying Métis in Alberta are very much interested in obtaining their MNA Citizenship.

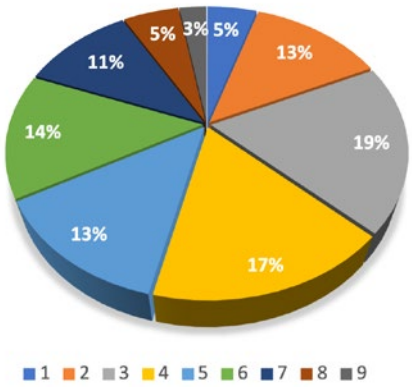
Improving communication was a goal for the 2021-2022 year. With the introduction of auto-generated emails sent directly from our Registry database, applicants are contacted via email at three key points in the application process. They provide the applicant status updates while their file is in process. The emails also provide important information to our applicants such as their assigned registry agent, links to MNA affiliates and programming, and links to the MNA events page and social media platforms.

We received positive feedback from the community who had previously been asking for more frequent contact and status updates on their files. The first email is sent to the email address on file when an application is received, and the data is entered by our intake team. The second email is sent when genealogy has been completed, and the residency check and quality assurance is being

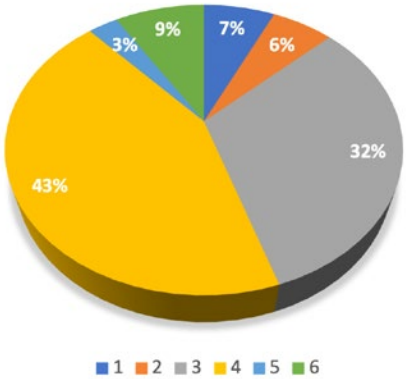
performed on the file. The third and final email is sent when Citizenship is confirmed, and a Métis ID has been assigned.

Our continued focus on Citizenship verification for both MNA affiliates, as well as departments within the MNA, provided us with an opportunity to strengthen the integrity of the Citizenship database through residency verification. Our team was able to confirm and/or update the addresses for those applying for programming and initiatives. This resulted in 19,165 individual address verifications during the 2021/2022 year.

We look forward to continuing to serve our applicants and Citizens in the province at both a local and regional level. We hope with COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, we will be able to resume registry sessions throughout the province on a consistent basis. We will continue to promote, identify, and register MNA Citizens and harvesters with a focus to further decrease the wait time for issuing Citizenship in 2022-2023.



Provincial Citizenship by Age	
Age 0-9	2,620
Age 10-19	7,008
Age 20-29	10,079
Age 30-39	8,968
Age 40-49	7,048
Age 50-59	7,450
Age 60-69	5,814
Age 70-79	2,953
Age 80+	1,444
Total	53,384



Citizenship by Region	
Region 1	3,728
Region 2	3,223
Region 3	17,032
Region 4	23,157
Region 5	1,556
Region 6	4,688
Total	53,384

Harvesting

In the past year we have continued to process Harvester applications and focused on creating efficiency in the application process to ensure we are sending out cards quickly to qualified Harvesters. The Harvesting Department has also taken the initiative to update AlbertaRELM accounts for our Citizens. In addition, we facilitated another round of the Harvester Relief Support Program, which benefited MNA approved Harvesters by assisting with costs surrounding harvesting.

The MNA accepted the first Harvester applications on Sept 1, 2019. To date, the MNA has over 8,500 MNA approved Harvesters, of which 10.6% are youth aged 0-17 and 11.3% are over age 65. It is interesting to note that 59.6% are male and 40.4% are female. On average, we receive approximately 250 -300 harvester applications per month.

Kirsten Letendre pulling a whitefish out of the gill net at Sturgeon Lake

Above: Dr. James Glasier, Environment Manager, Jordan York & Kirsten Letendre MNA Harvester measuring a whitefish at Sturgeon Lake

Right: L-R: Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre, MNA Harvester Kirsten Letendre, and MNA Harvester Joshua Letendre with the catch of the day at Pigeon Lake Family Camp

Top: Surface water on Lac La Biche "Let's stop here"

Left: Gill net being pulled in under the ice at Moose Lake

Above: Huge ice block approx. 300lbs

The Harvesting department is continually updating Citizens AlbertaRELM accounts. During this process, an MNA Harvester's status is changed on their AlbertaRELM account to "Recognized Métis Harvester." This means that Harvesters no longer need to go to the Fish & Wildlife office to get their account updated as we can complete this task in house.

The Harvester Relief Support Program was extremely successful in 2022. It provided MNA approved Harvesters with a maximum $200 reimbursement for many of their harvesting needs such as ammunition, butchering costs, deep freezers, fishing equipment etc. In total, we were able to help over 550 MNA approved Harvesters.

This past winter, the Harvesting Department worked alongside the Environment team for the Askîy Fish Health Community Monitor Program. Gill nets were set at five different lakes across Alberta (Sturgeon Lake, Lesser Slave Lake, Lac La Biche, Moose Lake, and Pigeon Lake). The project was a huge success and the MNA collected data pertaining to the provincial lakes and overall fish health. The Environment Department was able to secure funding to have the fish sent and tested for a variety of different things including mercury levels.

In the spring, our Harvesting team joined the Children & Family Services Department for Frosty Reels Family Fishing Camp. These camps ran on multiple weekends at Camp Wohelo on the north shore of Pigeon Lake. Approximately 32 families were able to come out and stay in a cabin for the weekend and enjoy the great outdoors. Each family member who attended received an ice fishing

Above: Underwater camera captures a Burbot (top) and a Whitefish caught in the gill net

Below: Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre sending the Prairie Jigger under the ice

rod & reel and ice fishing bucket and lures to keep. In addition, they were able to fish Pigeon Lake on Saturday and try out their new rods on the ice. Families were also able to see and learn how a gill net was traditionally set through the ice using the Prairie Jigger, which was originally designed by Métis fisherman in the early 1900's. In addition, everyone was treated to a fresh fish & chips feast right there on the ice. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Knowledge Holders and MNA Harvesters who helped out with the Fish Study and the Family camps; Keith Grant, Dwight Knull, Clarence Dion, Joshua Letendre & Kirsten Letendre.

In the upcoming year, we are looking to do some more open water and shore fishing excursions to teach any interested Harvesters how to fish with a rod & reel. We are also planning hunting excursions this fall to take out a group of qualified MNA Harvesters to complete some land-based learning such as identifying tracks and feces and how to identify moose habitats or what the animals are eating.

We are also planning to create a newsletter, as well as an online Q&A session. This would be similar to the Community Information Session we held in February of 2020 and will provide another opportunity for MNA Harvesters to have their voices heard and relay any questions they have on the material provided in the newsletter. ■

Top: Keith Grant, MNA Harvester, and Joshua Letendre, MNA Harvester, prepare lunch on the ice.

Bottom: Two pans full of freshly caught fish being cooked for lunch.

Truth & Reconciliation

Residential School Workplan

Key Responsibilities and Projects in Progress

Foster and maintain critical and collaborative relationships with residential school survivors

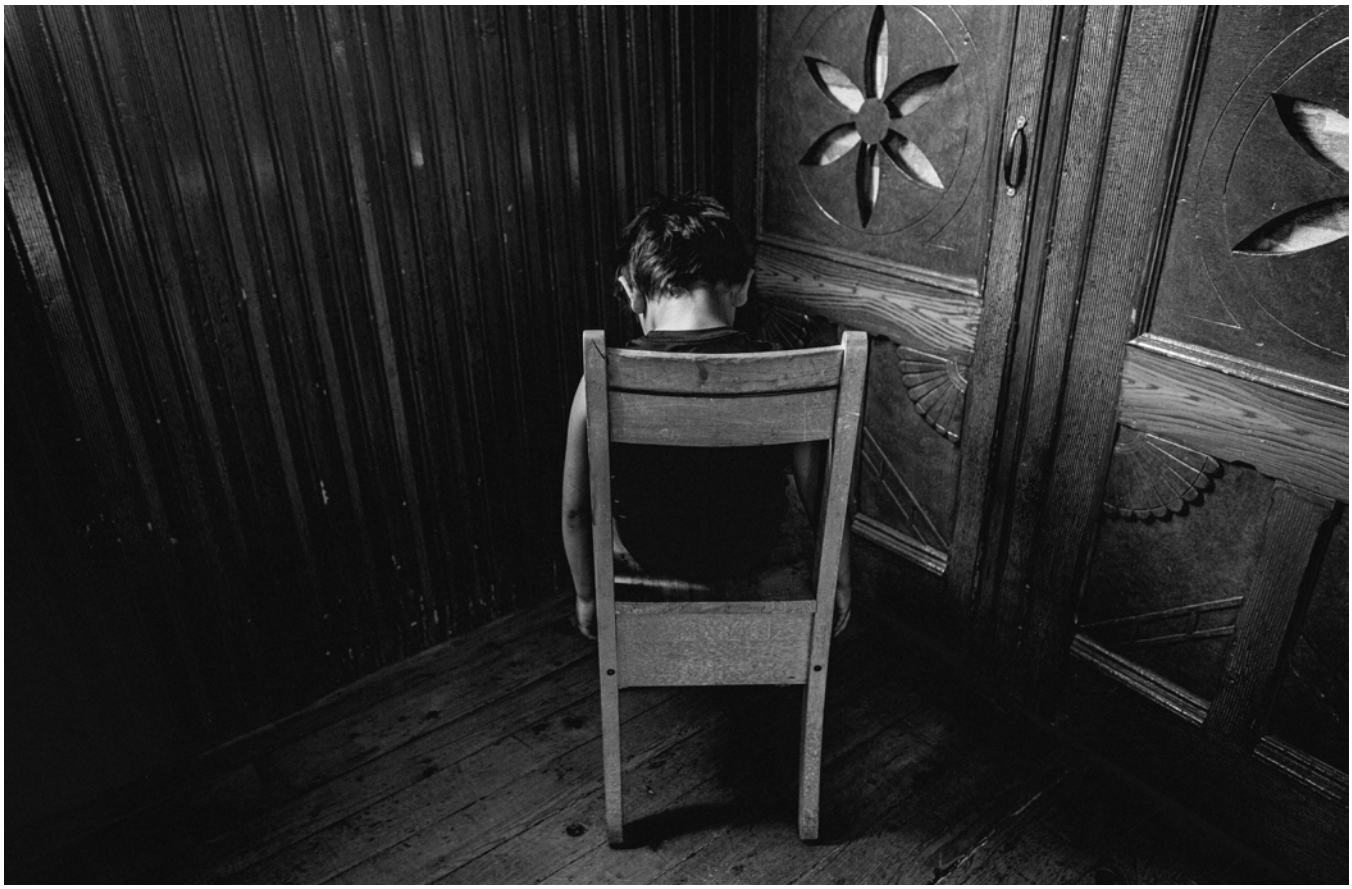
- Establish and create a point of contact for MNA Citizens requesting to talk/needing more information regarding residential schools
- Being available to listen to residential school Survivors in a safe and compassionate way that encourages and builds trust
- Answer questions and direct them to the information they require
- Relationship building, create and establish trust as it's not easy to share trauma
- Create ideas for further projects that stem from stories, needs, hopes, and healing requirements from the elders, survivors, family members, and storytellers
- Connect Survivors with mental health supports and information provided by the MNA

Develop relationships with MNA's Regional Offices

- Establish connection and provide an outlet
- Send introduction emails and set up virtual meetings to conduct needs assessment for region and survivors
- Become contact point for regions to reach out to for inquiries
- Listen to region's Citizen requirements
- Create a needs assessment to determine future goals planning and timeline
- Work with regions on proposals
  - Assisted Region 3 on their grant application

Foster and maintain critical and collaborative partnerships with outside organizations

- Partner with organizations who want to learn more about the history of residential schools and work towards meeting Truth and Reconciliation
  - Strathcona County
  - Fort Saskatchewan
- Create and develop presentations for partner organizations
  - lunch and learn sessions for corporate employees
- Create exhibits and educational programs to be showcased in places with interactive opportunities.
  - Fort Saskatchewan National Indigenous Peoples Day for the elementary schools
  - Month-long awareness community event for September
- Proactively develop networks with other individuals and organizations, build relationships and share information
  - Remembering the Children Society, The Government of Alberta, Enbridge, Fort Saskatchewan Cultural and Heritage department, Imagine Institute, the PAA, Archdiocese of Calgary, Tsuutina Museum, Kapawe'no First Nation,. Grouard Cemetery Committee, Dr. Kisha Supernant, The Mission, Lac la Biche, St. Albert Historic River Lots and Grain Elevator Park, Jonathan Havelock



Develop registry of all residential schools in Alberta, organized by MNA region

- Create registry of MNA Citizens who attended each school
- Obtain information from various organizations that may house historical data, such as Métis residential school children's names and any other data that states the impact of residential schools on Métis families and children
- Attend and document ground penetrating radar truth finding
    - Attended Red Deer Industrial ground penetrating radar and scheduled to attend Fort Chipewyan
- Ongoing research on residential school sites and attendance

Documentation of Stories

- Collect information from MNA citizens who express an interest in sharing their residential school experience
- Schedule visits to each MNA region to document stories by video, audio, and/or writing
- Translation of Citizen stories where required
- Photograph participants, residential school sites, and other artifacts
    - Residential School sites documented: Poundmakers, St. Albert, St. Josephs, Dunbow Industrial School, The Mission, Lac la Biche, Ft. Chipewyan, St. Bernard, Grouard, Blue Quills, St. Paul, Onion Lake
- Catalogue and archive photos and video to preserve ongoing archived data
- Research historical data that pertains to Alberta's residential schools
- Research historical data, records, and documents to preserve and catalog the material so they can be access for the future
- Maintain and update archival database created

Métis Residential school Museum

- Compile data to be housed in a future museum; a space of healing, gathering, and community events located in Edmonton
- Plan and develop space
- Establish a program of volunteer Survivors, Elders, and supports to educate and offer a safe space of healing and listening
- Coordinate learning events for students, partner organizations, and corporate employees to learn about residential school history
- Collaborate with MNA Intergovernmental Relations to submit funding proposal for museum

Other Initiatives

- Letters to the His Holiness of Pope Francis. – Supported (wrote for some) residential school Survivors who wanted to submit a written letter to Pope Francis
- Residential/Day school Survivor Registry
- Residential School Advisory Board
- Healing Circle and Sharing/Learning Circle
- Completed Trauma Informed and Wisdom Generational Courses from Imagine Institute
- Appointed to the Government of Alberta's Residential School Advisory Panel
- Helped lead Survivor communication and care during 2022 Papal Visit

Visit our webpage to learn more
albertametis.com/truth-reconciliation ■

Youth Programs and Services

The Department of Youth Programs and Services is committed to addressing the unique needs and challenges Métis youth face within Alberta. This generation of youth is excited to learn about their Métis culture and history and instill pride in who they are. It is essential to involve youth with key decisions as they continue to offer new perspectives and ideas to move the Nation forward. We must continue to engage with our youth and connect them to their community and culture.

The following report provides details regarding the activities of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) in addressing the needs of Métis youth in Alberta. Throughout the past year, the MNA provided support to youth and families in maintaining, establishing, and enhancing connections to culture and identity. The Department of Youth Programs and Services also strives to support and empower our youth leaders through the Provisional Youth Council of the MNA.

Virtual Youth Leadership Conference

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, the MNA held our second ever Virtual Youth Leadership Conference. In previous years the Youth Leadership Conference has focused primarily on the politics and governance structures of the MNA, however this year we shifted the conference to focus on other forms of leadership within our communities. We hosted a variety of keynote speakers and discussions to ensure these different forms of leadership were highlighted: social justice work within Indigenous communities, allyship with the 2SLGBTQ+ community, Indigenous identity, and climate change.

The event was held online and hosted a variety of speakers, digital presentations, and cultural performances. The conference was centered primarily on social justice work within Indigenous communities, and how Métis youth can make positive change. This conference gave Métis youth the opportunity to gather in a virtual format to discuss the future of the Métis Nation from a youth perspective, partake in cultural workshops, and connect with each other in a safe way.

Sports and Recreation Grant

Sports and recreational activities are vital to the health and wellness of Métis youth. Low-income Métis youth often face the barrier of being unable to participate in sports and recreation activities due to financial barriers; these barriers can include registration, equipment, and travel expenses. To ease the financial struggle of many MNA Citizens, and to ensure Métis youth have increased opportunity to participate in sport and recreational activities, the Department of Youth Programs and Services launched the Sports and Recreation Grant. This grant provides Métis youth from across Alberta the opportunity to participate in sports and recreation activities without worrying about the financial barriers that often accompany them.

The Sports and Recreation Grant was available to MNA Citizens residing in Alberta who are the parent/guardian of a youth between the ages of 5-17 and are living within their household. This program was accessible once per application period, and applicants were required to submit all required documents within that period. Youth between the ages of 5-17 were eligible for a maximum of $500.00 per application period, going towards costs associated with the selected activity. This financial support can be used towards registration costs, equipment costs, and travel costs.

The MNA has offered three applications periods since it was first launched on September 1, 2020:

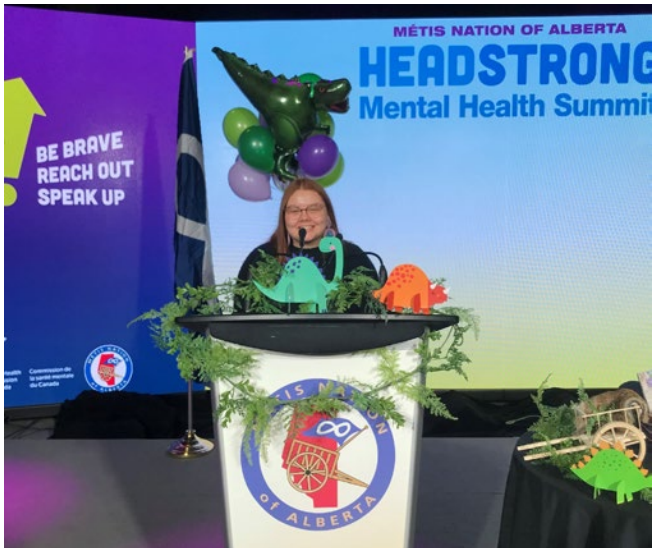
- September 1 – November 30, 2020
- April 1 – June 30, 2021
- August 15 – November 15, 2021

COVID-19 Family Wellness Program

In collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services, the MNA launched the COVID-19 Family Wellness Program. This initiative recognized the unique challenges faced by Métis families across the province prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the province-wide restrictions. The COVID-19 Wellness Program is a way to support Métis families to ensure they can purchase any necessities they required during the winter season. Applicants were provided with $100.00 gift cards to Walmart.

The COVID-19 Family Wellness Program was able to support over 1,100 Métis families across of Alberta.

HEADSTRONG Mental Health Summit



On Saturday, January 15 and Sunday, January 16, 2022, the MNA held the third HEADSTRONG Mental Health Summit in partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada. Due to the rising COVID-19 numbers, and to ensure the safety of youth, staff and facilitators, the event was hosted in a virtual setting.

Region 4 Youth Council Representative Hannah Nash was the co-emcee alongside mental health advocate JD

Hunter. Hannah and JD introduced our keynote speaker Charlie Kerr. Charlie Kerr is a Cree/Métis songwriter, writer, actor of the stage and screen and the singer for indie rock band, Hotel Mira. Charlie told the youth his story about managing his mental health and spoke strongly of seeking help when you require it. Following Charlie's speech, he showcased his passion for music and how it has been an outlet for him. Charlie inspired Métis youth with his success as a musician and coping with his mental health challenges.

Each participant was able to take part in Zoom breakout room sessions that were separated by geographical location to connect Métis youth with each other. These breakout sessions were designed for youth to combat mental health stigma in their home communities. Youth also heard fiddle performance from Alex Kusturok, a jigging tutorial from Brianna Lizotte and played bingo. This event had a total of 60 participants.

Youth and Seniors Gathering

On February 26, 2022, the MNA held its sixth annual Youth and Seniors Gathering: *Gathering Through Generations*. The goal of this annual gathering is to address the needs of Métis youth to develop intergenerational connections with Métis seniors and elders in their community. To ensure the sixth annual Youth and Seniors Gathering was accessible to all community members, the event was available virtually through a Facebook livestream as well as the website platform designed specifically for the event. The audience heard from Métis Keynote Speaker Andrea Menard, Métis Storyteller Maureen Belanger, and Métis Youth Singer Robin Cisek. Viewers also experienced

an exhilarating jigging performance from the youth of The Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers.

The sixth annual Youth and Seniors Gathering offered participants the opportunity to create sage medicine hearts, storytelling artwork, and participating in three rounds of bingo. This engaged and supported viewers creating within the comfort of their own home. Citizens were encouraged to jig along as a musical set provided by Bear Country and Métis Stew took place. Métis Stew were also joined by various performers to play a 20-minute set highlighting their talents. Attendants were able to experience the talents of Métis senior performer Lillian Parenteau, Métis youth performer Kaleena Denby, and Brianna Lizotte. This event was emceed by Lloyd Gwin and Mackenzie McGinnis. Through this virtual event, the MNA was able to reach over 1,000 individuals.

Alberta Métis Fest

The MNA was thrilled to host the fourth annual Alberta Métis Fest, which took place on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at Métis Crossing. This was incredibly exciting as this was the first time Alberta Métis Fest took place in-person since 2019. It also proved to be an amazing opportunity for people across Alberta to celebrate Métis culture at our very own Métis cultural heritage site.

Throughout the weekend, each region received an hour to showcase their best local talent and provide greetings from regional leadership. Event attendees were invited to register in the all-ages jigging competition. This event also provided an opportunity to support Métis artisans from across the province through participating in the artisan market. Attendees had the opportunity to take part in cultural workshops such as beading, finger weaving, survival skills, Michif language, voyageur games, and wildlife tours. The event had over 2,000 attendees.

Keeping it Riel Podcast

The MNA continued to release Keeping it Riel podcast episodes throughout 2021-22. For the second season of the podcast, the Department of Youth Programs

and Services shared hosting duties as they continued to interview inspiring Métis people throughout the Homeland. Season Two of the podcast was launched on March 15, 2021 and included 11 bi-weekly episodes that were released throughout the year. Season Three of the podcast was launched in April 2022 and is still ongoing.

Podcast episodes are released on all popular podcasting platforms, including Google Podcasts, iTunes, Stitcher, and more.

Métis Cultural Mail-Out Kits

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MNA developed Métis cultural mail-out kits that could be sent out to MNA Citizens aged 12-29 throughout Alberta. These kits were developed to help youth maintain a connection to their culture and community. Kits were designed and developed by MNA Department of Youth Programs and Services staff, they were then advertised on social media for Citizens to apply for and receive through the mail. The types of kits developed are beading and embroidery kits. Overall, the Métis cultural mail-out kits have reached over 1,000 MNA youth.

Social Media Campaigns

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the MNA Department of Youth Programs and Services began to increase our social media output on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages (@abmetisyouth). We also created a TikTok (@abmetisyouth) account to help us connect with Métis youth using the platform. We found by increasing our output on these social media platforms, we were able to engage and connect with youth across the province in ways we wouldn't have been able to due to the pandemic. We developed several social media campaigns including an International Women's Day campaign where we highlighted strong matriarchs in our community as well as a Climate Change campaign where we teamed up with the Department of Environment and Climate Change to provide education to youth. These campaigns had significant success in terms of engagement and audience reach. We also hosted a variety of virtual livestreams and tutorials that reached significant numbers of viewers some of which included, gingerbread bannock tutorial, virtual plant walk, jigging tutorial, and Michif word of the day. Our follower counts on these platforms have increased significantly. Our Instagram follower count grew by 553 followers which brings our total to 2,475 as of June 1, 2022. Our Facebook follower count grew by 503 followers which brings our total to 2.3k followers as of June 1, 2022.

Cultural Enrichment Programs

Since August 2019's Annual General Assembly, the Department of Youth Programs and Services has delivered a variety of Cultural Enrichment Programs across the province in each of the six MNA Regions. These regional programs were planned by each respective region's Youth Coordinator and facilitated by Métis cultural experts from across the province. Cultural enrichment programs include, but are not limited to, jigging, guitar, fiddling, beading, embroidery, traditional medicines, bannock making, and finger weaving classes. Cultural Enrichment programming is vital to connect Métis youth with their culture and keep those valuable traditions alive for future generations. Due to the expanding of our team and filling the previously empty Regional Youth Coordinator roles within the province, we have seen an influx of new and exciting programming to engage youth including Métis themed virtual escape rooms, orange shirt kits for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, beaded poppy workshops for Remembrance Day, and Métis flower dot art. Recently we have been able to transition most of our programming back to an in-person format, while continuing to connect with Métis youth through social media and other online platforms.

Life Skills Programming

Since August 2019's Annual General Assembly, the Department of Youth Programs and Services has delivered a variety of life skills programs across the province in each of the six MNA Regions. These regional programs were planned by each respective region's Youth Coordinator and facilitated by experts from across the province (many of whom are Métis). Life skills programming included, but was not limited to, cooking

classes, financial planning, personal development courses, and hunter's education courses.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all life skills programs changed from in-person programming within each of the six MNA Regions to province-wide virtual programs. This has allowed us to reach MNA youth from every region while also following public health orders. Recently we have been able to transition most of our life skills programming back to an in-person format, while continuing to connect with Métis youth through social media and other online platforms.

Infinite Connections Youth Group

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, most of the MNA's programming remained online. The MNA ran virtual youth groups where MNA youth could gather in a safe, culturally appropriate space and create long lasting friendships and connections.

At the beginning of the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Youth Programming Assistant hosted virtual bi-weekly youth groups. During this time the Youth Programming Assistant utilized a variety of activities and workshops to run the group such as game night, a scavenger hunt, first aid class, and bannock making. On October 28, 2021, the virtual youth group returned with the Regional Youth Coordinators hosting a variety of holiday-themed youth group events such as pumpkin decorating and Christmas sweater making. Recently, the Regional Youth Coordinators have been able to restart in-person regional youth groups within their respective communities. If you are interested in learning more about your region's youth group, please connect with your Regional Youth Coordinator.

Book Club

The MNA Department of Youth Programs and Services has continued to host a virtual Book Club. The Book Club restarted in summer 2021 and is ongoing. The book club provides Métis youth with the opportunity to create connections with their community while reading Indigenous literature and exploring culturally relevant topics. Books previously featured include: *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline, *Call Me Indian* by Fred Sasakamoose, and *The Strangers* by Katherena Vermette.

Provisional Youth Council

The MNA's Provisional Youth Council is dedicated to ensuring the voices of Métis youth is being heard at all levels. Their work involved directing the MNA on programs and services best suited for Métis youth within Alberta. The Provisional Youth Council is composed of one Métis youth from each of the six MNA Regions, as well as a provincial chair who is elected by the council.

REGIONAL YOUTH GROUPS DIRECTORY

Region:	Location:	Date & Time:	Contact:
Region 1	Region 1 Office, 10104-102 Avenue, Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0	Mondays from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Sarah at sburge@metis.org
Region 2	Region 2 Office, 5102 – 51 Street, Bonnyville, AB, T9N 2H1	Thursdays from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Jade at jfleury@metis.org
Region 3	Region 3 Office, 1530 27th Ave NE, Calgary AB T2E 7S6	Thursdays from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Kristen at kacuna@metis.org
Region 4	MNA Provincial Office, 11738 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5	Wednesdays from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Briten at bvacheresse@metis.org
Region 5	More information will be shared on our social media @abmetisyouth		N/A
Region 6			dgillis@metis.org

The MNA Provisional Youth Council consists of the following MNA Citizens:

- Region 1 – Mary Ludwig
- Region 2 – Megan Claude
- Region 3 – Rebecca Lavallee
- Region 4 – Wyatt Telford
- Region 5 – Neika Courtoreille
- Region 6 – Brittnay Christian

What's Next

It has been another incredible year for the MNA Department of Youth Programs and Services. We have been able to continue furthering the connection with Métis youth in Alberta during the COVID-19 pandemic through the development of new and exciting virtual programming, while also beginning to host in-person programming once again. Through these many initiatives, we have been able to provide opportunities to Métis youth across the province by connecting them to their community, their culture, and to other Métis youth in Alberta.

The MNA continues to offer both small-scale, regional programming to Métis youth, while also hosting a variety of large-scale, provincial events developed specifically for Métis youth. A majority of this programming did take place virtually once again; however, we found despite this challenge, youth who attended our events and programs virtually found they had and increased sense of belonging and connection to their Métis community. These virtual provincial events included Youth and Seniors Gathering, Alberta Métis Fest, HEADSTRONG Mental Health Summit, and the Virtual Youth Leadership Conference. The department was also proud to organize the fourth annual Alberta Métis Fest for the community which took place in person at Métis Crossing.

Our department also ran a variety of programs in the communities that youth across the province were able to attend. The development and implementation of these programs was done by the Regional Youth Project Coordinators. Many of these programs remained virtual, however we were able to begin to move a small number of these programs back to an in-person format, while also following all recommended public safety measures. All of the programs were developed with the intention to continue to promote cultural enrichment and life skills for Métis youth. Some examples of these programs were Métis Mail Out Culture Kits (beading, embroidery, and finger weaving), beading workshops, hunter's education training, and more.

In addition, we also developed an online version of our weekly regional youth groups. Through this virtual youth group, youth from across the province were able to gather with each other virtually, and make connections in a fun, culturally aware space.

This year, we are proud to say that MNA was also able to continue exciting initiatives such as the "Keeping it Riel" podcast, a Métis Youth Book Club, online Personal Development Courses, and more! In the future, citizens can expect the Youth Programs and Services Department to continue developing informed, quality programming to Métis youth within Alberta. We hope to continue building Métis youth citizen's sense of belonging and connection to Métis culture and community. We hope to continue engaging with more Métis youth across Alberta and implementing programs specifically for Métis youth. ■

REGIONAL REPORTS

REGION ONE

James Cardinal
President
Region One

Jason Ekeberg
Vice President
Region One

Region Report

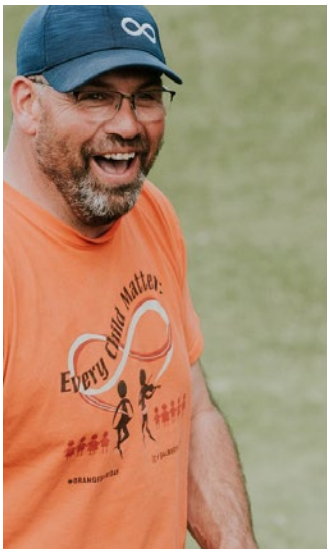
First of all, we'd like to express our sincere thanks to all our members of MNA Region 1 for working together with our leadership and administration. Jason and I have worked together to provide assistance and support to our members and will continue working for our members as they always come first.

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Provincial Office for providing COVID-19 funding so we could assist our members who were in need during this challenging and unprecedented time. For Christmas last year we were able to find financial support and assistance from local industry to provide and ensure our members could enjoy Christmas with their families.

We worked with the Lac La Biche County to provide some leased land in Bonesville, for our underprivileged and homeless in our community. Through RDN funding we were able to provide six small cabin units to shelter and protect vulnerable and homeless members of our community.

I would like to sincerely express my gratitude and appreciation to Jason Ekeberg for his hard work and persistence in making this a successful and favourable place for our homeless members in our community. Jason is continuing to work with the Lac La Biche County to provide additional space in the community that will provide shelter, programming, and a wider range of resources to assist at-risk members of our community. He is working closely with the County to find a place for personal hygiene (showers) and a safe and warm place to stay when the buses are not running late into the night. A place they will be warm and safe from the cold for the winter.

Jason is dedicated to ensuring our senior population's needs are provided for, by continuously assisting with emergency home repairs. We have worked diligently to provide emergency home



repairs. These repairs are achieved through working in coordinated efforts with MNA Provincial Office to ensure the emergency home repairs are completed. Our system is working, and successful.

Jason is working closely with Local 125 to obtain permission to open the local fisheries, so the members of Fort Chipewyan can begin commercial fishing. With continued partnership, we would love to see this become a successful and prosperous enterprise for Local 125.

We were successful at obtaining a government grant to assist our seniors (65+) for approximately six months in our region. We would like to express our thanks to our administration who did an amazing job assisting our elders with administering the grocery cards and wood. Connie Pare, Wyatt White, and Dianne Veillette, thank you for your hard work.

Dianna Cook, we want to extend our sincerest gratitude for working diligently in successfully gaining these grants to assist our seniors, our vulnerable and less fortunate members of our region. We couldn't have done this without her.

We held our regional Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 28, 2022, in Fort McMurray. We provided a comprehensive financial audit. Thank you Lori Girard for presenting our report and providing a comprehensive and analytical understanding of our financials.

Our youth coordinator, Sarah, provided a great breakdown of programming and projects she is implementing and providing to youth in our region.

Now that COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease we are able to resume more travel and begin to work closer with all locals in our region.

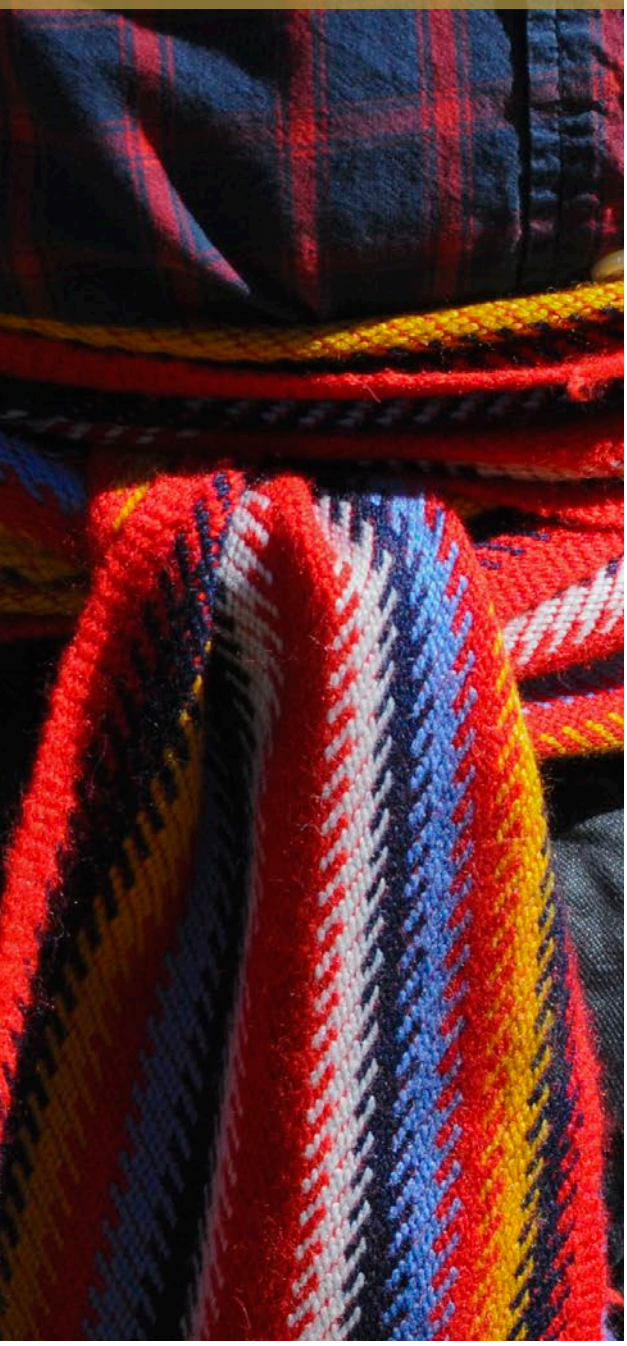
Tuesday, June 21, 2022, we held our National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration. The weather was perfect, we filled McArthur Park with children from Vera M. Welsh school, seniors, and members from our community. Danica, your determination to ensure success is appreciated, thank you. Thank you to our administration for making this day a success. Thank you to all the cooks who provided the soup and bannock, Jason for overseeing the barbecuing of the burgers and hot dogs. ENBRIDGE for supplying volunteers to assist and ensure everyone was comfortable in addition to providing some beautiful door prizes. There was a small Indigenous market that was a huge success, and we look forward to expanding it next year. Thank you to the Berland Brothers, Benny Desjarlais, and Deanna Dolstra for providing such great music that everyone was able to enjoy. The children were jigging, doing crafts and activities, and enjoying the celebration of our great Indigenous culture.

Our summer students have started their employment with our office and are available to provide assistance to our senior members of our region by offering lawn maintenance, tending to their gardens, painting, stacking wood piles, and other related duties.

In the near future there will be more wonderful programming coming for Region 1. Jason has been working diligently with Métis Housing representatives to ensure housing for our members is improving and will continue to ensure our voice is heard so that we can ensure all units have families who need this housing.

In closing we would like to say these are just a few events that have happened in MNA Region 1 over the past year. With additional funding that we are exploring and researching we are hopeful to have additional programming to provide assistance to members of our region. As we continue to work together, we, the MNA, will be stronger and more successful for the future of our youth and our seniors. Let's ensure we make our Nation better for all members. ■

REGION TWO



Duane Zaraska
President
Region Two

Andrea Sandmaier
Vice President
Region Two

President Report

Tansi and hello everyone,

Another year has come and gone and in Region 2 there have been many successes, as well as challenges, over the past year. Although challenging, our staff and regional coordinators continue to work hard to serve our Citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many obstacles, yet we have still provided supports for Citizens and have stayed connected to our community through virtual meetings and engagements.

The last year has been one of tremendous growth for Region 2, with many new additions in terms of staffing. Our Consultation Department continues to complete exceptional work and has engaged with numerous industries and government departments across Alberta. Our Region now has its own Tenant Relations Officer and has greatly streamlined service and support to the families it serves. Region 2 now has our own Provincial Youth Coordinator that has been doing tremendous work offering programming, events and help in regional registry sessions. This youth coordinator has made great strides in developing community connections and promoting more youth involvement in the Region. Region 2 has also developed a position for a Community Wellness Coordinator. This position will advocate and provide support and direction to appropriate mental health services in the area.

In addition to overseeing Region 2 activities on a day-to-day basis, I continue to engage with Citizens and community, and I represent the region and the community on many boards and committees.

Ashley Shaw, Region 2's Consultation Coordinator, continues to shine bright in our Region and has made great progress in the area of consultation. The Region has had a strong year in terms of consultation, wrapping up long-term engagements that

were committed to over the last few years, as well as completing contemporary engagements.

Region 2 has completed consultation on a 100 km water transmission line that is to be built across many rural communities. We have also secured large contribution agreements with Parks Canada, and another significant agreement that includes the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Provincial Office and all impacted regions of the MNA. We also have continued our long-term engagements with many proponents who are committed to ensuring our knowledge is included in their policies and decision making processes. The funding received during engagements has helped us to network with other proponents and support our ongoing Citizen and community involvement and knowledge sharing. Many Citizens in the region are participating and involved in the studies. Thanks, Ashley, for your amazing work and contribution to our region. We look forward to even more engagements and improved industry relations in the coming year.

Region 2 will again have its own Métis Urban Housing Tenant Relations Officer. This position is valuable in our regional office. We can now keep a closer watch on properties and work more effectively with tenants. The previous officer, who has left the position, did an amazing job assisting tenants, maintaining subsidized housing and helping them with other resources they may have needed. This position stays busy doing vacant unit visits as well as move-in and move-out inspections. They also attend various community initiatives and events to help promote Métis Housing. Thank you, for the great assistance you provided for our tenants in the region as we look forward to replacing this position and continue serving the Citizens of our region.

We are very fortunate in Region 2 to have a hard working, dedicated youth coordinator. Jade Fleury has made Region 2 come to life in the area of youth activities and programming. Although challenging to maintain throughout the pandemic, there have been many virtual programs, mail-out programs, and activities that have continued. Several community connections are being made as well, connecting more and more youth to the Nation and their culture. Jade has also been in attendance with several inter-agencies in various surrounding communities to add to the network of service providers in the area. Jade is always working on the next activity or workshop and also provides great assistance to many of the other provincial events such as youth camps, Métis Fest, and the Annual General Assembly.

Early in 2022, Region 2 was fortunate, with the help of the provincial Director of Health, to secure funding for work in the area of mental health. This is an area that requires immediate attention. We at Region 2 have seen the need for these services, so we developed a position for a

Community Wellness Coordinator. Before the program is effective and up and running smoothly, Gina has been very busy with various courses dealing with mental health issues and effective treatment for the clients. A great deal of time is being spent reaching out to different agencies, communities, and service providers needed by our Citizens. The connections made have been enormous and will help greatly with this advocacy work. We look forward to the effective help that Gina and this position will bring to the region.

Our office and Citizens are so well looked after and their issues always well addressed and tended to by our administrator, Viola Shaumberger. Thank you, Viola, for looking after all of us and our needs in the office and providing assistance to our Citizens here in Region 2.

Although the times have been challenging and we were closed to the public throughout much of the pandemic, work continued in the regional office. Many citizens found it difficult through the pandemic, but we strived to assist as much as possible to provide relief. Much of my time as Regional President is spent on the phone with Citizens, meeting with Citizens, taking virtual meetings, council meetings, addressing daily office concerns, programs, events, as well as the many boards and committees representing Region 2 and the Métis in the community. I have been honoured to continue to represent the fine Citizens of Region 2.

Citizenship continues to steadily grow across the province and in our region. Our regional registry sessions have been well attended. There have also been many in office visits to complete applications. Much time is spent assisting with the application process, questions, and commissioning of the required documents with the application. Fortunately, we now have two Commissioners of Oath in our office. Because of the pandemic, most council, committee, and board meetings - both internal and external - have been virtual yet have remained effective. Much time is dedicated to the boards and committees for the Region, many of which I am a part of. All the boards bring value to the Nation and its Citizens and is time well spent.

I have proudly been representing the region and Métis community for eight years on the board of directors at Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA), a community-based synergy group. Additionally I sit on the Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) for the Beaver River Watershed, and airshed zone. WPAC is focused on environmental monitoring, environmental management, and community education and outreach. Their vision is very much in line with what our Métis Citizens and communities want: an environment that is ecologically healthy and sustainable. Our land, water and air are most important to our culture and way of life. Sitting at this table also give us an opportunity to network with industry leaders, follow what's happening in the region, and ensure that the project and work is environmentally friendly. Another committee which is a sub-committee of LICA is the Education and Outreach Committee which I also have been a member of for about six years. This board provides free educational resources and support for environmental topics. Many programs and initiatives are delivered to schools and communities in the area. I volunteer extra time for events and delivery of the programming. This is so valuable to our community as it provides information on the importance of sustaining our environment to the youth who are, after all, our future. Of course, any board and committee requires structure and governance. I have proudly been part of LICA'S governance committee for the last five years. This is very valuable experience but requires a lot of preparation time before meetings. Bylaws are continually being refined and/or changed to better reflect the operations of the organization. Being part of this committee has been a valuable experience.

Assisting and helping Citizens has always been a focus of my position here as MNA Region 2 President. Mental health is an area of concern and something that requires attention, especially within our youth population. About a year ago I was asked to join a committee to address mental health issues within the youth in the community. We needed a place for youth to come and feel comfortable so they could get the help they needed and be directed to the services available. The group is called,

"The Hive" and is an integration of health and social services in a youth-friendly environment. Local agencies and service providers ensure all youth needs are met through compassionate care and collaboration. We are a wide and diverse group of stakeholders which is led by the primary care network. The stakeholders represent a wide variety of community groups, social agencies, and educational and health networks to make up the steering committee. It is similar in nature to our regional Community Wellness Program and opens us up to more access to available services. Recently, I have connected our Community Wellness Coordinator and our Youth Coordinator to this organization. Together we will make an impact on the mental health issues facing our youth in the community.

Another committee I have been invited to be a part of is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Committee in Bonnyville. This committee was formed out of the need to start a group that would collaborate to create awareness and hold events to recognize National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (previously "Orange Shirt Day"). Included is the remembrance of the missing children and the sad legacy of Canada's residential school system and its impacts on our community. A large event is being planned for this day in 2022.

Some of the most enjoyable work I have been involved with is the Métis Crossing Advisory Committee and Métis Crossing Ventures Ltd. Board. Métis Crossing holds a special place in my heart as it does for many. It's a place that is welcoming and showcases the Métis so well. It is a place we can all feel at home.

Originally, I was appointed to the board of the Métis Crossing Advisory Committee in 2014 when I was the Minister of Culture, Seniors, and Veterans. This board provided direction and advice on the development of the Métis Crossing as we see it today. The Cultural Gathering Centre, The Lodge at Métis Crossing, Vision, Hopes and Dreams Wildlife Park, veteran's monument, and Métis Crossing Solar Project are some of the developments I've been involved with. There are many future attractions to come at Métis Crossing, which is quickly becoming a major Indigenous tourist attraction in Alberta. The board has transitioned into Métis Crossing Ventures Ltd. Board of Directors, and I continue to enjoy working with this board that focuses on the business and operational side of everything at Métis Crossing. The work is exciting, fun, and very rewarding as it's for the Citizens of the Métis Nation. It also allows tourists to play an interactive role in learning and exploring Métis Culture. It promotes our valuable history and highlights our unique culture.

Being involved in community is so important, so I attend as many community events as possible. I have again been honoured to attend many of the high school graduations in the region. I have presented Métis sashes to graduates of Notre Dame High School in Bonnyville as well as BCHS. I was also requested to present a sash to a Métis graduate at the new school, Light of Christ.

I have attended several flag raising events throughout the community, the latest being the raising of the Métis Ukrainian flags at Bonnyville Town Hall and Canadian Armed Forces Base 4-Wing in Cold Lake.

I also attend as many registry events as possible in the region to help and welcome new potential members. National Indigenous Peoples Day was a busy one this year and I again participated in two events as I usually do each year. I attended the Indigenous Day events in Cold Lake at

the Art Smith Aviation Academy as well as the Bonnyville Friendship Centre celebrations. This year I participated in the Canada Day Parade in Bonnyville and am a member of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

Region 2 looks forward to working with the provincial office on the development of the MNA Constitution. More participation and more meaningful engagement will help ensure the Constitution has included the needs of Citizens and valuable advancements of the MNA. Region 2 continues to seek valuable partnerships that will provide more economic growth, opportunities and supports for our Citizens. We look forward to improved services and growth in all departments. Ashley, our Consultation Coordinator, has worked very hard and has yielded us great outcomes. We have never experienced such involvement from our Citizens before and we will continue to include more. I know she will continue to work hard. We look forward to many more engagements in the coming year and more Citizen involvement. Our Tenant Relations Officer, Caitlin looks to improve the services we provide to our Citizens and plans on attending and facilitating community engagements to promote Métis Housing and just letting more of the community know we are here. She has brought a lot to our region, and we look forward to her great work as well.

Jade, our Regional Youth Coordinator, will continue to help with provincial initiatives, regional events, and programming while continuing to network with the community and make more connections. Jade will also continue to hold youth activity night on Thursdays at the Region 2 office. She's been an asset to both the community and specifically to Region 2 youth.

Gina, our Community Wellness Coordinator, continues to grow into her position quite effectively and we look forward to her involvement in the community and providing adequate supports and advocacy for Citizens in mental health and community wellness.

In June, a special assembly was held to ask the Citizens to support an extended term of the elected Provincial Council. This was so we can continue the work and provide continued support in making the Constitution a reality. It also allows us to go into a new election under the new constitution model and our own new self-governance structure.

Thank you to the great team in Region 2 for helping us to flourish and for providing great services for our Citizens. Thank you to the fine Citizens of Region 2 for allowing me to represent you on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

– Duane Zaraska, President Region 2

Vice President Report

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to have a significant impact on how Region 2 connected with our community in 2021/2022, we were fortunate to still be able to have some in-person events.

I continue to sit as treasurer on the Bonnyville Indian-Métis Rehabilitation Centre board. We have had a busy year reviewing, editing, and making additions to the Policy & Procedure Manual, researching the addition of detox beds, and planning a Memorial barbecue for board members that have passed.

Throughout 2021/2022, Region 2 continued to provide financial support to seniors and Citizens that had lost their jobs or experienced reduced hours due to the impact of COVID-19. I also continue to support and assist the Region 2 Consultation Coordinator, Ashley Shaw and Youth Coordinator, Jade Fleury, when needed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our administrative assistant, Viola Schaumberger, for her dedication and hard work.

Justice Initiatives

- Attended the Alberta Restorative Justice virtual conference and continue to support and advocate for the Lakeland Restorative Justice Committee.
- Attended a preliminary meeting with Chief Judge The Honourable D.G. Redman from the Provincial Court of Alberta to discuss Indigenous issues in the justice system.
- Along with Elder and Residential School Survivor, Francis Dumais, I attended the Métis Nation of Alberta Residential School Survivor roundtable event.
- Attended The Centre for Race & Culture Events.
- Assisted in the planning of the Cold Lake MMIWG event and had the honour of being asked to participate in the Images Studio REDress photo series along with President Audrey Poitras and the Region 2 New Dawn Métis Women's Society representative Paulette Dahlseide.
- Attended the Indigenous Public Legal Education Session at Portage College.
- Worked with New Dawn Métis Women's Society on a Violence Against Indigenous Women Initiative.
- Continue to support and advocate for the Sansom and Cardinal families. The families of Morris and Jake would like to thank the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Citizens for their ongoing support and prayers during this difficult time.

Health and Wellness Initiatives

- Over the last year I have continued to assist the Region 2 New Dawn Métis Women's Society Mental Wellness Committee with wellness and cultural programming. We have been able to have both virtual and in person events, such as beginner yoga, tea teachings, senior's mental health first aid, beading workshops, Bannock & Boulette's Kitchen Party, rug making and distributed women's wellness kits. We are pleased to announce that we were able to once again receive grant funding through the Alberta Rural Mental Health Network. This grant funding will allow us to continue supporting the Métis women in Region 2 by offering more wellness and cultural programming. A big thank you to Paulette Dahlseide, Vyna Fluney, Rhonda Hodgson, Carrie Goldsmith, Raylene Gunderson, and Jade Fleury for pursuing this grant and mental wellness initiative.

- With funding provided by a provincial office mental wellness grant we have been able to hire Gina Levasseur as a Region 2 Community Wellness Coordinator. Gina is assisting Citizens in Region 2 with navigating their mental wellness journey. Gina has taken the organization of the Finding your Rhythm – Mental Health & Addiction Series off of my plate and has already had one fantastic session featuring Alex Kusturok, Rayden Cardinal, and Shayne Courtorielle. One of our mutual goals is to find more grant funding to continue this series and to provide more programming, such as grief & loss workshops and mens and Elder mental health supports.
- Working with Lakeland Centre for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to provide education to Region 2 Citizens.
- Participated in the Women of the Métis Nation – Les Femme Michif Otipimisiwak Métis Women's Voices in Health Legislation roundtable sessions.
- Attended the Alberta Health Services – Welcome to North virtual session. Some of the topics and concerns discussed were Indigenous mental health supports, racism in healthcare, and the lack of doctors and other healthcare providers in the province's North Zone.

Cultural Initiatives

- Attended Métis flag raising ceremonies in Smoky Lake and Bonnyville.
- Along with Gary Gagnon, Vice President Region 4, I was invited to present Métis sashes to Dr. Dayle Poitras-Oster, in recognition of her completing her schooling in veterinary medicine and to Dr. Savannah Howse-Smith. The sash presentation was featured on the "Kitchen Party" episode of Dr. Savannah – Wild Rose Vet on APTN. It was an honour to be asked to be a part of this special day.
- Attended the Stories of Métis Women – *Tales my Kokum Told Me* book launch.
- Attended Batoche Days.
- Participated in the Métis Crossing buffalo release.
- Attended various Métis Week events including:
  - Portage College – Métis flag raising and interviewed Elder Francis Dumais in a virtual event – *Conversations with Elder Dumais*.
  - Rupertsland Institute – Métis Memories of Residential Schools and the unveiling of the mural mosaic.
  - Edmonton Public Library's *The Forgotten People* film screening.

- Participated in the Fishing Lake Remembrance Day ceremony.
- Attended the opening of Portage College's Indigenous Culture space – *Naniskah*.
- Presented Métis History & Collective Rights to Grade 9–12 students at École Mallaig school.
- Along with the St. Paul de Métis Museum Committee presented *Rewriting the History* – St. Paul de Métis Museum Project at the Mawachihitotack – Let's Get Together conference.
- Lakeland College – Along with Knowledge Holder, Vyna Fluney and on behalf of New Dawn Métis Women's Society, we presented the Vermillion campus a copy of *Stories of Métis Women – Tales My Kokum told Me*, a Métis Sash, and culture cards.
- Attended the 2022 Esquao Awards where our very own Dr. Dayle Poitras-Oster received the award for health & medicine.
- I was honoured to be asked to attend the Lieutenant Governor Distinguished Arts Awards at Portage College.

- Attended the following Indigenous Peoples Day Events:
  - 4-Wing Cold Lake Métis flag raising
  - Cold Lake Friendship Centre celebration & feast
  - REDress Day Exhibit at Hotel Dene
- Attended Métis Fest 2022

Métis Nation of Alberta Events

- Provincial Council meetings
- Rupertsland Institute shareholders annual meeting
- 2021 general assembly
- Métis National Council general assembly
- Constitution engagement sessions in Cold Lake, Lloydminster, and St. Paul

- Audrey Poitras Golf Tournament – volunteered
- Andy Collins Memorial Golf Tournament – volunteered and participated
- Children and Family Services C-92 Advisory Committee
- Supporting the development of the Family Reunification Program in Bonnyville

As I continue to work on both regional and provincial initiatives, it is an honour to serve and represent the Citizens of Region 2. I would like to thank the Citizens of Region 2 for their support and encouragement over the last year.

Respectfully submitted.
Take care and safe travels.
– Andrea Sandmaier, Vice President Region 2 ■

REGION THREE

Lawrence Gervais
President
Region Three

Judy Gentes
Vice President
Region Three

Region Report

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Region 3 office was open by appointment from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Regional staff worked from home with many coming in at least once a week. During the pandemic there were weekly online staff meetings to stay connected and served as an opportunity to provide an update while an Elder was in attendance. There was continual MNA Citizenship registration support, with calls averaging between 10 to 15 per day.

COVID-19

During the various COVID-19 vaccination phases, MNA Region 3 office partnered with Siksika Health Services, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, and OKAKI to provide access to our MNA members all first, second, and third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Region 3 is proud to report we vaccinated 6,300 of our MNA Citizens in Region 3 and we are very proud of this accomplishment and the support of Siksika Nation.

Regional COVID-19 Supports

MNA Region 3 graciously received two separate funding allotments for COVID-19 relief from the MNA. We decided that $200,000 was to be given to the MNA Region 3 locals and payments received were based upon population percentage of MNA members within each MNA local community.

- MNA Local 8 Medicine Hat – 755 MNA Citizens. $9,560.00 paid out to the Local.
- MNA Local 87 Calgary – 9,187 MNA Citizens. $116,300.00 paid out to the Local.

- MNA Local 121 Cochrane and Banff – 647 MNA Citizens. $8,200.00 paid out to the Local.
- MNA Local 492 Red Deer – 2,919 MNA Citizens. $36,960.00 paid out to the Local.
- MNA Local 845 Rocky Mountain House – 579 MNA Citizens. $7,340.00 paid out to the Local.
- MNA Local 1880 Pincher Creek – 476 MNA Citizens. $6,020.00 paid out to the Local.
- MNA Local 2003 Lethbridge – 1,233 MNA Citizens. $15,620.00 paid out to the Local.

On December 6, 2021 a letter was sent out to each MNA Local in Region 3 requesting detailed COVID-19 funding reports which were intended to provide transparency on how locals spent the first installment of the $20,000 received from the 2021 COVID-19 support fund for families/Citizens and seniors. We also requested a detailed financial report on the COVID-19 support funding they received from the second installment of $200,000. This letter also requested a proposed budget on how they were going to disburse the final payout that would come from the third installment of $300,000. We sent a reminder on March 21, 2022 and a final reporting deadline on June 16, 2022. To date MNA Local 8 – Medicine Hat, MNA Local 1880 – Pincher Creek, and MNA Local 2003 – Lethbridge have not submitted any reporting on how these funds were spent to date. MNA Local 845 – Rocky Mountain House, MNA Local 492 - Red Deer, and MNA Local 87 – Calgary have submitted some format of reporting but that is also incomplete.

COVID-19 Wellness Fund

MNA Region 3 received $112,500 from the MNA for COVID-19 wellness. After much consideration as to how we could best serve the members, we decided to put this funding towards reopening the office to our members after a long pandemic. Our plan was to bring members back together in-person again. We chose the areas of senior supports, business mixers, and youth activities. We hired a community liaison in January of 2022. We also began to open to the youth by offering the space for weekly jigging lessons and providing weekly youth nights where they can gather and undertake cultural activities such as finger weaving, Michif language games, beading, etc. We found members were very eager and appreciative of the opportunities to be together again, network, and meet and greet each other. It's been a very new and important aspect to our office space.

We initiated a monthly newsletter posted on our Facebook, distributed in schools and sent out to MNA members via email. It's been successful in relaying key messages to members and providing community updates on the important aspects of the region.

Annual Region 3 Consultation Activity Report

Region 3 Consultation Staff:

Region 3 Consultation Coordinator: Nicole Shepherd (Start Date: July 9, 2018).

Fiscal Year: April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

Meetings

MNA Provincial Office Internal Meetings:	
MNA Head Office	3
MNA Consultation Team	39
MNA Consultation Team: Project Specific Preparation	19
MNA Other	1
MNA Region 3 Internal Meetings:	
MNA Region 3 Consultation Committee	5
MNA Region 3 Council	2
MNA Region 3 Staff	35
MNA Region 3 Consultation	24
MNA Region 3 Elder	32
MNA Region 3 Contractor	31
MNA Region 3 Finance	10
MNA Local Consultation	9
MNA Citizen Meetings:	
Parks Canada Policies for Management of Heritage	2
Resources at Parks Canada MNA R3 Citizens	2
Coal mine MNA R3 Citizens	5
Citizen meet/Rockyview School Board	1
Consultation General	2
Airshed Meetings:	
CRAZ Airshed	15
PAMZ Airshed	2
PAS Airshed	2
Government of Canada (GoC):	
Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	3
Parks Canada	2
Impact Assessment Agency Canada (IAAC)	4
Infrastructure Canada (INFC)	3
Department of Fish and Oceans (DFO)	1
RCMP	1
Government of Alberta (GoA):	
Alberta Culture Multiculturalism & Status of Women	14
Alberta Human Rights Commission/I ndigenous Human Rights Strategy	1
Alberta Coal Policy	4
Alberta Environment & Parks	6
Alberta Health	2

Industry Meetings:

Cabin Ridge Limited	4
Montem Resources	8
Riversdale Resources	2
Teck Resources	10
NWP Coal	6
Atrum	1
Enbridge	2
Altalink	6
CNRL/4-21 liner pull	1
IPL/Milk River Pipeline Abandonment	1
TC Energy	2
Heritage Park/Indigenous Engagement	1
Rise Consulting/ID9	1
Wood/Dickson Dam	1
Capital Power/Halkirk 2 Wind Project	1

Municipality Meetings:

City of Red Deer	2
Town of Black Diamond project	1
City of Calgary Parks project	5
City of Medicine Hat Boat Launch project	1
Municipality District of Taber/Horsefly Spillway Project	1
Town of Banff/Central Park Pedestrian Bridge Project	1
City of Calgary Heritage	1
City of Lethbridge	1
City of Calgary/IRO	1
City of Calgary Downtown Flood Barrier a nd Public Realm Improvements	1
City of Calgary Anti-Racism Strategy	5
Calgary Economic Development	1
Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB)	1
City of Calgary River Valleys Plan (CRVP) Indigenous Engagement Framework	1
City of Calgary Arts Common	2
City of Calgary – Indigenous Gathering Place (IGP)	3
City of Calgary – River & Valleys (CRVP)	1
City of Calgary/Métis Plan	1
City of Calgary Art Project/Métis Trail	2
Fort Calgary	1

Other Meetings:

Terrestrial Cumulative Effect Initiative (TCEI)	1
Prairie Link High Speed Rail	1
Seven Brothers Circle	1
Enbridge Update	1
Banff Park Lodge	1
Pioneer Acres	1
Red Deer Indian Industrial School Cemetery/ Unmarked Burials Meeting	1
MNBC/Coal Mine	2
TC Energy/Art Cunningham	1
Glenbow Museum	3
Improvement District 9 (ID9)	1
Calgary Catholic Diocese/Residential Schools	1
Canmore Tourism Framework	2
Rocky View Schools/Art Box	1
University of Alberta/Archeological Request – Dog Bones	1
Expert Advisory Panel, Moving People Sustainably in the Banff Bow Valley	1
The Forest – Common Ground Projects	2
Stoney Nakoda Nation	1

Totals:

Internal Meetings:	222
Airshed Meetings:	19
GoC Meetings:	22
GoA Meetings:	27
Industry Meetings:	47
Municipality Meetings:	33
Other Meetings:	23
Grand Total:	393

List of Projects for the Month of March 2022

Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Crescent Road Master Plan	Mar. 9, 2022	This was directed to an Elder and the opportunity may have been missed.	City of Calgary	n/a	N
Banff Indigenous Framework	Mar. 17, 2022	Y	Town of Banff	n/a	N
Western Storm Pond Rehabilita-tion Project	Mar. 21, 2022	Y	The City of Red Deer (ISL Engineering & Land Services Ltd. on their behalf)	Infrastructure Canada (INFC)	
MNAR3 Policy Implementation	Mar. 24, 2022	Y	City of Calgary	n/a	N

List of Projects for the Month of February 2022

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
The Forest Art Project	Feb. 3, 2022	Y	Common Ground	n/a	N
Art Initiative	Feb. 7, 2022	Y	Requested by MNAR3 to the CofC Public Library with no response	n/a	N
Restoring Cultural Burning Practices Workshop	Feb. 21, 2022	Y	Banff Parks Canada	n/a	N
Community Consultation	Feb. 23, 2022	Y	Airdrie Public Library	n/a	N
Indigenous Relations Conversation	Feb. 25, 2022	Y	RCMP	n/a	N

List of Projects for the Month of January 2022

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
St. Dunstan's Calgary Industrial School	Jan. 4, 2022	Y	City of Calgary	n/a	N
Expert Advisory Panel, Moving People Sustainably in the Banff Bow Valley	Jan. 6, 2022	Y	Moving People Sustainably in the Banff Bow Valley	n/a	N
Tent Mountain Renewable Complex	Jan. 12, 2022	Y	Montem Resources Ltd.		
2021 Meter Station and Laterals Abandon-ment Program	Jan. 12, 2022	N	TC Energy	n/a	n/a
Indigenous Gathering Place Land Transfer	Jan. 24, 2022	Y	Region 3 reached out to the City	n/a	N
Shoreline Protection, Red Deer River, Sundre Project	Jan. 25, 2022	Y	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	DFO	

List of Projects for the Month of December 2021

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Archeological Research (Dog Bones)	Dec. 1, 2021	Y	University of Alberta	n/a	N
Training Exercise	Dec. 7, 2021	N	National Defense Canada	n/a	N
New Calgary Cancer Centre	Dec. 9, 2021	Y	Cancer Care Alberta	n/a	N
West Bragg Creek Trails Master Plan	Dec. 14, 2021	Y	AEP (Consultation department reached out to them)	n/a	N
Anti-Racism Elders Circle	Dec. 14, 2021	Y	City of Calgary	n/a	N

List of Projects for the Month of November 2021

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Calgary River Valleys Plan (CRVP) Project	Nov. 12, 2021	Y	City of Calgary	Currently they have not provided enough information to send to the RCC. They said they would follow-up at a later date as they have contacted us early.	
Halkirk 2 Wind Project	Nov. 15, 2021	N	Capital Power	n/a	N
Residential School Talks	Nov. 18, 2021	Y	Calgary Catholic Diocese	n/a	N
Channel Realignment Baptiste River	Nov. 25, 2021	Y	Fisheries and Oceans - DFO	Deadline: Dec. 2, 2021	
Ricardo Ranch	Nov. 29, 2021	Y	City of Calgary (Forwarded by Elder Doreen form Henry Horsefall)	n/a	N

List of Projects for the Month of October 2021

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Red Coulee Gas Pipeline Abandonment	Oct. 1, 2021	Y	Inter Pipeline Ltd.	Note: No construction activities or ground disturbance was completed as part of the field verifications.	
Carbon Trail	Oct. 20, 2021	Y	Pioneer Acres	n/a	N
Calgary Fire Department Flag Installation	Oct. 28, 2021	Y	City of Calgary	n/a	N
Official Bird of Calgary Contest	Oct. 29, 2021	N	Bird Friendly Calgary Team	n/a	N

List of Projects for the Month of September 2021

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Advancing Reconciliation in Improvement District No. 9	Sept. 6, 2021	Y	ID9 – Municipal Government Services for Banff National Park	n/a	N
Red Deer Indian Industrial School	Sept. 15, 2021	Y	Remembering the Children Society	n/a	N
Liner Project at 4-21-29-7W5M	Sept. 23, 2021	Y	CNRL (To Local 845)	Note: Ended up being a pig running through a line to check for defects/it had no defects/no land disturbance or other building.	
Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework Engagement	Sept. 23, 2021	Y	MNA	n/a	N
CNFASAR	Sept. 27, 2021	Y	MNA	DFO	

List of Projects for the Month of August 2021

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Renaming of Bishop Grandin High School	Aug. 9, 2021	Y	Calgary Catholic School District	n/a	N
54L Rebuild Project	Aug. 13, 2021	Y	Altalink	AER	N
Anti-Racism Project	Aug. 17, 2021	Y	City of Calgary	n/a	N
Renaming Haysboro High School	Aug. 17, 2021	Y	Calgary Catholic School District	n/a	N
Revitalization Capital Project	Aug. 18, 2021	Y	Glenbow Museum (Region 3 contacted them)	n/a	N
Residential School Memorial	Aug. 18, 2021	Y	City of Calgary	n/a	N
Reflect, Reimagine and Renew Project	Aug. 23, 2021	Y	Heritage Park	n/a	N
Transportation Master Plan	Aug. 25, 2021	Y	City of Lethbridge	n/a	N

List of Projects for the Month of July 2021

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Indigenous Advisory Circle	July 10, 2021	Y	Rocky View School Board	n/a	N
Esther-Smiley Pipeline Abandonment	July 13, 2021	N	MIPL (Sent to President Poitras)	n/a	N
Retirement Community & Family Housing	July 19, 2021	Y	Box Built Homes	n/a	N
City of Red Deer Civic Yards and Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Berms	July 16, 2021	Y	City of Red Deer Via a contractor called WSP	INFC	N
2021 Red Deer Outfalls: Outfall 102, 105, 116 and 198	July 28, 2021	Y	City of Red Deer via ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd.	INFC	N

List of Projects for the Month of June 2021

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Ya Ha Tinda Ranch Archeological Find	June 8, 2021	Y	Parks Canada	n/a	N
Calgary Renaming Committee	June 11, 2021	Y	Haltie Group	n/a	N
Milk River Pipeline	June 14, 2021	N	Inter Pipeline Ltd.	n/a	N

List of Projects for the Month of May 2021

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Construction of the Rocky Mountain Cadet Camp Multipurpose Building	May 3, 2021	Y	Department of National Defense	n/a	N
City of Medicine Hat Fire Station #1 Boat Launch	May 7, 2021	Y	City of Medicine Hat	INFC	Possibly through AER
Proposed Railway Lands Area Redevelopment Plan	May 12, 2021	Y	Town of Banff	n/a	N
Town of Canmore Tourism Master Plan	May 19, 2021	Y	Stormy Lake Consulting	n/a	N
Medicine Hat Pedestrian Bridge Deck Repair and Replacement	May 25, 2021	Y	City of Medicine Hat	INFC	Possibly through AER

List of Projects for the month of April 2021

Notification: Project name	Date Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
1976 Coal Policy	Mar. 1, 2021 (Forgot to put this in the last report)	Y	Alberta Energy	AER	N
Banff Central Park Pedestrian Bridge Project	Apr. 2, 2021	Y	Town of Banff	INFC	N
Training Project	Apr. 21, 2021	Y	Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB)	n/a	N
Managing World Heritage Sites in Alberta Project	Apr. 28, 2021	Y	University of Athabasca	n/a	N

List of Projects Ongoing for the 2020 Fiscal Year

Notification: Project name	Month/Year Received:	Actioned? (Y/N)	Proponent/ Notification source	Regulator (e.g., AER, AEP, CER, Transport Canada)	Impact assessment required through IAAC (Y/N)
Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway Phase 1	3/2021	Y	Municipal District of Taber	Infrastructure Canada (INFC)	N
Dickson Dam Capacity Enhance-ment Project	2/2021	Y	Alberta Transportation/ INFC made contact	Infrastructure Canada (INFC)	Y
Calgary Parks Study Phase 1 Project	1/2021	Y	City of Calgary	n/a	N
Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative Engagement	11/2020	Y	MNA	n/a	N
Central East Transfer-Out Project	11/2020	Y	Atco	AUC	
Deerfoot Trail Expansion Project	10/2020	Y	AB Transportation	AB Transportation	N
Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project	10/2020	Y	NWP Coal Canada Ltd./ MNA R3 made initial contact	CER/ IAAC	Y
Fording River (Castle) Project	10/2020	Y	Teck Coal/ MNA R3 made initial contact	CER/IAAC	Y
Tail Creek	10/2020	Y	Alberta Culture	n/a	N
Provost to Edg-erton Transmis-sion Develop-ment Project	9/2020	Y	Altalink/Contacted R2 not R3/ MNA R3 made initial contact	AER	N
Cabin Ridge Project	7/2020	Y	Cabin Ridge Ltd./ MNA R3 made initial contact	CER/IAAC	Y
Métis Policy	6/2020	Y	City of Calgary	n/a	N
Elan Hard Coking Coal Project	5/2020	Y	Atrum Coal/ MNA R3 made initial contact	CER/IAAC	Y

Projects Ongoing to Date from Previous Years:

- Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative/NRCAN (Nov. 24, 2020)
- NGTL West Path Delivery 2023/TC Energy (Nov. 7, 2019)
- Central East Transfer-Out Project/Altalink (July 18, 2019)
- Michel Coal Mine/North Coal/CEAA (June 7, 2019)
- Tent Mountain Mine/Lifeways of Canada (May 22, 2019)
- Indigenous Advisory Circle Banff/Parks Canada (Approx. Nov. 13, 2018)
- Indigenous Relations Governance Model/City of Calgary (April 30, 2018)
- Bow River Reservoir Options (Phase 2)/AEP (Aug. 23, 2017)
- Métis Trail Public Art Project-City of Calgary (Oct. 17, 2013)

Completed TLU/TK Studies, etc. in the last fiscal year:2

NOTE: This does not include any work that may have occurred from time to time for regions other than MNA Region 3.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Shepherd via email **nshepherd@metis.org** or call **(403) 569-8800**.

MNA Region 3 – Métis Historian – Matt Hiltermann

We have been very grateful to have a historian that has agreed to provide written reviews, written Traditional Land Use studies, and historical written submissions on behalf of the Southern Alberta Métis historical landscape.

- Between Buffalo and Forts: Métis Middlemen, the Blackfoot Trade, and Métis-Blackfoot Relations to 1877
- GOA grant-funded study into Métis Kinscapes in Southern Alberta and how they related to the role of Métis middlemen in the pemmican trade
  May 2021 – April 2022
- TLU survey of Métis land use and land claims in the Calgary Area
  July 2021 – January 2022
- Consultation with Michif Media on MNA Region 3 virtual tours
  April – October 2021
- Consultation and report on potential Métis archeological findings at Ya Ha Tinda
  November 2021 – February 2022
- MNA Region 3 representative on Calgary Naming Committee
  April 2021 – April 2022
- MNA Region 3 representative on Fort Calgary Indigenous Advisory Committee
  April 2021 – April 2022
- MNA Region 3 representative on Lougheed House Reimagined Committee
  April 2021 – April 2022

Michif Coordinator Report – Pe Kis Kwe Win Program

April – December 2021

- Developed the Michif word game Lii Moo Mataway
- Connected and worked with various artists on Li Moo Matatway artwork
- Connecting with local contractors to produce game pieces. i.e., tiles, board, box, etc.
- Continual 'test-plays' of Li Moo Mataway and iterating gameplay mechanics
- Filming for virtual tour, traveling to 10 locations across Southern Alberta
- Organized and planned film crew trips to the 10 locations, conducted on-location interviews, and coordinated with Parks Canada to film in provincial parks.
- Hired professional drone pilot to take aerial panorama photos/videos
- Collaborated with Region 3 historian to create content for virtual tour
- Created the 'digital panoramas' for virtual tour
- Creating six language lessons and accompanying workbooks
- Interviewed community elders for language lessons
- Collaborated with one Community Elder and one part-time teacher to create lesson plan
- Filmed six language lessons
- Applied for grant funding to Heritage Canada for 2022–2023

January – March 2022

- Created multiple Michif movie posters for regional office & podcast room
- Continued work on the digital panoramas for virtual tour
- Created all icons for virtual tour
- Interviewed Region 3 historian for language lesson podcasts
- Interviewed community Elder for language lesson podcasts
- Interviewed Michif teacher for language lesson podcasts
- Interviewed community Elder in Edmonton for language lesson podcasts
- Printed and produced all pieces for Lii Moo Mataway
- Started to work on Michif comic book for youths

Tail Creek Park Development

Background

Since the Region acquired what is now Tail Creek Park from the County of Stettler in 2007, it has had the goal of further developing the facilities and the tourism potential of this historic Métis property. This park was part of a Métis Hivernant community of 400 cabins and 2,000 people in the 1870s.

After preparing a Tourism Development Strategy for the Park, the Region was able to leverage funding to prepare a Campground Expansion Business Plan in conjunction with Stantec Consulting Ltd.'s Design Narrative. These planning documents were the basis of a funding application to Alberta's Aboriginal Business Investment Fund which had recently become available to Métis applicants, having formerly been restricted to First Nations.

This application secured Alberta government funding to conduct a Site Development Expansion Plan to further support the application.

Recent Developments

This application was successful in obtaining a grant of $748,000 of a maximum of $750,000 for further development of Tail Creek Park. The funding is for three key elements including a new facility; campsite development; and shower house renovations.

Current Status

A multi-purpose building has been designed which is made up of three separate, but connected, custom-designed manufactured buildings which include: a manager's residence; a Cultural Interpretive Centre; and a campground office/snack bar/convenience and souvenir Store. Quotes for prices have been sought from contractors for electrical work, trenching, decking, foundations earthworks, painting, and septic services.

After making a presentation to the County's Municipal Planning Commission, a decision letter was received listing some 27 conditions and seven notations which have to be met prior to the issuance of a building permit. One of these conditions requires the filing of a Stormwater Management Plan. This has proven to be a significant obstacle as no current information on the 1:100-year flood level is available and estimates for a modelling study show the cost is prohibitive. The region had asked the county to waive this condition, which had originally been suggested by the county, but this request was denied. The region had identified alternatives for the county's consideration, but again was denied. The region is in discussions with engineering firms to find a way to break past this impasse.

Plans had been made to expand the number of RV sites with electrical power. A start on this work was made but the early onset of winter had delayed its completion until spring. The washhouse was professionally repainted, a project which has received positive comments from the public. As well, utilizing Mary Pupo's Urban Indigenous Infrastructure Funding, low-hanging electrical lines were relocated, building and street lighting were converted to LEDs, new electrical heaters and hot water tanks were installed in the washhouse, toilets and shower heads were replaced with low-flow alternatives, and damaged and outdated electrical plugs and panels were replaced.

These changes improved safety and lowered operating costs by switching from propane to self-generated solar power and reducing electrical and water consumption through more energy-efficient devices.

Campground Operations

The region reopened Tail Creek Park to the public during the 2021 operating season, but restricted camping to persons having self-contained RVs due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions.

After having experienced an ice jamming event on the Red Deer River in late April of 2020, there was no repeat of this event this year.

The Region allowed the campground managers to stay at the park over the off-season. This provided a higher level of security, and there were no incidents of theft or

vandalism. The Region acquired a sea-going container which provided better protection for equipment. The managers have been able to have derelict buildings and vehicles removed from the park at no cost, improving both safety and the appearance of the grounds.

Recruiting efforts took place to have two Métis students work for the upcoming summer season.

Tobacco Reduction Program

The Tobacco Reduction Program offers three commercial tobacco reduction interventions: QuitCore, Peer Support Group, and Quit Retreat. Each intervention provides MNA Citizens with resources and tools to support their commercial tobacco-related health goals. These culturally relevant interventions are an opportunity to connect with other Métis Albertans going through a similar experience of reducing or quitting their tobacco in a safe environment.

Tobacco Reduction Program Annual Report

The Métis Nation of Alberta Tobacco Reduction Program has offered three tobacco reduction interventions over the past year.

Intervention 1: QuitCore (QC) is a free group support program (online and in-person) that provides individuals with the tools, strategies, and skills they need to reduce or quit their tobacco use. It also provides an opportunity to share and connect with other MNA Citizens who are trying to achieve similar tobacco-related goals. QC consists of six sessions which occur once a week for 120 minutes. Topics covered include, but are not exclusive to, tobacco cessation techniques, stress management, nutrition and physical exercise, individual goal planning, and relapse prevention. Sessions are facilitated by the MNA's Community Prevention Practitioner (CPP) and an Alberta Health Services (AHS) co-facilitator. At the end of the program, participants receive a QuitKit and a $500 Nicotine Replacement Therapy Benefit Coverage Card. Since January 2021, 70 Métis Albertans have completed QC.

Intervention 2: QuitCore Peer Support Group (PSG) is paired with QC. Those who graduate from QC are eligible to join our PSG and gain access to continued support and connection following the completion of QC. From February to May 2021, 20 Métis Albertans were enrolled in the PSG.

Intervention 3: Quit Retreat (QR) is a cultural intervention partnered with Métis Crossing to bring QC graduates and their families together to enjoy a weekend on the land connecting to traditional Métis cultural practices. Culture plays an important role in an individual's commercial tobacco cessation. The first QR occurred virtually on July 17, 2021. Some of the activities included a traditional tea ceremony, canvas dot painting, and finger weaving. 14 participants attended our first QR.

Tobacco Reduction Program Coming Up

The Tobacco Reduction Program will be hosting QC, PSG, and the second QR. The MNA Region 3 Calgary office will host the first in person QC from October 4 – November 8, 2022. Virtual programming for QC will start up again in the fall, with our first program running Tuesday's September 13 – October 18, 2022, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. and Thursday's November 3 – December 8, 2022, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Coming fall of 2022, the PSG will relaunch and those that have graduated from any MNA QC will have an opportunity to reconnect and access ongoing peer support from others who have experienced QuitCore and are going through a similar journey. Lastly, September 16 – 18, 2022, we are happy to announce a second QR that will be occurring in-person, on the land, at Métis Crossing.

Youth Report

- Jigging lessons – in-person
- Youth group – in-person
- Easter egg hunt event – in-person
- Hunter education – online
- Babysitting course x2 – virtual
- Slime making – virtual
- Easter bingo – virtual
- Loom beading – in-person
- Youth & seniors – virtual
- Headstrong – virtual
- Métis Fest – virtual and in-person
- Sports and recreation grant

– John Parkins, Project Manager Region 3

Vice President Message

It is great to be back to work after being on a medical leave, to get together with the people. We have beading every Wednesday evening. I've been going to Regional council meetings and provincial council meeting, going out to Tail Creek Campground, the managers are doing an excellent job.

– Judy Gentes, Vice President Region 3 ■

REGION FIVE

Elmer Gullion
President
Region Five

Hilda Lambert
Vice President
Region Five

Leadership Address

Good day everyone, it has been a busy year, but it has been an honour to serve our Region 5 Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Citizens in several capacities. We launched our new website and Facebook page in August 2021 and we are happy to be able to better inform our Citizens through these social media platforms, with great thanks to Saltmedia Inc. as they also revamped our organization. We also want to acknowledge Buffalo Tribune for their great work assisting us with developing wonderful videos and posters for our Youth Culture Camp, and for numerous events and workshops we hosted over the fiscal year. We have some new dynamic staff, we are pleased to welcome them to our MNA Region 5 team, who have worked hard to assist Citizens alongside us throughout the pandemic and as we recover from the many challenges and losses that this has presented all of us.

Economic Development

Region 5 has also developed and is establishing a new Region 5 Economic Development Council thanks to our hardworking Consultation Coordinator. The S-11 Logging three party partnership company is doing well, although there was a slow period where there was no logging occurring last fall. In partnership with the Wabasca Métis Local #90 we worked together to assist mobilizing their Fire Smart & Fire Tack Crew with employment for the spring.

Utilizing funds from our S-11 trust account, we had some repairs and renovations to our adjacent office in our building in preparation for opening an education centre. MNA affiliate, Rupertsland Institute plans to open an employment centre there in September 2022 and we expect Slave Lake Adult Education will also move in to provide other basic training sessions and to assist their CALP, Foundational

Learning clients one-on-one. We value these partnerships greatly and are excitedly planning for a grand opening event together sometime in late 2022.

In March of 2021, with MNA Recreation & Sports sponsorship funds we helped five families with Métis children participating in Native Provincials Hockey. This year in March of 2022, our Region 5 Council approved sponsorship for six families with children registered in Native Provincial Hockey as well as two young adult youth registered in provincial hockey leagues. Parents sent in heartwarming letters of thanks. Other funds from our trust have been used for legal representation toward resolving the Métis Kathleen Land Claim which is still in process. Moving forward our Council plans to develop Regional Student Awards bursaries and sponsor other events with worthwhile initiatives in line with our Métis mission and values.

Annual Events & Program Activities

On June 21,2021, we partnered with the Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre and Scotiabank to host a wonderful National Indigenous Peoples Day event. Region 5 sponsored the Métis Child & Family Jiggers, half the cost of the Rocky Walker band, and Falcon Equipment rentals. We had 150 T-shirts made to gift to those in attendance.

In November 2021, we hosted a flag raising ceremony in partnership with the Town of Slave Lake at their council chambers and outside their building where they now fly our flag permanently. We hosted a few different program distribution days but one of our favourites is the annual Christmas giveaway, which is partially sponsored by TC Energy and for the past two years via Federal COVID-19 funding. We generally have a reporter come to visit and take photos for the local paper, as they often attend our events.

On February 23, 2022, in support of the anti-bullying movement we hosted a distribution day for Citizens, gifting new pink T-shirts we purchased along with Métis Wellness Kits as part of our Métis Ki-Miyo-Machion Mental Health & Wellness Program, funded by Alberta Health Services. We also offered some PPE Supplies (i.e., face masks and COVID-19 testing kits received from MNA provincial office).

We helped host a cultural sharing event along with New Dawn Métis Women's Society Region 5 Interim Representative, Pearl Sandor. It was a whole day of Moccasin making sessions with cultural artist and instructor Bonnie Lamouche of Gift Lake, Alberta. Then we had a presentation from the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network followed by a lovely dinner together where the women were gifted with a flower and Indigenous gift bags containing many activities for mothers and Kokums to do with their children and grandchildren. Delicious meals sponsored by the MNA, and New Dawn Society were also provided. Balloons, gift bags, and door prizes were sponsored by Region 5 and workshop supplies and instruction was sponsored from our Mental Health & Wellness Program funding.

Region 5 Council proudly hosted our first annual Culture Camp for Métis youth 7 Elders in late August of 2021, in partnership with MNA Region 6 and Darrel Anderson, contractor and owner/operator of Osaw Maskwa Boreal Forest Camp in Wabasca-Desmarais, Alberta. Ten youth registered and nine youth successfully completed all projected cultural group activities and learning sessions. It was a real eye opener to see how much work goes into planning an event such as this. Because of COVID-19 restrictions it was a small group to begin with, but we hope to open it up to the province with larger groups of youth in the future, dependent on the structure of the camp and planned activities. We want to acknowledge our Elders and our sponsors: the MNA, Apeetogosan, and TC Energy along with contributions from both MNA Regions 5, 6, and 7.

Youth Programs & Support

Our Regional Youth Coordinator, Dani, also successfully taught some sessions herself, as she is very multi-talented. Other cultural enrichment sessions with Métis artists from our region, and virtual activities completed are as follows:

- Moccasin workshopping with Jennifer Flett
- Beading with Bonnie Lamouche
- Métis dot art for Region 5 Citizens
- Youth hangouts with Pearl Sandor

Virtual programming up to March of 2022

- Métis dot art paint night
- Watercolour paint night – traditional plants focus
- Poetry workshop
- Yoga 101
- Yoga practice series
- Emotional freedom techniques
- Art therapy experience
- Herb garden starter kits

We are grateful for everything that we accomplished over the past year, and we are looking forward to serving our Citizens further in 2022–2023.

Executive Director Report

Tansi, and greetings from Region 5,

Region 5 has been busy this past year assisting the MNA Citizens in our area. Through funding from the MNA, we were able to continue to provide support to the Region 5 Citizens through our COVID-19 Food Support and Utility Relief Programs (FSURP).

There were three utility relief payments made to MNA Citizens who met the eligibility requirements. Region 5 issued three separate utility relief payments, which totalled $126.100.00 to Citizens.

In conjunction with the FSURP, the MNA Region 5 office also offered the COVID-19 Food Supports Program. This program was offered to Métis Elders and families. MNA Citizens were required to hold a valid MNA Citizenship ID, or provide verification from the MNA Provincial Office Department of Registries that their Citizenship was in process. Métis Citizens who applied and met the eligibility requirements received a grocery card for Sobeys or Freson Brothers. Gift cards were mailed out to the Citizens who applied. Through this program, there were 2,150 grocery cards issued to Métis Citizens.

In March of 2021 Region 5 prepared a proposal for submission to the Métis Nation Provincial Office for a Mental Health Program. This program operated out of the Region 5 Office and offers supports to the MNA Citizens of Region 5.

In November, Region 5 hosted a Métis Week event with the Town of Slave Lake, in which our Métis Nation Flag is now proudly flown at the Town Office.

In addition to this, the Region 5 office has also been involved in hosting various other programs including the Youth & Elder Culture Camp in August 2021, Métis Week in November, Christmas Giveaway in December, COVID-19 Supports Program from January 2021 to March 31, 2022, along with various cultural and educational workshops.

In closing, I would like to thank and congratulate the MNA Region 5 office for our hard work and dedication to MNA Citizens, and for providing me the opportunity to work with them in providing these needed services.

Sincerely,
– Brenda Genaille, Executive Director Region 5

2021 – 2022 Reporting Year

Region 5 Consultation Matters

Your MNA Region 5 Consultation office, with the support of the Regional Consultation Committee, has been very busy. We have reviewed many industrial oil and gas projects and forestry projects over the 2021-2022 reporting year. We've been able to place qualified Métis people on the job of undertaking caribou monitoring and Indigenous Pipeline Construction monitoring over the year.

We've also held several virtual meetings with our Citizens in cooperation with the MNA Provincial Office on Terrestrial Cumulative Effects workshops, Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework workshops, Indigenous Impact Assessments, Métis Rights and Consultation engagements, Grizzly Bear information workshops, and Caribou workshops.

Our Economic Development Corporation has worked with TC Energy to provide some of our contractor service partners opportunities to work on TC Energy's NCC HDD Remediation Project and the NCC Red Earth Loop 3 Pipeline Project north of Wabasca and north of Red Earth.

MNA Region 5 Citizen Jamie Chalifoux installing Caribou Cameras

Over the past two years, we've told you MNA Region 5 has presented our Credible Assertion Process and Criteria Application (CAPCA) to the Alberta Government Ministry of Indigenous Relations. In developing our CAPCA, the region, through its work with our contractor had developed several maps and authored a report showing large areas in and around Region 5 where our Citizens hunt and fish, and where we practice our harvesting and cultural activities. It was delivered to the Ministry in February 2021.

The Region 5 Consultation Committee and the MNA believe an Alberta Métis Credible Assertion Decision by the Government of Alberta would ensure that our Lesser Slave Lake Métis Community is properly and justly consulted on projects which could impact our Indigenous rights to be able to hunt and fish.

We believe the Government of Alberta is delaying a decision on our Credible Assertion Process Application. It's been over two years since the MNA Region 5 application has been filed. According to a June 2022 report filed by the provincial Auditor General, the Indigenous Relations Ministry is currently managing 17 active Credible Assertion files, and only one file is moving to the Credible Assertion round table for completion in 2022. It's my view that our Region 5 application, and every other MNA Region's application is delayed within the Indigenous Relations Ministry. This is not how an Indigenous people with over 50,000 Citizens in the province of Alberta should be treated.

I have also been submitting statements of concern to specific Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) projects in Region 5 over the past year. Unfortunately, the AER will not undertake proper Métis Consultation with the MNA Region 5 representative.

On a positive note, MNA President, Audrey Poitras, with provincial council as well as the MNA Consultation Department, has continued to be very supportive of our Métis Rights work in Region 5 and we appreciate the legal support of the staff from Pape Salter Teillet LLP.

The leaders who work for the people of Region 5 are members of the MNA Region 5 Regional Consultation Committee (RCC). They are comprised of Region 5 President Elmer Gullion, Vice-President Hilda Lambert, Wabasca Métis Local #90 President Diane Kim Peredery, Local #90 Vice-President Geraldine Decoine, and Slave Lake President Métis Local #19 Shane Combs.

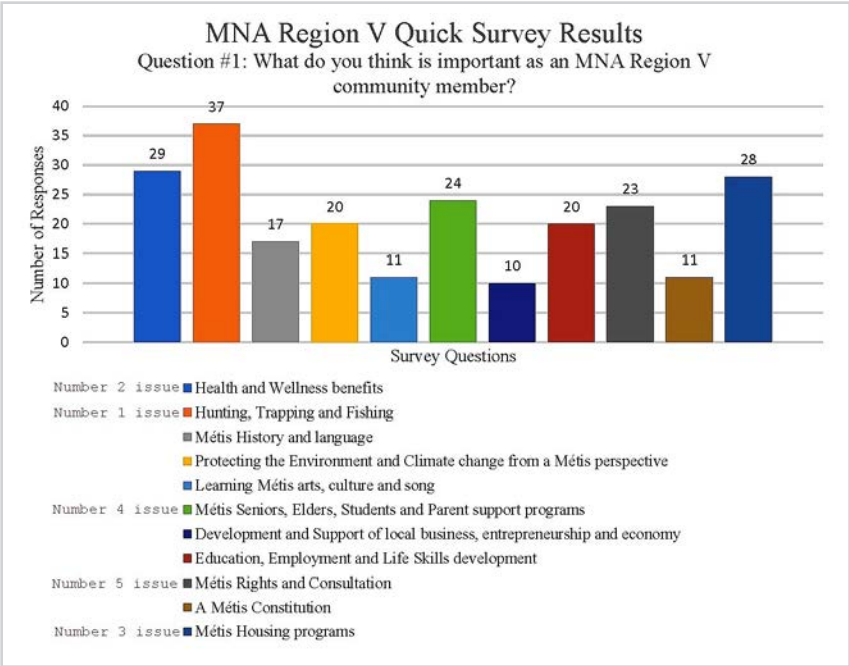
The RCC have met many times over the past 12 months to discuss Métis Rights, court documents involving consultation, regional industrial projects, oil company site visits, and economic development. We work together as a team to bring better opportunities and Métis Rights to the Citizens of Region 5.

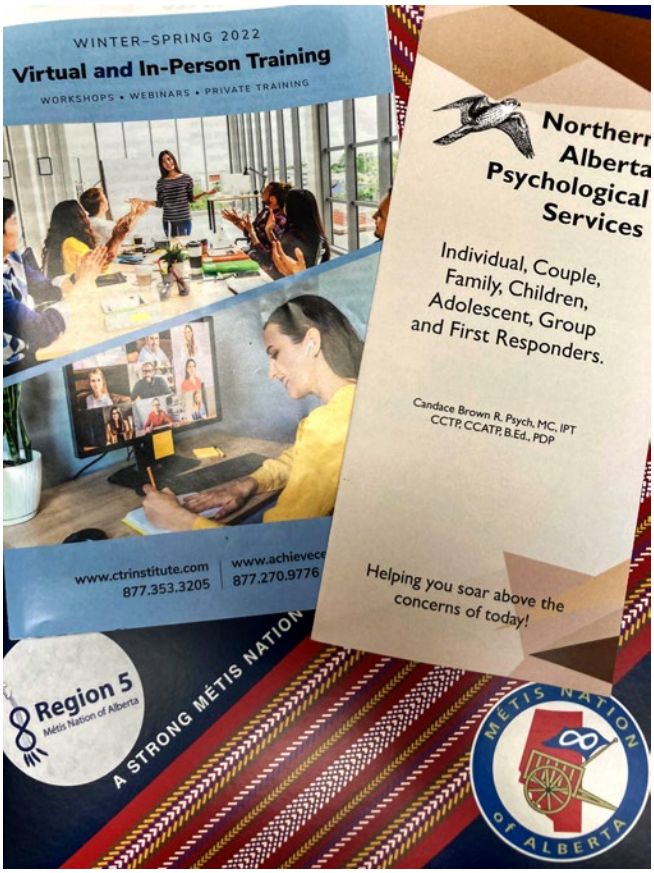
We love to meet and speak with our people so in the spring of 2022, the Region 5 consultation office undertook a series of Métis Rights and Consultation engagement sessions throughout Region 5, as well as bringing to the Elders and knowledge holders storyboard displays to each location. We travelled to Wabasca, Slave Lake, High Prairie, and McLennan to listen to our Citizens and answer their questions. In total, we met and heard from over 50 people who attended the engagements.

Looking back to the 2020 community meetings, Region 5 MNA Citizens completed a 10-question survey. In the survey results, they told us the most important issue to them was hunting, trapping, and fishing (52). The second was Métis rights (47), and the third was health and welfare (44).

During the second meeting held in May 2022, we presented a revised, 11-question survey. In the results the community told us the most important issue was hunting, trapping, and fishing (37). The second was health and wellness benefits (29), and the third was Métis housing programs (28). It's distinctly clear in this informal survey and the stories over the past two years that MNA Citizens of this region value the lands, the water, the animals, and the fish. Our people continue to live a traditional Métis lifestyle as much as their ancestors had done.

See the survey results below.





TC Energy has formed an Indigenous Working Group (IWG) for the Red Earth Caribou Range, and Region 5 is part of the group. Our representatives on the committee are Jamie Chalifoux and myself. I also sit on the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium as the representative for the MNA, and Region 5. I've also recently been appointed to the Indigenous Circle of Experts with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to assist the department in drafting a discussion paper on Indigenous Cooperation Agreements.

This concludes my report, if you have further questions, please call me at (780) 380-1468 or email **wandreeff@metis.org**.

– Walter Andreeff, Consultation Coordinator Region 5

Ki-Miyo Mâchion Métis Mental Health & Wellness Program

This program was created to assist MNA Citizens in Region 5 during the COVID-19 pandemic period. The intent was to help ease the stress of the effects the pandemic by providing social, emotional, and financial supports to our Citizens.

We held virtual mental health workshops delivered by the Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute. In-person workshops were also delivered by professional and cultural facilitators. We addressed general financial basics, as well as cultural teachings such as beaded earrings, moccasin making, dreamcatchers, fish scale art, and dot painting. We were able to promote positive mental health while being careful to follow the guidelines from Alberta Health.

We gave Métis Citizens the opportunity to speak to a mental health professional by offering counselling sessions with a therapist. This service was provided by Northern Alberta Psychological Services and is confidential. Some of our Citizens have seized the opportunity.

The grocery card and utility relief program was also really helpful to the Citizens in our area. They were able to apply for and receive grocery cards and cheques to apply to their utility bills. A good many of our Métis Citizens took this opportunity since the pandemic negatively affected them.

Finally, we have our wellness gift baskets for both men and women. They provided some healthy alternatives to help de-stress. Included were teas, candles, books, bath supplies, gardening items, and fishing lures. We included cultural items like sage, sweetgrass, cedar, and chaga. We received a lot of positive feedback from the recipients.

This program has received many positive verbal reviews from our Region 5 members. Clients are asking what will be offered in the future. Pending funding we would like to continue, as it assists with positive mental wellness, builds cultural pride, and promotes ownership of self.

Wellness Series Cultural Workshops

Workshop 1: Beaded Earrings with facilitator Bonnie Lamouche

Held on February 26, 2022, at the MNA office boardroom. There were six participants. The women that attended had a challenge beading and enjoyed their time learning how to make earrings. Most of the earrings were completed that day, and a couple of people proudly displayed their finished products.

COVID-19 protocols were followed throughout the event. Alberta Health was in stage one of three in the lifting restrictions that had previously been in place.

$50 gas cards were handed out to the participants who attended. This was an incentive and helped to offset travel costs as gas rates are high.

The workshop went from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and lunch was served, prepared by Brenda Genaille. Hilda Lambert, our Vice President joined us at lunch to present our facilitator with a gift and to thank you for teaching us.

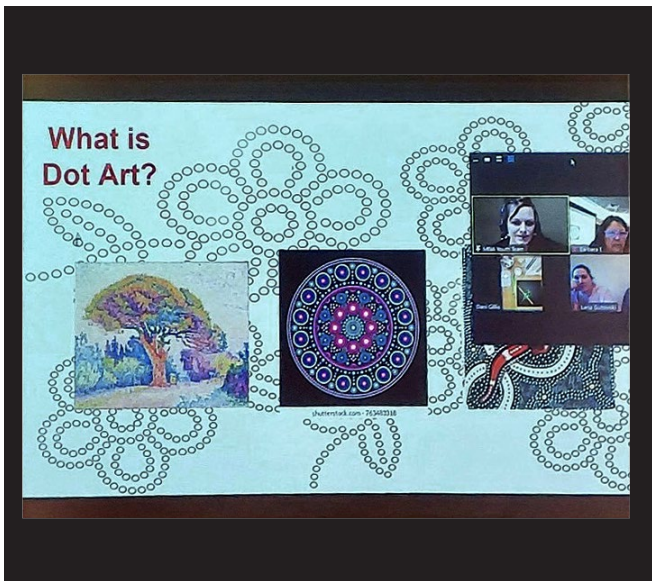
Workshop 2: Fish Scale Art with facilitator Pearl Sandor

This event was held on February 28, 2022, at the Slave Lake Inn and Conference Centre's Medallion Room. We had eight people in attendance. Everyone started with a fridge magnet and then another project of their choice.

Facilitator Pearl Sandor has a large collection of fish scales she collects and prepares for these workshops and has been teaching for years. We were fortunate to

have her come and teach us. Travis Gladue-Beauregard with the Buffalo Tribune was also in attendance and shot a video of the activities. Still pictures were also taken and are available on our MNA Region 5 Facebook page.

Gas cards were once again given to the participants. This was appreciated by the members who came out and enjoyed this cultural activity and took the opportunity to learn a new art.



Workshop 3: Financial Literacy & Wellness with facilitator Amanda McKay, branch manager at Scotiabank and proud MNA Citizen

This was a two-hour interactive workshop held on March 15, 2022. Its' purpose was to help people understand basic finances including how we manage money, where money's value come from, and how those values influence our attitude toward money. Also included were simple budgeting tools and how to make money to work for us.

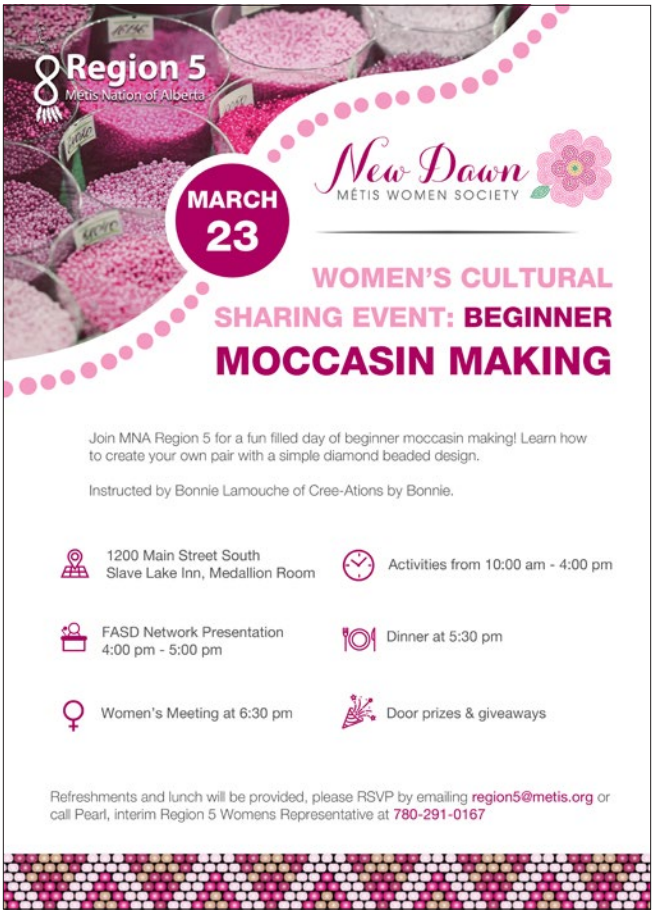
We allotted two hours for the workshop, but we could have used more time. Several participants had questions that took some time to answer, but also led to other pertinent questions. It became apparent that people have interest in how to manage their money, but don't know where to start and feel overwhelmed. In the end we did not complete the entire workbook Amanda had prepared for us. It is our hope we can offer this course over six or more hours, perhaps on a Saturday.

We distributed nine $50 gas cards, with 10 total participants at this informative event. These are highly appreciated, especially with the high cost of fuel.

Workshop 4: Métis Dot Art Painting with facilitator Dani-Elle Gillis held on March 31, 2022

Dani Gillis led the workshop over Zoom as she couldn't be in attendance that evening. We also had a couple participants join us virtually. There were 14 people who attended the workshop in person.

We were taught the basics of dot art painting, and given a history of the art. We were shown examples of paintings by Dani Gillis and some that the youth from her youth program have done. Members or our group had the opportunity to show off their work as the evening progressed.



The workshop was held at the Slave Lake Inn and Conference Centre. A buffet supper was offered. The members also received a $50 gas card for attending. The workshop was quite popular, and I would gladly revisit another paint night, when possible, as I'm sure there is interest.

Workshop 5: Beginner Moccasin Making with Beading facilitated by Bonnie Lamouche

This was a full day workshop held on March 23, at the Slave Lake Inn & Conference Centre. We had 21 participants for this workshop.

We were taught to bead a simple diamond design on cloth to place on our pre-cut moccasins, which came with instructions on how to complete. We had a selection of adult and baby moccasins to choose from, which we had purchased from Halford Hides.

Meals were provided for this day-long event. Seventeen gas cards in the denomination of $50 were distributed to members. The participants had a great time while learning a valuable cultural practice.

– Barbara Emmrich, Outreach Supports Worker Region 5 ■

REGION SIX

Carol Ridsdale
President
Region Six

Barry Dibb
Vice President
Region Six

President's Address

The past year has been a challenging, inspiring, and historic year for Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Region 6. Our Region has continued to address ongoing concerns related to COVID-19 and variants that have impacted the health of Citizens throughout the pandemic. We have addressed the ongoing health concerns in creative, culturally appropriate ways, using locally identified strategies. We have been bombarded with natural disasters, including continued flooding in the northern parts of our Region. This flooding has had significant impacts on our Citizens, displacing them from their homes and communities. However, we are strong and resilient Métis and we continue to meet these challenges head on. Our Citizens' ability to recover from these challenging times is truly inspirational.

Although we still have many problems to address and overcome, we are working diligently to make that happen. Our Region 6 Elder Angie Crerar, President of Local 1990, participated in a momentous trip to Rome, Italy to meet with Pope Francis as a member of the Residential School Reconciliation Delegation along with our MNA President Audrey Poitras, and other Regional MNA delegates. We were excited to have more of our Citizens attend the Papal visit on July 26, 2022 when Pope Francis came to Canada and visited the Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage. This is a huge step towards meaningful reconciliation for our Citizens who attended residential and day schools as well as for the families who continue to suffer the intergenerational trauma from these experiences. The apology from Pope Francis is a generationally momentous occasion; the Pope addressing the atrocities that occurred in residential schools across Canada will be remembered in the hearts and minds of survivors of this dehumanizing experience for generations to come. The children that were found in the mass graves will never be forgotten or ignored again.

We continue to address ongoing concerns from our Citizens with regards to food security caused in part by supply chain issues around the world. We are concerned that these issues may multiply in the coming months, as news outlets are identifying food shortages worldwide. We also have ongoing challenges to financial security for our Citizens due to loss of employment and the ever-increasing costs of living and housing in Canada. Our Regional Council has worked diligently to address all needs as they have arisen. It has been difficult to meet the ever changing and growing needs throughout our Region while remaining committed to maintaining our strategic plan and continuing to move forward to strengthen our Region. We will continue to address the ongoing and diverse needs of our Citizens throughout Region 6.

Governance

This is an exciting time for Region 6 Citizens and the MNA as it relates to self-governance.

Region 6 hosted hearings over the course of the past year in conjunction with the MNA Constitution Commission to review the initial drafts of the MNA Constitution and give our Citizens the opportunity to provide input for a What We Heard report outlining Citizen feedback for the initial draft Constitution for the Otipemisiwak Government. The pandemic may have affected our members ability to have thorough engagement for this critical issue, but Region 6 looks forward to reviewing the What We Heard document and participating in future consultations on this momentous step forward. It is exciting and inspiring to know that we are on the precipice of self-government recognition with the federal Government of Canada. There is a lot of work to be done, but I know that Region 6 will continue to have ongoing engagement on this issue. We encourage our Citizens to monitor our website and social media channels which will provide information about when consultations take place. We want to see you there!

MNA Region 6 Pandemic Response Program Highlights

- **Emergency Support** $300 to offset increased living expenses due to pandemic, also provided families with bereavement, wreaths and flowers as many family members could not visit their loved ones in hospital and struggled with funeral costs.
- **Cultural/Mental Health Initiative** Wellness workshops, youth cultural camp, wellness kits, mailouts for beading kits.
- **Traditional Food and Medicine Initiative** Christmas Hamper Program (Turkey & gift card, food card and moose meat for 55+ - distributed medicine bags to hold traditional medicines and smudge pan & matches.
- **Medical Access Support** Provided computer and printer for online doctor visits, laptop and printer for cancer and dialysis patients to correspond with their doctors. Provided limited travel and medicine support for those going outside the region for care.
- **Elders Support Initiative** to Local 1990 and Elder's Caring Shelter to ensure ongoing services for food, utilities, and COVID-19 relief cook's wages. This was to offset costs they would normally fundraise for but could not due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- **Sport and Recreation Initiative** Provided jerseys for hockey team, and donation for team.
- **Education and Support Initiative** 15 Post secondary bursaries for Métis Citizens;
  - Post-secondary bursaries
  - Post-graduate student bursaries
  - Marina Brothers bursary
  - Ruth Kidder bursary
- **Locally Directed Programs** Pandemic Community Emergency Support Program Highlights;
  - Locals developed effective communication strategies based on the unique needs within their communities:
    - Provided public health recommendations and orders
    - Available support services and relief programs because of pandemic
    - Mental health and wellness initiatives and strategies
    - Updates on the MNA and Region 6 MNA activities throughout the pandemic
  - Examples of support services provided include
    - Assistance applying for COVID-19 supports and relief programs
    - Provided grocery cards, food security programs based on identified Citizen needs. (Turkey and $200 food card at Christmas for those in need)
    - Provided COVID-19 Relief Packages (firewood for heating homes during frigid winter months)
  - Emergency medical supports, prescription pick-ups/drop offs, transportation to urgent medical appointments

Local Directed Programming resulted in partnership opportunities with various local service organizations such as school divisions, FCSS offices, and food banks. This increased the level of services and support delivered to our Métis citizens throughout Region 6.

Staff sent each local in Region 6 the information to apply for the Second Harvest grant. Results provided to us were as follows

- Region 6 received $20,000 grant funds
- Valleyview local received $20,000 grant funds
- Peace River local received $20,000 grant funds
- Manning local received $40,000 grant funds

These grants provided grocery cards for Citizens struggling to make ends meet. Region 6 grant was utilized to provide grocery cards for elders and seniors 55+ who are our most vulnerable group within our communities.

Region 6 regional council and our Citizens are sincerely grateful to the MNA and federal Government of Canada for providing the much-needed funding for our Citizens in uncertain and challenging times. We are hopeful that we can receive additional funding in the future to address post COVID-19 concerns within our Region.

Community Events Hosted by Region 6

- Food Security Program ongoing
- St Patrick's Day Elders luncheon
- Easter Food Hampers
- Mother's Day lunch
- Métis Fest 2021/22
- Cultural workshops
- Wellness events

Community Events Partnered with Region 6

- MMIW Walk
- Every Child Matters Event (215)
- National Indigenous Peoples Day
- Flag Raising – Story boards Métis history Region 6
- Pow Wow and Jigging Contest - Peace River
- Looking Ahead;
- Participate in Constitution Commission self-government consultations and referendum
- Youth cultural camps
- Expand on food security activities
- Host annual youth and elder's gathering
- Residential schools community research – capturing stories and healing workshops
- Supports in place for micro and mid-sized businesses
- Additional housing units to address housing shortages in Region 6. We have partnered with Métis Urban Housing for low income families in Peace River
- Greenhouse and raised garden initiative
- Communications continuing to update our Region 6 Citizens via social media, newsletters, email, snail mail & video

– Carol Ridsdale, President Region 6, June 2022

Economic Development

Current Joint Ventures 2021/2022

- Mur-Cal Services LTD
- Mountainview Safety Services
- Attach Oilfield Services
- Bison Contracting – Flint Energy
- DFI
- 3 G Enterprises Ltd.
- NCSG

Ongoing Projects

- TC Energy has three projects: Hidden Lake, Bear Canyon, North Star 2
- Saddle Hills Project will start in late 2022
- Keyera Energy is doing a 50 km pipeline from Spirit River, AB to Wembley. 2023 is the start date

We have a copy of our Region 6 Joint Venture Business Directory 2021/2022 that was updated for distribution. This list has been sent out to all industry companies who requested the information. The following companies were interested in our directory:

- TC Energy
- Enbridge
- Keyera
- Mastec Canada
- Midwest Pipelines
- Arcon Group
- Amisk Hydro-electric Project
- Surevus Pipelines
- Waschuk Pipelines
- Michels Canada
- Strike Group
- Steel River Group
- Macro Pipelines

We would like to thank our Métis Citizens who work tirelessly along with our economic arm to provide opportunities for our Region to prosper and maintain work security.

– Barry Dibbs, Vice President Region 6, June 2022

Bison Contracting Update 2021–2022

(company owned by Region 6 & Flint)

Bison had a busy year in 2021 that saw increased revenue and earnings, solid safety performance and increased employment levels. 2022 is expected to be busy again but with a shorter turnaround duration.

Bison's 2021 financial success was largely due to the extended shutdown work required at the Mercer Peace River Pulp Mill. Bison supported the mill by employing 152 people for an extended period of three months for the shutdown work activities over and above our day-to-day support positions. The shutdown was completed without any recordable injuries, which is a huge feat. Bison continues to operate with increased workforce at the mill to meet the demand of the work going on. This is expected to carry on until late 2022. Bison had one recordable incident in July 2021 which was minor in nature. All other incidents were managed well and had no impact to our employee's health and safety or the company.

As anticipated, 2022 has continued with increased activities and Bison is forecas to meet budget for revenue and earnings at the end of the second quarter. Mercer's annual shutdown was completed in May/June successfully. HSE results are strong with no serious or recordable incidents in 2022. Bison employment levels are steady even with the concern of a dwindling labour market to draw upon. Collaboration between Bison's ownership partners, MNA Region 6 and Flint continues, with growth being a key focus area for 2022 and beyond. Bison is poised to finish strong in 2022 and is expected to meet our financial budget.

Valleyview Local 1929

Last summer President Audrey Poitras joined us in Valleyview during National Indigenous Month. In partnership with Alberta Health Services and Pembina, a teepee was set up on the grounds of the Valleyview Health Centre. Another teepee was set up beside our local office in Valleyview last summer and there was a display for the MMIW inside. Isabelle Field was our summer student last year and she facilitated a few cultural events for our community. New flooring was installed in our office building last summer. We held our AGM on Nov. 23, 2021. We handed out wellness kits over the winter months. During Christmas we gave out turkeys and hams. A grant from Second Harvest was approved for $10,000 and our local Métis families were provided with $100 grocery cards in February of this year. Each time MNA provided COVID-19 funding to Region 6, our

local distributed grocery cards to our members. We hosted three ribbon skirt making days. In March, our local held a strategic planning event with funding from the Civil Society Fund/Grant. On April 27, 2022, we had a registry event. Our local executive attended the Region 6 strategic planning session in May and the special assembly in early June. On June 20, 2022, we had a flag raising and a barbecue for our community, sponsored by Pembina. Sashes and gifts were given to high school graduates in June of this year. Our local executive was busy over this past year hosting events, distributing funds, and attending meetings. On July 13 we had an evening of beading and bannock. Membership continues to grow, and our proud Métis members are happy to participate in activities celebrating our culture.

Manning Local 2020

It has been a remarkably busy and extremely rewarding year for our Métis local board. We were grateful to the many partners we established throughout the year in providing programs for our Métis Citizens.

- **Strategic Planning session** Hired a facilitator to provide a strategic planning session for our board
- **Métis Week flag raising ceremony** Held a one-day celebration for Métis week
- **COVID-19 emergency support to citizens** Region 6 provided COVID-19 relief funds to our local to assist our Métis Citizens
- **PAL fire safety tickets** Held three sessions for 15 Métis Citizens

- **Collective Kitchens sessions** Cooked nutritious healthy meals for families
- **Ribbon Skirt workshops** Held two ribbon skirt workshops
- **Land based cultural teachings** Land based teachings with Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Families, Elders, and youth were involved in making dry meat, bannock on a stick, and listening to stories
- **Beading sessions** Throughout the winter months we provided weekly beading sessionsand teachings
- **Recognizing/honouring our graduates** We gifted our ten Indigenous students with sashes and gift cards for their accomplishment
- **Provided healthy snacks to school** We provided the elementary school with $1,000 fortheir healthy snack programs
- **Met with Mayor of Manning** Discussed having a permanent pole to fly our Métis flag
- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation /Orange Shirt Day** Set up displays throughout the community to provide awareness on residential schools
- **National Indigenous Peoples Day** Provided a community wide celebration. Several community partners supported this event in terms of financial and in-kind contributions, which made it a tremendous success
- **Monthly board meetings**

Our Métis local is very appreciative of all support from Region 6 and the Manning community in moving our Métis people forward in pride and culture.

Local 78

- Applied for Harvest Grant of $20,000 and assisted one hundred Métis Citizens of Local 78 with Co-op Gift Cards
- Hosted a Diabetic Foot Care Clinic in March - 16 Métis members got their feet pampered.. Sherri Guyon, a Métis foot care expert, educator, and ingrown toenail and diabetic specialist provided the footcare. We had a lot of positive feedback from the participants
- We had an Easter egg contest where members of all ages were invited to decorate easter eggs with a Métis design. We had three prizes and the winners were immensely proud of their Easter egg creations.
- For Indigenous People's Day we partnered with the Aboriginal Interagency Committee Cadotte Lake Métis Local and MNA Region 6. We also had Treaty 8 monument storyboard unveiling and lunch at the Peace River Municipal Library which consisted of stew and bannock. There was a grand opening of the Peace River Municipal Library Art Gallery showcasing works by Indigenous artists. From 4 - 9 p.m. we had National Indigenous Day celebrations at the Riverfront Park. We had a wonderful band, Nathan Cunningham and the Blazing Country Band, Indigenous artisans workshops, free stew and bannock, children's activities, and agency tables. The weather was beautiful and it was a great turnout which was enjoyed by all.
- We had 14 volunteers work a casino in Grande Prairie on July 10 and 11 to raise funds to help our Local.
- We partnered with Region 6 for a cultural youth camp from July 7 – 10. It was held at Peace River Cabins and Outdoors, a beautiful location.

Local 1990

Local 1990 has had a remarkably busy 2021-2022. Our major focus was to support our President, Angie Crerar, as she made the trip to Rome to meet the Pope and share her story. Her trip helped her find the peace and forgiveness she needed for the Catholic Church's involvement in the residential school system. Angie shared with us that, "she will never forget but will help guide us to move forward." We love you Angie and are so proud of how you can lead us with such grace, power, and strength to become a stronger Nation.

We have also had many clients in the office throughout the year. We continue to try and help them through all the struggles of getting through COVID-19 and surviving the impact it has caused to so many of our people. We have had the fortunate opportunity to help many of our Citizens that have needed our support through this tough time. April to January, 2022 we supported 516 Clients and the last four months we were able to keep 101 children fed along with 94 adults and Elders. We Thank Region 6 and the Métis Nation of Alberta for this support, as well as Second Harvest for their help March to June, 2022. We are continuing to look for support so we can carry on with helping our Citizens.

The numerous people that are appying for their cards has been great. We help fill out applications, advise them on the programs the MNA offers, and guide them through their applications to insure they are completed properly. The harvesting cards and applications are given thorough review and then scanned to the MNA for final confirmation. Métis Local 1990 is proud to be able to be here for our Citizens and for those who need guidance on the programs and services offered through the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Fairview Local

- Supported members with food security – grocery cards and packaged beef
- Seed baskets for gardens
- Métis 4-H youth supported by partnership with Region 6 to purchase steer for food security
- Supported Métis youth from Fairview schools to participate in a National Indigenous Day event at historic Dunvegan
- Hauled wood to Elders during winter months
- Flag raising during Métis Week
- Sash ceremonies for Grade 12 graduates
- Helped Citizens during COVID-19 pandemic

Over the last year, MNA Region 6 collaborated with Alberta Counsel to bring success to its members and the MNA as a whole. The Region's leadership guided Alberta Counsel to secure multiple sources of public funding that has and will directly benefit the Region's members.

The Region's two-year investment in Alberta Counsel's grant and administrative support services proved to be rewarding. In the first year, Alberta Counsel more than tripled the Region's return on investment by securing provincial funding for the Region's initiative and more than doubled the Region's investment to the firm over the last year.

The grants secured for the Region's benefit were highly competitive. The first intake of the Civil Society Fund (CSF), awarded last spring, evaluated more than 500 applicants. Only 21 projects were granted access to the funds, and MNA Region 6 was the only successful Indigenous group among the applicants.

Over the past two years, the province and other key potential funders, industry players, and other relevant stakeholders have taken increased notice of the Region. The Region's raised political profile largely results from the advocacy efforts and support Alberta Counsel completed on behalf of the Region and its initiatives. These efforts were supplemented by exceptional communication with the province through grant reporting, and by ensuring the Region is brought up to the right people, at the right place and time.

The following highlights just a few of the collaborative team's successes over the last year:

Established and Nurtured Relationships with Local and Provincial Government

Alberta Counsel strategized and connected the Region with various MLAs from across the province, including the Region's local MLA, Dan Williams. This facilitated opportunities to educate decision makers and their staff about the Region and its initiatives. Further, it contributed to the team's efforts to increase the MNA's engagement with and exposure to key ministries.

Throughout the working relationship, Alberta Counsel supported the Region with its political objectives and issues through briefings, letters to ministers, and other activities that enhanced the Region's profile and reputation.

Northern Alberta Elected Leaders (NAEL) Membership

Region 6 is now a member of the Northern Alberta Development Council's NAEL. Alberta Counsel encouraged and facilitated MNA Region 6's Membership into the NAEL.

The NAEL offers a venue for northwestern municipal leaders to gather and share current practices and opportunities to collaborate. NAEL advocates for change on numerous issues of common interest in the northwest of our province. Members of the group are located within the constituencies of Peace River, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, Grande Prairie-Wapiti, Grande Prairie-Smoky, West Yellowhead, and Lesser Slave Lake. NADC has been the secretariat for the NAEL since the group's formation in 2004.

Application Concept Development and Award for Residential School Grant

In June 2021, the Government of Alberta (GoA) committed funds toward the Residential Schools Community Research Grant (RSCRG). The grant is designated by the GoA to fund "Indigenous-led engagement, research and related activities associated with the documented and undocumented deaths and burials of Indigenous children

at any of the historical Indian residential school sites in Alberta. This is one way Alberta is taking action on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action relating to Indigenous children and residential schools."

The RSCRG funding maximum was $150,000 per organization. Alberta Counsel conceptualized and wrote the grant application that was, ultimately, approved for the Region to engage in meaningful communication with its members. This grant award will fund the Region's work on a history capture project wherein 20 community Elders from across the Region are interviewed.

After appropriate protocols are followed and permissions are received, participants' responses will be captured through writing, audio, or video. The history collected will be organized to maximize accessibility to those who might benefit from the content. Responses are expected to be captured or translated to English, Cree, or Michif. These efforts are intended to lay the foundation for an ongoing History Capture Project that the Region and its communities continue to build upon as history continues to be written.

The type of publication will be based on the comfort level of participants. For example, if all participants wish to be captured by video, then a video project might be the most suitable collection. If interviewees wish to be captured using audio, or only by written account, then the format would change to match the content captured.

The Region's award includes $90,000 in funding to host community healing sessions for approximately 60 members throughout the communities. The Region and its locals may wish to increase the number of individuals they engage by choosing a specific type(s) of healing or ceremony that allows for larger attendance within the allotted budget.

Elders Caring Shelter Support

Alberta Counsel provided support to Métis Local 1990 in regard to concept development and exploration of the Elders Caring Shelter in Grande Prairie.

Opportunities for Economic Relationships and Business Opportunities

Alberta Counsel presented corporate opportunities for the region to consider. This included opportunities for engagement with credible industry players such as ATCO.

Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) for Greenhouse Initiative in Peace River

Alberta Counsel supported MNA Region 6 to secure funds for a greenhouse initiative in Peace River. This initiative is expected to encourage intergenerational relationships and a connection to traditional values by utilizing the greenhouse initiative as an opportunity for education and growth.

Civil Society Fund – Productivity Review and Organizational Reconceptualization

In early April 2021, MNA Region 6 was awarded a $282,000 grant from the GoA through the Civil Society Fund. The Grant was awarded to fund a research project that examines the operational and administrative processes of MNA Region 6 and, more specifically, the regional office and six locals that form Region 6.

The project aims to help these local organizations develop an overarching plan that streamlines the locals' operations and administrative processes. It is intended to help the MNA Region 6 operate more effectively by increasing capacity and decreasing levels of work-related stress for the organization.

The Civil Society Fund funded the grant. The Civil Society Fund provides funding to civil societies to help these groups address social problems in Alberta. The fund aims to help civil societies become more effective and sustainable without increasing the organization's financial expenditures.

MNA Region 6 was one of 21 projects that were approved to access the Civil Society Fund. There were over 500 applicants. Of the approved projects, MNA Region 6 was the only Indigenous targeted project that was approved.

Work on the Civil Society Fund project is currently in progress and will conclude in 2022.

Our sincerest thank you to Region 6 Métis Citizens. Métis Nation of Alberta, and stakeholders for all the positive feedback you provide so that we move forward together to reach success for all. I look forward to the upcoming year with excitement and optimism for everything that can be achieved most importantly our Constitution and Métis Self government.

Sincerely,
– *Region 6 Regional Council* ■

AFFILIATE REPORTS

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. (AMDI) was created in 1984 under a federal government contribution agreement with the 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 $80 million since 1988 and helped in the creation of over 1,200 Métis owned businesses throughout Alberta, while maintaining our capital base of $8 million. By remaining committed to the growth of Métis business and prosperity in Alberta, AMDI has become an intergenerational service provider as the children (now adults) of clients we assisted long ago, now approach AMDI as their parents once did. We are proud of what AMDI has accomplished in this respect in that we have clearly supported Métis entrepreneurship through all their successes, difficulties, and uncertainties. We remain relevant to Métis people – shedding the notion of just being a lender of last resort – we imagine it is what the framers had envisioned. The purpose of AMDI has always been to assist the Métis people of Alberta in developing economic opportunities through entrepreneurship. It is our hope that our clients, both 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

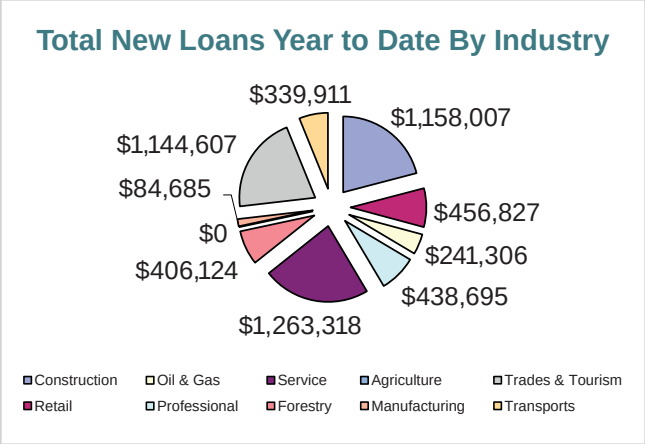
With most of the disruptions from COVID-19 behind us, we are excited about returning to a normal social and economic atmosphere – of making new friendships, developing opportunities, establishing partnerships, and participating in spirited exchanges. It has been too long.

During the period of April 2021 – March 2022, AMDI approved $5.3 million in funding assistance to new and existing business, constituting an increase of 76% year over year. This was a terrific bounce back from an economy in a state of total uncertainty for over two years. The projects we developed tapped all sectors of the economy, and the volume of applications has been record breaking. A total of 191 applications requesting assistance were received comprising $20 million in self-employment initiatives expressed by Métis entrepreneurs, amounting to $5.3 million in lending.

The increase in growth is remarkable and time will tell if we've reached a true milestone. We think most of the increase is a result of our springing into action on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to provide emergency COVID-19, short term relief lending aimed at assisting businesses impacted by the lockdowns during 2020 and 2021. While this has not been the optimal organic growth strategy, in some ways COVID-19 has literally propelled AMDI deeper into the Métis community out of a crisis. It was not ideal and would never have been a preferred route, but like Mike Tyson once said, "Everybody has a plan until somebody punches you in the face". It simply went like this: AMDI worked hard to deliver the COVID-19 relief – that relief turned into new, and hopefully lasting relationships – propelling our reach further into the Métis community, translating into greater exposure, counseling, more application volume, and ultimately, more business development. In fact, we don't believe there is anything we could have done differently that would have yielded better results. In one year, we essentially tripled our exposure and competed better as a service provider than any of the Schedule A & B banks on COVID-19 relief. It always comes back to serving Métis people the way we

ourselves would want to be treated – through a durable and winning business model.

As usual, most of the new loan applicants this year took advantage of the Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (MEAP) as the non-repayable contribution serves to substantially reduce debt servicing costs associated with acquiring assets required for the business's operations. The service and trades sectors have dominated this year's lending (two years running) and compliments a long-standing training initiative of the Rupertsland Institute (RLI). In general, the total loan demand was relatively evenly distributed across all industries – suggesting Métis entrepreneurs are penetrating and participating in every sector of the economy.



The Effects of COVID-19

The COVID-19 relief of FBEL/MBEL with MNA and RLI forgivable portions provided a massive relief to clients, especially during the early phases of the pandemic, and during the second wave in December of 2020 and lasted until April/May of 2021, only to resurface again in early 2022. Most of our Métis businesses weathered the social and economic disturbances well. We are a resilient bunch.

Many were not terribly impacted by COVID-19 at all – in fact they are doing better than ever. This would apply to most essential services. People are forward looking, so this shouldn't be surprising. Most are now realizing that the interim relief measures provided by the government, while helpful, were not a viable substitute for long term durable success. Our clients seem to be concerned about this most – especially women (more on this below). One thing is absolutely certain, Métis entrepreneurs are trying to put the last two years behind them and instead focus on future growth and opportunities.

Other Investments

Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (MEAP) Renewal

For over 25 years, Apeetogosan has provided external delivery services to Aboriginal Business Canada's business development program. As part of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) initiative is to increase the delivery capacity of its external partners, ISC continues to support the small business development program. For the 2021/22 fiscal year, AMDI delivered about $1.6 million in equity to over 45 Métis entrepreneurs, the result of a one-year renewal of ISC's support of the 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.

Continuing a Tradition of Sharing Responsibilities: Apeetogosan & Rupertsland

Almost 10 years ago, AMDI experienced a significant shortfall with equity normally made available to Métis entrepreneurs through the federal government's Aboriginal Economic Program. Around the same time, RLI was experiencing a massive influx of clients seeking capital assistance and/or training with entrepreneurship and self-employment initiatives. As this was outside of the scope of their education, labour market, and training initiatives RLI traditionally showcases. RLI reached out to AMDI, as we reached out to them, to see if they could help us with our own business development and client equity shortfall.

This became an enduring partnership that has provided RLI with another means of demonstrating their reach into essentially all economic activities within the economy. It has also helped AMDI to reach new milestones in lending as we were able to assist more clients in bringing their business ideas to fruition, which in turn reaffirmed a shared mandate between AMDI and RLI. Moreover, it has helped to allow AMDI to remain profitable, durable, and most importantly, increasingly relevant to the Métis community.

Now fast forward through the COVID-19 pandemic and again AMDI finds itself coordinating resources with RLI – this time to enhance and encourage Métis women in micro-business development. The majority of Métis clients applying to the Indigenous Community Business Fund for COVID-19 relief – a program that recognized the Métis micro businesses affected by COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions on social gatherings – were women.

Conservatively, we estimate there to be at least $20 million in goods and services exchanged in the Métis women micro business space in Alberta. Throughout COVID-19, we have learned the scope of Métis women in micro-business is incredibly diverse, dynamic, and deep. We also learned these micro businesses arrive from a nutritional and nurturing source of production and exchange where there is value extended beyond the baked goods, sewn ribbon dresses, child-care and entertainment, aesthetics, and home care for the elderly. These micro businesses are inextricably tied to the overall wellbeing of the community and are derived from a very passionate source of commitment and aspiration that is intertwined with the matriarchal need to provide for the family and the community. Perhaps it is being involved with this nurturing element that has really made this an exciting and rewarding addition to our existing business model.

First Impressions

The Métis Women in Micro Business Program has taken off brilliantly and has been well received by the Métis community in general. Together with RLI we have put together a fantastic program that launches Métis women in business to the forefront of driving Métis economic prosperity. From idea to fruition, including counselling, workshops, and capital, Métis women now have a program that caters specifically to their opportunities and the challenge of crystalizing those opportunities.

Since its inception of April 2022, the program has received 40 applications and we have approved 15 of them. Here is a description of the thinking behind this program and a snapshot of a few that we have already worked with in developing their projects.

In partnership with RLI and the MNA, AMDI is pleased to announce and introduce a new micro business loan program for Métis Women. The Métis Women in Micro

Business Program (MWMBP) is a new loan program designed to target Métis women entrepreneurs in Alberta who are considering starting or expanding their own micro business. Today's conventional banking perspectives on business viability, including AMDI's existing loan and grant programs, unfortunately preclude women who own and operate, or desire to own and operate, small or micro-sized businesses. Historically, it was thought that if the project could not sustain

full-time employment as well as service debt, then the project would, in a realistic sense, be unsustainable. This principle continues to govern AMDI's loan policy to this day. The problem with such operating parameters is we have neglected the role and economic value that women in micro businesses provide. First, when we ignore or exclude women and their micro businesses, we are limiting women's participation in the economy and their economic impact. That is, we are overlooking the much wider and durable economic value and benefit of their contributions. Métis women contribute to a productive and civilized society and through their micro businesses they improve the health and wellness of the family and the community. Women are at the heart of our Métis community and when empowered, they are advocates on social issues, role models for future generations, and preservers of Métis culture.

So, to encourage this kind of participation in the economy, the MWMBP, will target small business endeavors whose maximum project size will not exceed $25,000. The MWMBP will provide an interest free loan of up to $22,500, where 40% of financing will be forgivable on the back end of the loan. We encourage you, or others you may know who are considering small enterprises, to contact our general manager to discuss what he believes to be the greatest program in the history of programs.

Meet our Métis Women in Micro Business:

"Copper Creek Photography is located in Slave Lake, Alberta. It specializes in family, newborn and wedding photography. Copper Creek Photography loves capturing authentic moments for clients to cherish for a lifetime. It's important that all clients feel like family and love their images as much as we do."- Brooke Churchill-Fontanet

Copper Creek Photography
Instagram: @Coppercreekphotography.ab
coppercreekphotography.ca

"Tomato Wheels is a lifestyle brand, rethinking the wine space through the introduction of Tomato Wheels Lambrusco. A low alcohol wine ready to be paired with good food and great company." - Moirae Choquette

Tomato Wheels Inc.
tomatowheels.com
Instagram: @Tomatowheels

"Haven Family Wellness supports families by breaking down financial and transportation barriers to access highly skilled and effective programming for children and youth. The therapeutic work being done alongside horses and the ability to get back to the land is empowering." - Marcy Medeiros

Marcy Medeiros
Haven Family Wellness

Haven Family Wellness
www.hvenfamilywellness.ca
403-899-3018
havenfamilywellness@gmail.com

"My business's focus is distance education and accreditation. I have a master's degree in Education from Athabasca University providing me with the knowledge and resources to bring my dream of owning my own business to fruition. I plan to continue with my education and -obtain a doctorate in education in Indigenous Studies." - Elaine Krock-Caskie

Elaine Krock Caskie Consulting
780-204-0256

"My name is Reggena Glynn. I'm the owner and operator of Soft & Smooth Esthetics Mobile Spa. I bring Esthetic services to smaller Northern Alberta communities." - Reggena Glynn

Soft & Smooth Esthetics Mobile Spa
780-792-9787
Softandsmoothesthetics@hotmail.com
Facebook: Soft & Smooth Esthetics

"Full-cycle accounting, payroll, source deduction preparation, GST, WCB, year-end preparation & T-slips." - Cheryl Caron

BookkeepersInc.com Inc.

Claras Footcare

Sylver Salves

"We do foot care for the Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre and love taking care of our Elder's feet and more! Foot care: your feet come first!" - Lacey Macmillan

Claras Footcare
780-399-2655
clarasfootcare@gmail.com

"I started my own media, measurements and marketing business called Capture 3 Media. My company is passionate about capturing HDR photography, cinematic videography, interactive 3D tours and mapping, RMS measurements and aerial photography and videography for real estate listings, vacation properties, local businesses, construction/renovation companies and insurance/restoration companies in Airdrie, Alberta and the surrounding areas." - Becky Coutu

Capture 3 Media
Becky@capture3media.com
capture3media.com

"I'm a certified yoga therapist, a soul care coach, intuitive reader, and an inspirational speaker.

I am passionate about helping others who are feeling lost and confused to find insight and perception into what makes their heart sing!" - Kathleen Gagnon

Dreamcatchers Circle
780-984-0781
kmgagnon.rf@gmail.com
dreamcatcherscircle.com
facebook.com/dreamcatcherscircle55
instagram.com/katgm55

"SYLVER SALVES is a home-based company from Northern Alberta. As a kid with my granny we always picked nature's medicine off the land. Now I pick, dry and infuse medicines into salve, lip balm and oil. With the positive support and encouragement from Apeetogosan, I have decided to market my dream and my business into reality.

Thank you so much Mike Ivy and team." - Sylvia Johnson

Sylver Salves
780-618-7637

Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.

Pinnacle staff provides applicants an opportunity to access government programs available through ISC 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 Métis 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 if their business opportunities have a reasonable chance of becoming successful small business ventures. 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 client's opportunity and its implementation. Pinnacle assists clients in formalizing their opportunity and implementation plans by helping the client develop a business plan. The business plan becomes the presentation document to financiers demonstrating 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 2021-22 fiscal year, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. assisted in the development of over 45 business plans for clients that helped leverage commercial financing of $5.3 million from AMDI.

Aftercare is another component of services Pinnacle provides, ensuring clients have the appropriate accounting and bookkeeping systems in place, adequate training, and appropriate internal controls. During the year under review, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. provided after-care services to 76 clients and continues to be the conduit by which so much of AMDI's success is predicated on.

Seamless Delivery of AMDI is Opening New Ideas and New Partnerships Services to Métis

Our seamless delivery model at AMDI continues to serve the Métis people of Alberta well. Consequently, we do not stray too far from it and if anything, seek to always make it work better. For example, we are looking at creating a bonding program that will enable Métis contractors to be eligible to bid on larger infrastructure and resource development projects – thus positioning Métis contractors on a level playing field. We are also working at developing a new partnership with Métis Child and Family Services in creating an entrepreneurship program for creating daycare facilities that will provide relief to an already oversubscribed need for reliable day home services. Of course, all these initiatives will be governed by our "one-stop-shop" approach to serving the business needs of Métis people.

AMDI's greatest strength has always been our seamless delivery business model that prioritizes Alberta's Métis entrepreneurs' access to capital, business planning, and business support. Life, and therefore, the business of producing goods and services must and will go on. To this end, AMDI's success and long-term relevance to Métis people depends on our ability to provide financial and business support needs to Métis clients in a timely and efficient way. Since 1988, this recognition has kept us grounded and purposeful. We are seeing that unwavering commitment materialize into incredible growth in Métis businesses. We see these as exciting times for the Métis people.

Closing Remarks

It was a good year for AMDI with loan growth increasing 76%. AMDI continues to demonstrate its own durability, posting net income of over $700,000, and a steadily increasing retained earnings balance of over $4 million. It is reassuring to see the resilience of the projects we have participated in remaining successful. It provides an affirmation in our assessments of the strength in Métis entrepreneurship.

Life gets in the way of the best laid plans and COVID-19 is an acute example of what can happen when you least expect it to happen. The true test of one's resilience, however, is how you choose to respond to it. We learned, for example, that there is a very real and robust economy being forged by Métis women – and always has been – wrapped in tradition, nurturing, and family. So, we will have a new focus at AMDI – thus illustrating there is always a silver lining in dark times.

It is our hope that the Métis people of Alberta will understand our commitment to positioning AMDI 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.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work this past year – most challenging, given the uncertainty - and the Board of Directors for their commitment and numerous contributions to ensuring AMDI continues to play an integral role in the growth of Métis economic prosperity in Alberta. ■

Cree Productions

Cree Productions Ltd., founded in 1992, was originally created as a way to offer learning resources regarding Métis culture for students in Alberta. The purchase of the Dr. Anne Anderson Heritage and Cultural Centre made this possible by providing a hub for this work and rights to all the resources it held. Cree Productions has more than 10 copyrighted resources and over 450 copies available, the most notable publications being written by Dr. Anne Anderson.

At the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) provincial office, Cree Productions displays its products in person while also offering images of all products on the MNA website **albertametis.com**. Cree Productions has grown over time from an educational resource to a merchandising store offering a wide range of Métis themed products. While Cree Productions aims to grow its online presence, we are continuously working towards providing a platform for Métis artisans to sell their handmade work to help promote Métis culture. The MNA continues to manage Cree Productions in 2021-22 and works to provide opportunities for community members to represent Métis pride by offering products at MNA gatherings and other events.

Some products made available through Cree Productions include:

- Men's, women's, and children's sashes
- MNA branded hoodies, t-shirts, hats, and toques
- Lapel sashes
- MNA flags and infinity flags
- Car flags
- Lanyards
- Infinity license plates
- Playing cards
- Mugs, magnets, keychains, and pins
- Earrings
- Stickers

Cree Productions is working hard to play an important role in helping the MNA achieve economic success. In growing the product line and expanding our online presence, the MNA is stepping closer to self-sufficiency. This expansion is a key step in providing a platform for Métis artisans and an exciting step in promoting Métis culture.

Our products can be found online at **albertametis.com/affiliates/cree-productions**, or by sending a email to **creeproductions@metis.org**. ■

Métis Child & Family Services Society

Métis Child & Family Services Society Edmonton (MCFSS) is an Indigenous family resource centre currently delivering eight culturally focused programs to the Indigenous community in Edmonton and the surrounding area. MCFSS is in its 37th year of service and provides programing such as:

- Foster/Kinship care
- Aboriginal family support
- Family violence prevention and support
- Youth mentoring and family liaison
- Protection of sexually exploited children
- Aboriginal seniors' outreach
- Community on-street outreach and victim support
- Aboriginal awareness and diversity training

The MCFSS was formed by Métis Local 1885 and received its mandate from the Métis Nation of Alberta. That mandate is to promote the health and well-being of our Citizens through the provision of culturally sensitive and appropriate programming and to maintain the family unit by preventing Métis children from entering into care with Alberta Children's Services. Unfortunately, our relationship with Children's Services over the past 25 years has been one of good intentions and broken promises.

There are many factors plaguing families, and lateral violence is often a concern as well as a contributing factor in why clients seek support. Most MCFSS staff live, and are known, within the Indigenous community. This makes workers more approachable and creates an easier atmosphere for establishing a respectful relationship. Being knowledgeable about the Indigenous community also makes MCFSS's job less intrusive. Currently, the MCFSS employs 14 registered social workers, most of whom are Métis. All of MCFSS's programming has been accredited across eight program standard disciplines with excellence and Indigenous designation. These programs are as listed:

Family Resource Network - Aboriginal Child and Family Support Program

The core of this program, built over the past 30 years, is focused on family-based services. This program has not changed and still includes in-home supports such as teaching child management techniques, parenting skills, urban living skills, individual counselling, support in advocacy, and the successful transition of children in care back to their homes. Listening to clients is still a large part of the services MCFSS offers and one that often serves to reaffirm and encourage clients. Keeping the families together in a safe, caring way has been MCFSS's goal from day one. Making the right decision for the right reason for the right person is key.

Family Service Program

Under the City of Edmonton Community Services, this program is preventative in nature. While services in this program are similar to the Aboriginal Child and Family Support Program, they are short term, specific, and available to everyone who walks through the front door with the goal of dealing with the problem they came in with. This program meets a critical need in the community that must be fulfilled and which, despite being underfunded, is managed with support from other programs.

Aboriginal Seniors Program

MCFSS has worked hard to build a viable support program to engage seniors who are alone and need assistance. People are very proud and often will not ask for the support they need, so MCFSS uses home visitation and group activities to engage and connect seniors to other community supports. Another concern is that many seniors are still raising grandchildren with little outside support and do not trust Alberta Children's Services. Their biggest fear is the children will be taken into care as the workers may feel they are too old to look after children.

Family Violence Program

This program was renewed for another year and numbers across the last five years of client engagement have not decreased. First contacts are usually for other needs or agency services as no one seems to come in for family violence concerns. Rather, these concerns are identified as soon as the client feels comfortable and can relate to the worker. Safety and emergency policies are in place to ensure all staff are aware of what is needed to keep clients and staff safe as well as other support programs that can be used to help develop a safety plan and good outcomes.

Protection of Sexually Exploited Children

MCFSS has delivered this much needed program since 1998 and employs two community follow-up support workers who work with youth involved in child exploitation. Our staff are culturally sensitive, have a good understanding and awareness of the needs of youth, as well as the ability to address diverse cultural issues and needs.

Our community follow-up support workers provide support to at-risk youth who are referred by Children's Services High Risk Youth Unit or PESECA workers. A large number of these youth are Indigenous, and for many family and community life has become increasingly dysfunctional as they experience incidents of family violence, spousal and child abuse, sexual abuse, addictions, suicide, poverty, and prostitution.

The program is committed to early intervention and prevention and is based on a harm reduction model. The first contact meeting includes a suicide risk assessment, PESQ (substance abuse assessment), and an evaluation of the possibility of sexual exploitation. Continuing services offered are on-going support, advocacy, educational support, informal counselling, and community referral for professional assessments.

Community Support Homes Program

The intent of this program is to assist families through crisis by providing temporary placement for the child within his/her own cultural and familiar community while the family is being stabilized and supported. Simply put, keeping Métis Children in Métis families. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to find Métis families willing to look after their own.

Currently, MCFSS has just over 130 children in homes and is in its 25th year of delivering foster care services. MCFSS also continues to operate a kinship care program within the region but homes are limited.

Once engaged, families are provided with ongoing training, support through group meetings and one-to-one support to enable them to provide the best care possible.. The other focus is helping the child maintain contact with their family and involvement with their community.

Conclusion and What's Next

The last 37 years have been a struggle to see that Métis children and families are respected and treated fairly and without control by those who do not understand Métis culture, customs, or community way of life.

MCFSS has worked hard to develop programs and maintain focus amid a culture of changing service delivery demands and concepts that are counter to the demands of community's needs.

There has been a great degree of speculation about Bill C-92 being introduced to the Indigenous community but little action or communication on how and when this will happen. The 22 delegated First Nations in Alberta are halfway there as they have delegations for children and families in cooperation with Alberta Children's Services and transfer of file management would not be difficult.

With delegation, Métis children coming into the care of Alberta Children's Services would be handled through a Métis community intake system which would maintain connection to our Métis community. This system has worked successfully in Manitoba for the past 10 years. Keeping our community strong should be the goal. ■

Métis Crossing

Métis Crossing is a major initiative of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), and the premier cultural destination for Alberta Métis cultural interpretation, education, gatherings, and business development. Located on 688 acres of land, this destination shares the Métis story with all people by engaging their head, heart, hands, and hunger.

Métis Crossing has four main goals that guide all developments, operations, and activities. Métis Crossing will:

1. Share the Métis story with all people.
2. Be a gathering place.
3. Achieve financial self-sustainability.
4. Minimize capital debt.

To ensure the successful attainment of these goals, Métis Crossing is governed by a Board of Directors who provide consistent vision and wisdom:

- Chairperson, Audrey Poitras
- Vice Chairperson, Dan Cardinal
- Elder and Knowledge Holder, Art Cunningham
- Director, Duane Zaraska
- Director, Andy Popko

Together with their leadership, the following organizational documents have been developed and approved to provide clear direction for Métis Crossing. Each of these documents aligns with the four goals outlined above, and each is considered both independently and together when making decisions for Métis Crossing.

- 10 Year Strategic Business Plan guides business developments.
- Experiential Interpretive Plan guides cultural experience developments.
- Métis Crossing Masterplan guides site developments.

Board of Directors

History

Métis Crossing has been a dream of the MNA for decades. In 1999, the MNA undertook a study across the province called the *Métis Millennium Voyage* in which over 60 sites of historic significance to the Métis people were identified. This list was then evaluated based on each site's location and its ability to become a tourism destination. The current location of Métis Crossing was a leader in all evaluative criteria.

Historically, it is located along the North Saskatchewan River, an original trade route. The river lot system of land allocation was brought west by the Métis people when they travelled along the historic Victoria Trail (part of the Carlton Trail) and decided to settle on this land. The Métis families of the Norn, Erasmus, Flett, Howse, and McGillvray among others, were the first permanent settlers on this land. The title to this land upon which Métis Crossing sits predates the province of Alberta.

From a tourism perspective, Métis Crossing is situated within the Victoria District National Historic Site; only

seven km west of Victoria Settlement Provincial Historic Site. The greater Edmonton region is less than 90 minutes away, providing a local market of over one million people. In addition, the Edmonton International Airport provides access to visitors from around the world.

In 2001, when this land became available, our leadership at the time decided to take this dream of the Métis people and make it a reality. The MNA purchased the original 512 acres of land comprised of five River lot titles and started the Métis Crossing that we know today.

Over the years, hundreds of MNA Citizens – Elders, youth, entrepreneurs, artists, tradespeople, professionals, politicians and families – have all provided input to what Métis Crossing should be. We have asked the questions:

- What do we want our guests to know about the Métis people when they leave?
- How do we want our guests to feel about the Métis people when they leave?
- How do we fundamentally want to change worldviews of the Métis people?

In 2005, Métis Crossing celebrated a centennial opening which showcased an approximately $3.2 million in development that restored a number of historic buildings including the Cromarty homestead and barn, along with the Sinclair homestead that was moved to site. Nature trails, parking lots, public washrooms and an exterior stage were added at the time. Again in 2008, Métis Crossing added the zipline. This site operated seasonally from that point.

The MNA, however, had much larger dreams for this site and in 2017 with a $3.5 million contributions from the Government of Canada, planning of the Cultural Gathering Centre began. This facility was completed in December 2019, which was quickly required to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021-2022 Progress

While COVID-19 was devasting for operations of the new Cultural Gathering Centre, the Métis Crossing leadership used this time to continue the implementation of the 10-year Strategic Business Plan, Experiential Interpretive Plan, and the site masterplan.

Visions, Hopes and Dreams at Métis Crossing

On September 25, 2021, herds of woods bison, plains bison, rare white bison, percheron horses, and elk were released onto our new 320 acres wildlife park. Located on the north side of Métis Crossing. From there the new *Visions, Hopes and Dreams at Métis Crossing Wildlife Park* was launched.

Since the initial conversations of Métis Crossing began, our people were clear the buffalo were an essential part of our history and essential to sharing the Métis story with all people. The *Pemmican Proclamation*, the buffalo hunt, and the buffalo camps have all been foundations upon which our Nation has been built.

In 2019 conversations began with Lonesome Pine Cattle Company to develop a joint venture agreement to build and operate this park. Since signed, Métis Crossing oversees and operates all guest and visitor services, while our partner oversees all animal husbandry. Together we have created something better than either partner could have on their own. Tours are offered regularly and can be specially booked by groups and online at **metiscrossing.com**.

Lodge at Métis Crossing

The Lodge at Métis Crossing was completed in February 2022, and we undertook a “soft launch” to welcome small groups. Full operation was launched in May 2022. Design of the lodge at Métis Crossing was initiated in June of 2020. Today the Lodge has 40 rooms (seven family suites, six accessible suites, one VIP suite and 26 suites that can either be furnished with two twin beds or a king bed). Our thinking was to make it flexible to welcome corporate retreat guests from across the province, and then host our own youth and family programs the next day. There is a bistro overlooking the North Saskatchewan River where you can enjoy your morning coffee, and a lounge upstairs for an evening glass of wine.

With the addition of the lodge at Métis Crossing, we have grown into a cultural destination where guests are invited to spend not just a few hours learning about us as Métis, but a few days. Designed by Métis architect Tiffany Shaw of Re-Imagine Architecture, the building shares the warmth of the Métis home accented with contemporary features such as a two-storey fireplace and wood accent walls. Each bed is covered by a hand made quilt sewn by a member of our own New Dawn Métis Women's Society.

Cultural Experiences

Cultural experiences have also grown. Given the guests can now spend the night at the lodge, a nighttime program was added titled *Whispers from the Stars*. This evening experience walks guests through how Métis people used the night skies while they lived on the land. How the skies would help us tell time, choose directions to move across the lands, and warn us of changing seasons.

The Wildlife Park Tour takes guests through the new Visions, Hopes, and Dreams at Métis Crossing Wildlife Park. This 1.5-hour experience welcomes guests into their private tour vehicle that enters the paddocks and brings them close to the majestic animals so foundational to the growth of the Métis Nation. Stories of the buffalo camp and of our buffalo hunts are shared to help guests appreciate the magnitude of these hunts and our political and judicial coordination that facilitated our survival.

Other signature experiences that continue to be offered and improved include:

- Meet the Métis (guided onsite tour of historic areas).
- Tales from the Trapline (winter snowshoeing experience on the land).
- Walk in our Mocs (3D archery and hunting experience).
- Paddle into the Past (voyageur canoe and fur trade experience).

Partnerships

Funding

Métis Crossing continued to be successful in building over $1 million in partnerships and funding agreements with numerous entities including:

Government of Canada
Town of Smoky Lake
Alberta Conservation Association
Indigenous Tourism Alberta
Arnett and Burgess Pipeliners
Rupertsland Institute
Government of Alberta
Smoky Lake County
Travel Alberta
Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada
Explore Edmonton
Apeetogosan
Métis Nation of Alberta

Some of the funding agreements were quite large and others more modest. All had important purposes for the work undertaken at Métis Crossing and our heartfelt appreciation is shared with each of you. Without these partnerships Métis Crossing would not be building the success that we are.

These partnerships benefit Métis Crossing in many ways outside of monetary contributions. We work very closely with our travel trade partners to rebuild tourism in Edmonton, Alberta, and Canada. Indigenous tourism is leading the way with the transformational opportunities that travellers today are seeking in their buying decisions, and Métis Crossing is well positioned to meet those demands with our historic location, authentic buildings, modern equipment, and authentic Métis experiences.

Métis Crossing has been dreamed of, planned, designed, built, operated, and governed by Métis people. We are unique and we will be successful.

Operations

COVID-19 continued to impact our operations in very real ways. Métis Crossing was closed to the public for half the year:

- Full closure: April 1 – June 25, 2021.
- Full closure: September 16 – December 10, 2021.

When allowed to open, operations were hindered by capacity limitations and the very real fears of visitors to be with people outside their cohorts. Overall visitation to Métis Crossing still reached 8,000 day-visits.

The open design of our Cultural Gathering Centre allowed for safe meetings for smaller groups during restrictions. Over 80 events, varying in size from five people to our own MNA AGA with 800 people per day were hosted under these restrictions. We are proud to report our strong COVID-19 protocols ensured there were no COVID-19 outbreaks resulting from our operations or events.

In addition, a number of online educational events were produced and administered including seven online classes for schools, an online smoking cessation workshop, and others.

Community Events and Meetings

The Métis Crossing goal to become a gathering place is being achieved. Throughout the year, a number of MNA and community events were hosted including:

- Constitution Committee meetings
- New Dawn Métis Women's Society workshops
- RAFA artist retreat
- Weddings
- MNA Health Department
- Virtual MNA Youth and Seniors Gathering

The first group of Connecting Through Culture events held at Métis Crossing were a huge success with Métis families travelling from across the province to enjoy all that Métis Crossing has to offer. In partnership with the MNA Department of Children and Family Services, 90 families stayed at the lodge at Métis Crossing, enjoyed traditional foods, visited our wildlife park, learned about trapping, and hit the trails with snowshoes.

August 2021 saw Métis Crossing brought to life in all its potential. The MNA Annual General Assembly was hosted here along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River.

Meetings were held, conversations had, friendships grew, and old friends were reunited.

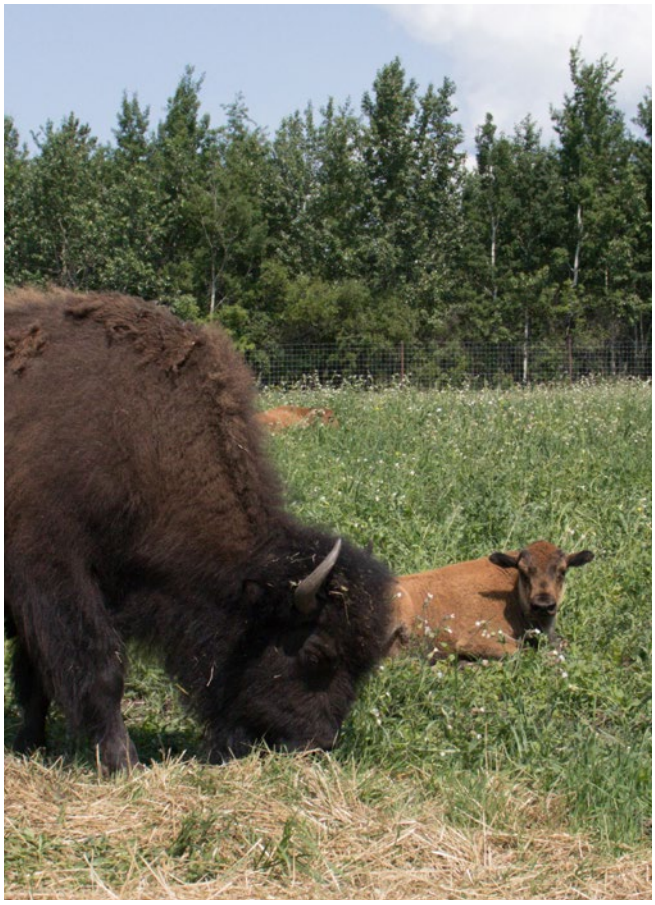
In total, approximately $570,000 from various MNA departments and affiliates was invested here at Métis Crossing to host events. Normally, this money would have been spent in other venues, hotels, and food and service providers meaning it had left the Nation completely. When these same dollars are spent at Métis Crossing, they are reinvested in our facilities, programs, and human resource team – now that is a great example of Nation building!

Economic Impacts

Human resources: Métis Crossing began this fiscal year with six full-time equivalent positions. We have since grown substantially. Our permanent team in March 2021 had grown to 13, with another 10 part-time and casual team members. With support from the Rupertsland Institute's Summer Student Funding Program and the Canada Summer Jobs program, Métis Crossing provided meaningful employment to 23 students from across the province. They contributed to our Experience/ Interpretive team, Culinary team, and Facility team.

Métis Crossing continues our commitment to support Métis and local businesses in both our construction and operations. Below is a partial list of the over 40 businesses and artisans we support.

- Elevate Coffee Roasters - Métis Owner
- Cold Lake Brewing and Distilling Co.
- Smoky Lake Bread Bakery
- Anderson Supermarket
- Big-way Store
- Gofer Liquor
- Smoky Lake Home Hardware
- Smoky Lake Bumper to Bumper
- Red Chimney Restaurant
- Smoky Lake Centex
- Shane's IDA Pharmacy
- Pappy's Parcel
- Smoky Lake Tire and Auto
- Serben's Market
- Emjay's Berry Farm
- TJ's "Just Lick" Ice-cream
- Tofield Packers
- Lonesome Pine Cattle Co.
- Noel's Catering
- Smoky Lake Hutterite Colony
- Linda's Market
- John Ritchie
- Mahikan Trails
- Painted Warriors
- Metro's Contracting
- GenMec – Métis/Local
- Carvel Electric
- Vibrant Solar Solutions
- Smoky Lake Waste and Recycle
- Town of Smoky Lake
- Smoky Lake County
- Smoky Lake Riding Club
- Vilna Golf Club
- Smoky Lake Agricultural Society
- Lakeland Fire and Safety
- Tim Sheppard - Bellis
- Ken's Technical Services
- Shane Henry Horses
- Nolan Huffman Horses
- Firewood Contractors x 2
- Mirabella Feed & Seed - Vilna
- 4J Mechanical – Smoky Lake
- HAK Graduation Class
- The Bonne Nuit B&B
- Super 8 Motel
- Smoky Lake Signal
- RedWater Review
- Lisa Shepard
- Jocelyn Lamothe



The Future

Métis Crossing continues to work on the implementation of our strategies. Our focus for the upcoming year will include the following:

1. Infrastructure masterplan: putting details to the water, waste-water, roads, communications, power, and gas infrastructure required for a destination of this scale.
2. Star Watching Pods: Métis Crossing will be installing 10 star watching pods to provide unique year-round accommodations. Partial Funding received from Travel Alberta.
3. Indoor garden: in partnership with the MNA, an indoor garden will be built as a pilot to explore food security options for our Nation.
4. Harvest House: early conversations on the development of a small scale harvesting facility for cattle and bison with an Indigenous perspective on full carcase utilization and ethical production. ■

Métis Judiciary Council

The Métis Judiciary Council (MJC) derives its authority from the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) bylaws, and the decision of the MJC on matters before it is final. The MJC has a representative from each of the six MNA Regions. It has its own offices separate and apart from the offices of the MNA.

When a complaint is received, it is considered at the next meeting of the MJC. If it appears to be a valid complaint, it is then passed on to the respondent. The respondent is then required to provide a response to the complaint to the MJC.

The complaint and the response are then considered at the next meeting of the MJC. At that time the MJC will decide whether further information is required, or whether the matter can be decided without holding a hearing. If it is decided a hearing is not necessary, the complaint will be decided by the MJC, and the parties notified of its decision.

If it is decided that a hearing is necessary, a hearing will be held to allow the complainant and the respondent to present evidence and arguments in regard to their positions. The parties are able to have legal representation and the hearings are public. After the hearing, a decision is made by the MJC and delivered to the parties.

In 2021 there were three complaints received and resolved. In 2022 there are currently six complaints being dealt with by the MJC. There is also one complaint received in 2020, with a hearing held and a decision delivered in December 2021, this matter is currently before the courts. ■

Métis Nation Holdings

In 1997, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) took an inactive yet current company, called Métis Nation Productions, and renamed it Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. The MNA holds 100% of the shares in this company. This entity holds title to the MNA Provincial Office property on Kingsway Avenue and 50% of the Inglewood Centre property on 111 Avenue 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 Ltd. is the same as the MNA executive.

11738 Kingsway Avenue – MNA Provincial Office, Delia Gray Building

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

In response, the MNA Provincial Council issued direction to explore the purchase of our own building. It was reasoned that purchasing our own building would create program stability, would meet the office needs of the MNA and have potential for gain. 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, 2004.

In 2021/2022, a full roof repair was completed. A 63.2 kilowatt, direct current solar panel micro generation unit was installed during the summer of 2021. An energy efficiency retrofit throughout the Delia Gray building will finish in the fall of 2022. Through the efforts of the MNA Environment staff, successful applications were submitted allowing these repairs, the retrofit, and the array to go ahead at a favorable cost to the MNA. We look forward to a decreased operation and maintenance cost for the building.

11922 – 121A Street – Larry Desmeules Building

On May 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. completed the purchase of the building occupied by Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC). This purchase was prompted by the proposed sale of the building by the previous owners. Due to the foresight of the MUHC Board, the MNA was provided the right of first refusal. The building was financed through the assumption of a mortgage and a loan to Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. from the Royal Bank of Canada. Once again, no MNA program funding was used in the purchase. Lease payments cover all costs associated with the building. This was a requirement placed by the MNA Board. The building has a clear title as of May, 2009. The remainder of the old office space has been converted to file storage. A 10,000 sq. ft. office tower addition was completed in April 2012. In 2013, the warehouse was upgraded and insulated with a sprinkler system added.

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 Ltd. 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, Edmonton Police Services, Mother Earth Essentials, the Métis Nation of Alberta Judiciary Council, and the Métis Veteran's Society. The building mortgage was paid out and a clear title obtained in September 2010. Property management of the building, previously contracted out, has now been assumed by Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. and Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. which each hold 50% of the shares in the building.

In 2021/2022 a full roof repair was completed on the Métis Veterans Building in preparation for installation of a solar panel array that was finished in July of 2022. Once again, successful MNA Environment applications allowed these projects to go ahead and should result in decreased operating and energy costs. Tenant improvements in 2021/2022 were undertaken in conjunction with lease renewals for Rupertsland Institute and Mother Earth Essentials. Repairs to sidewalks and parking ramps were completed. Major upgrades to the parkade's first floor surface were part of an ongoing preventative maintenance program.

4607 – 52 Avenue, Smoky Lake – Nekinan

In 2019/2020, the Smoky Lake Continuing Care Centre was acquired through a lease arrangement made possible through the cooperation of Alberta Health Services and the Town of Smoky Lake. It has been renamed Nekinan (translating to Our Home). This 11,000 sq. ft., 20-bed facility has undergone extensive renovations during the 2020/2021 fiscal year meant to repurpose this building into a residence for Métis Crossing staff, instructors, students, and program resource workers. These renovations include:

- Complete roof repair with skylights
- Complete kitchen renovation
- Repurposed laundry facilities
- Complete repainting throughout building
- Replacement of all plumbing fixtures
- Creation of new shower facilities
- State-of-the-art security systems equipped with cameras
- Upgraded LED light fixtures
- New bedroom furniture
- Upgraded common area complete with air conditioning services
- New walkways and steps

2021/2022 saw the replacement of all windows as well as new flooring installed throughout the building and the construction of private washrooms for all guest suites. Air conditioning was added for the common area and kitchen. Exterior painting was undertaken. Significant upgrades to landscaping were completed.

A detached 4,000 sq. ft. nurses residence that previously acted as a storage facility while an assessment of future use was conducted was determined to be worthy of repair. In 2020/2021, a complete roof repair was undertaken in preparation for adding six to eight more residential rooms. 2021/2022 began a complete interior renovation upgrade including electrical, plumbing rough ins, furnace, insulation, new subflooring, framing demising walls, doors, and windows.

It is anticipated that ownership of these facilities will be transferred to the MNA in the near future.

Other Activity

While not owned by Métis Nation Holdings Ltd., the company has invested considerable time and effort assisting in the:

- Purchase of the MNA Region 1 building
- Purchase and renovation of the MNA Region 2 building, including a complete roof repair, major sidewalk upgrade and solar array installation
- Purchase of a local building in MNA Region 3
- Purchase of the MNA Region 4 building
- Purchase and complete renovation of the MNA Region 5 building
- Purchase and initial development of Métis Crossing

The company was also involved with certain aspects of MCHC projects and renovations connected with Rupertsland and some of its Mobile Employment Service centres.

Just prior to the 2019/2020 fiscal year, through a contribution from Métis Nation Holdings Ltd., 160 acres of land adjacent to the Métis Crossing property was acquired allowing for increased options for programming. ■

Métis Urban & Capital Housing Corporations

Métis Urban Housing Corporation

Métis Capital Housing Corporation

Métis Housing is comprised of Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC) and Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC), operating as an affiliate of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). In 1982, MUHC was established. What began as a small organization with a couple of staff 40 years ago has grown to include MCHC (2007) and a broad spectrum of programs for our community. This past year we have continued to grow in leaps and bounds.

We have seen growth in our Reaching Home Program (RHP), the Family Reunification Program (FRP), Home Programs, and affordable and subsidized housing developments. We aim to continue developing new housing programs and supports, reduce the vacancy rate to match national standards, and increase and improve the available housing quality. All while being financially responsible by developing and maintaining uninterrupted cash flow, budgetary, and financial needs. We strive to reach these goals through continued excellence in staff training and customer service.

40th Anniversary

At Métis Housing, we are celebrating our 40th anniversary. We have been serving Indigenous people since 1982 by providing affordable, adequate, and safe housing options throughout Alberta.

To celebrate this monumental anniversary, we are hosting events throughout the year. In April, we hosted an event for our seniors; we have also had several tenant workshops, staff get-togethers, and will be hosting a BBQ for our community.

Reaching Home Program (RHP)

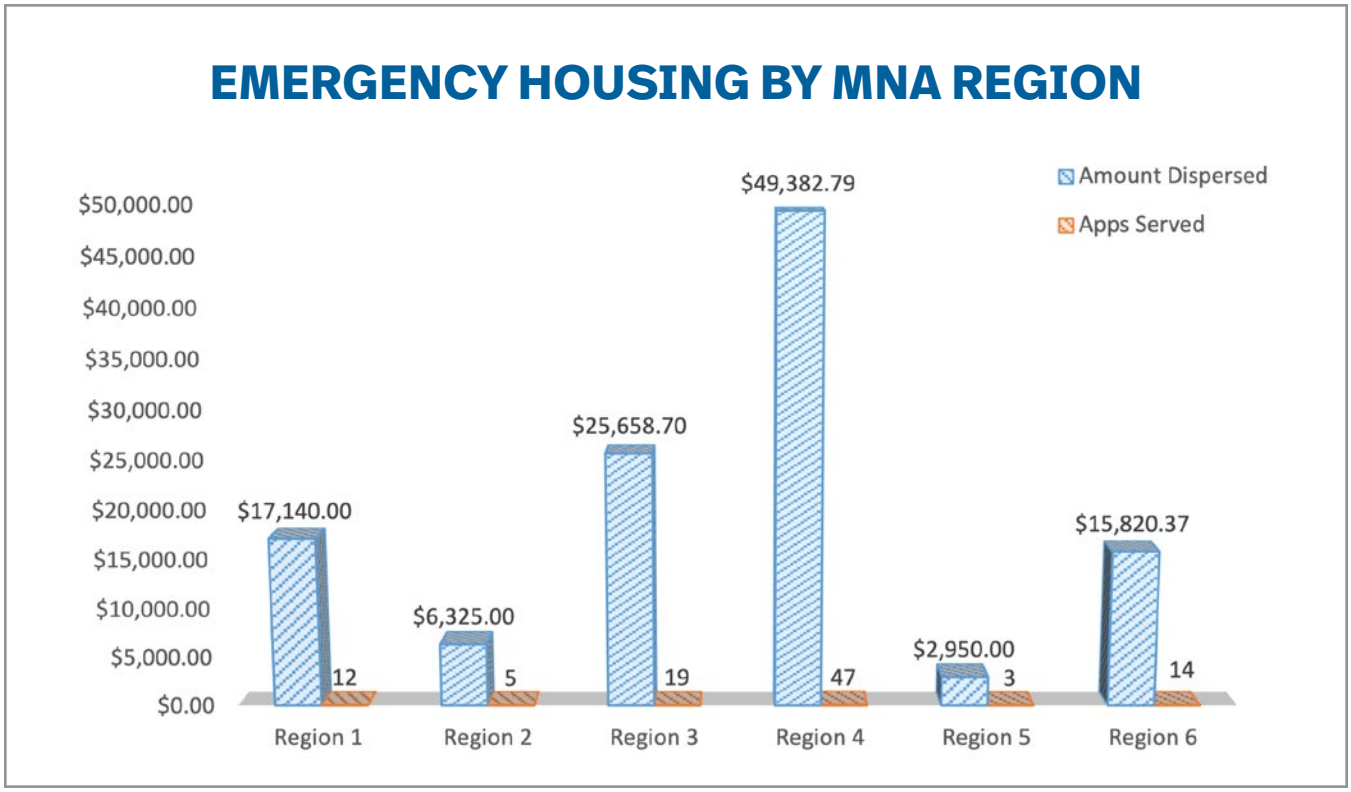
The RHP continues to grow and works hard to meet the needs of the MNA Citizens, as they face many unique challenges. Our goal is to address these barriers with the support of qualified staff and professionals. The RHP outreach workers meet and work with MNA Citizens, while providing services promoting self-determination and uphold an individual's dignity and integrity.

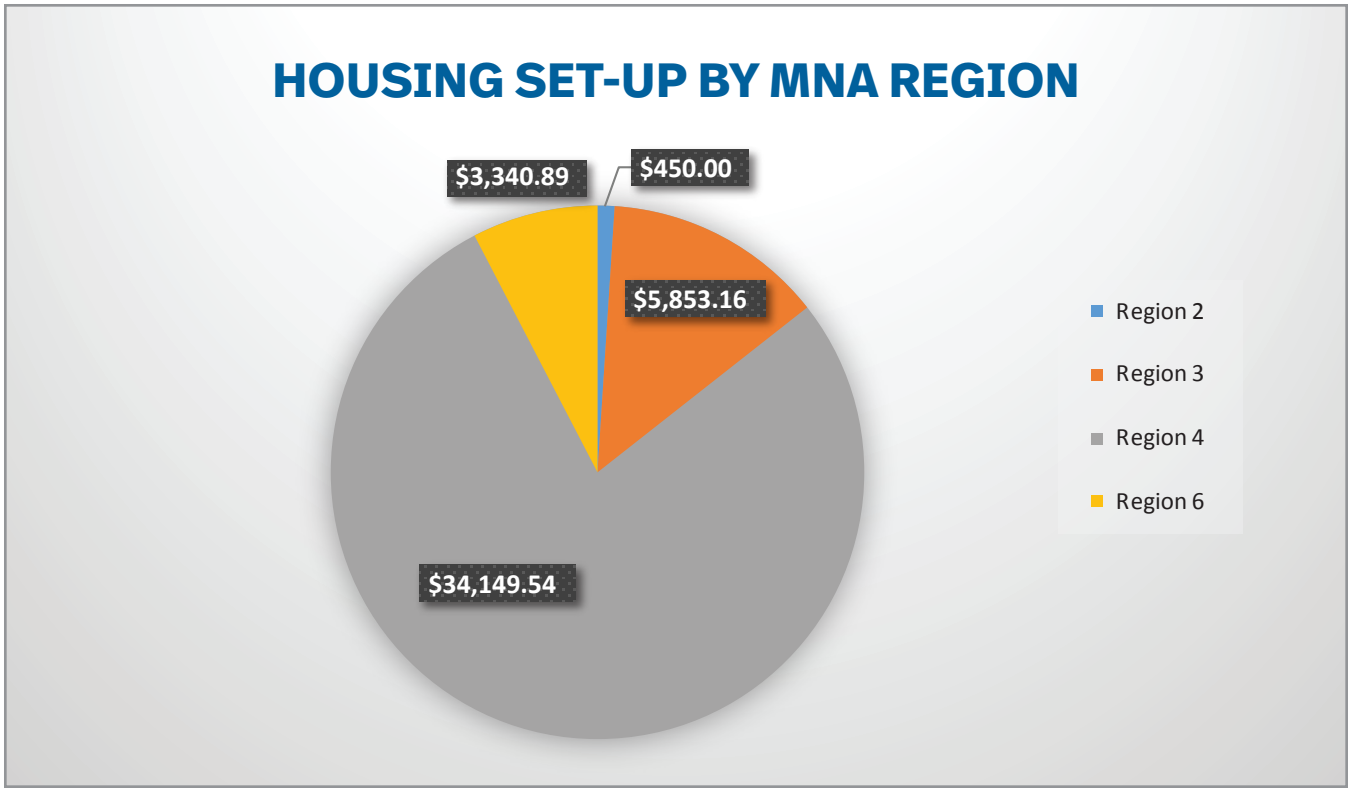
According to the federal government, homelessness is when an individual and/or a family does not have a permanent address or residence; the living situation of an individual or family who does not have stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability to acquire it.

It is often the result of systemic or societal barriers, including a lack of affordable and appropriate housing and a household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural, or physical challenges. It can also be the result of racism and discrimination.

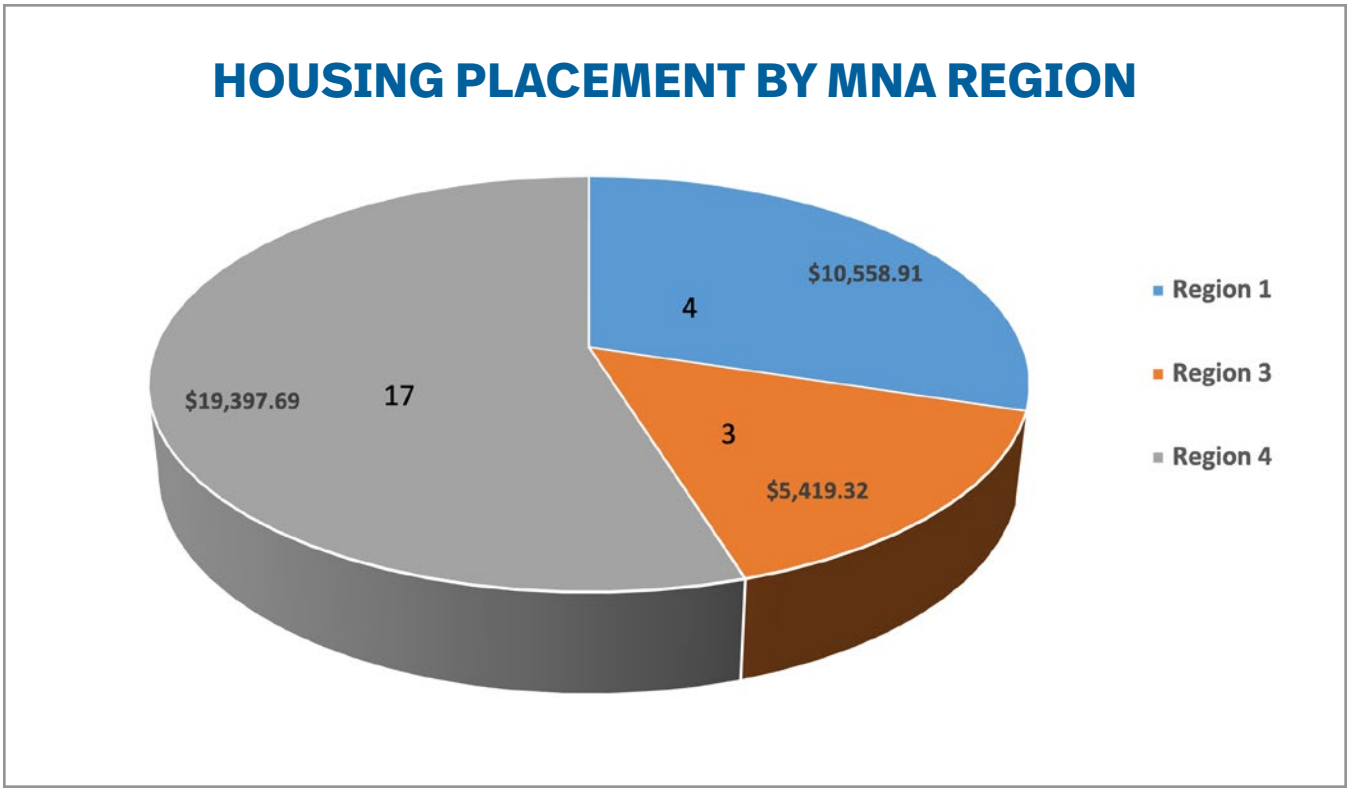
RHP is working to eradicate homelessness in the Métis community in Alberta. The following statistics show our achievements since May 2021:

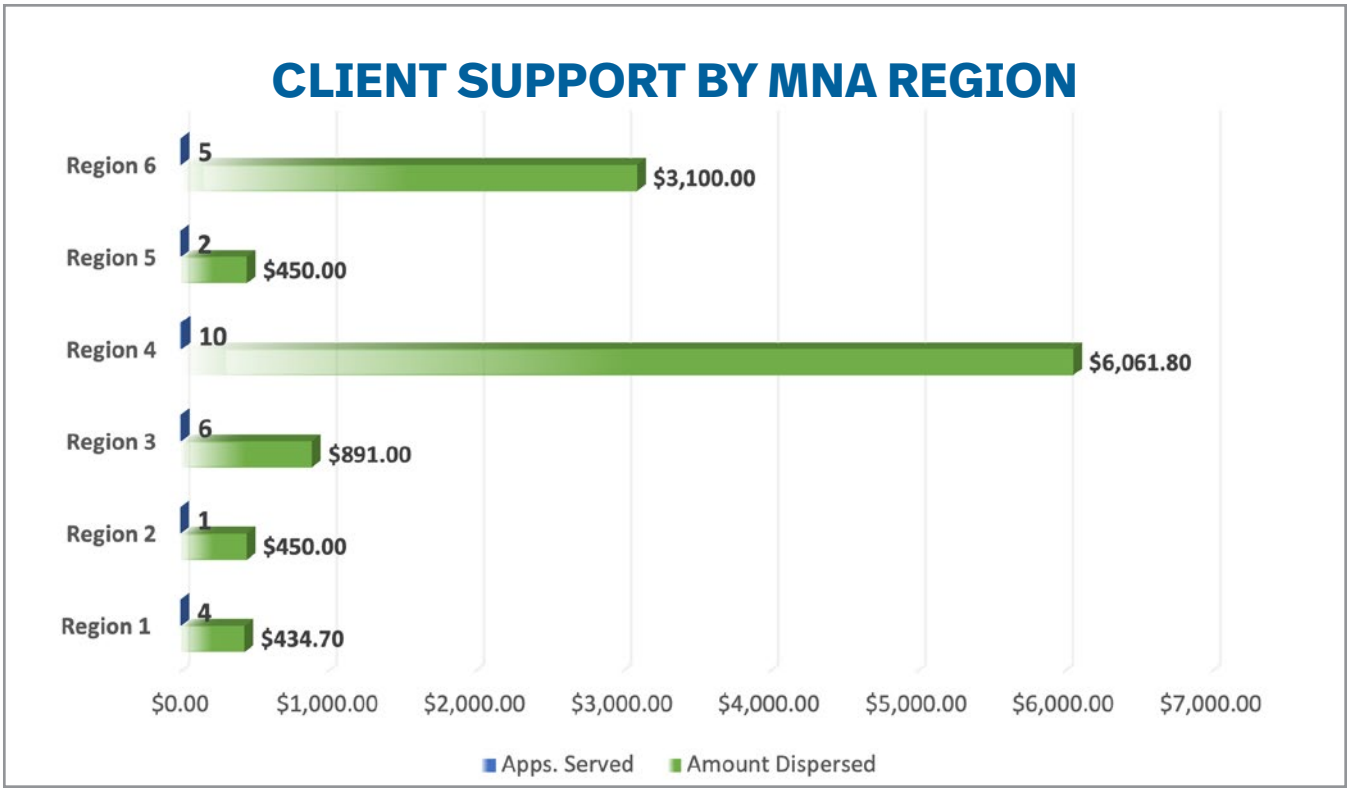
Reaching Home Financial Statistics by Category and Region



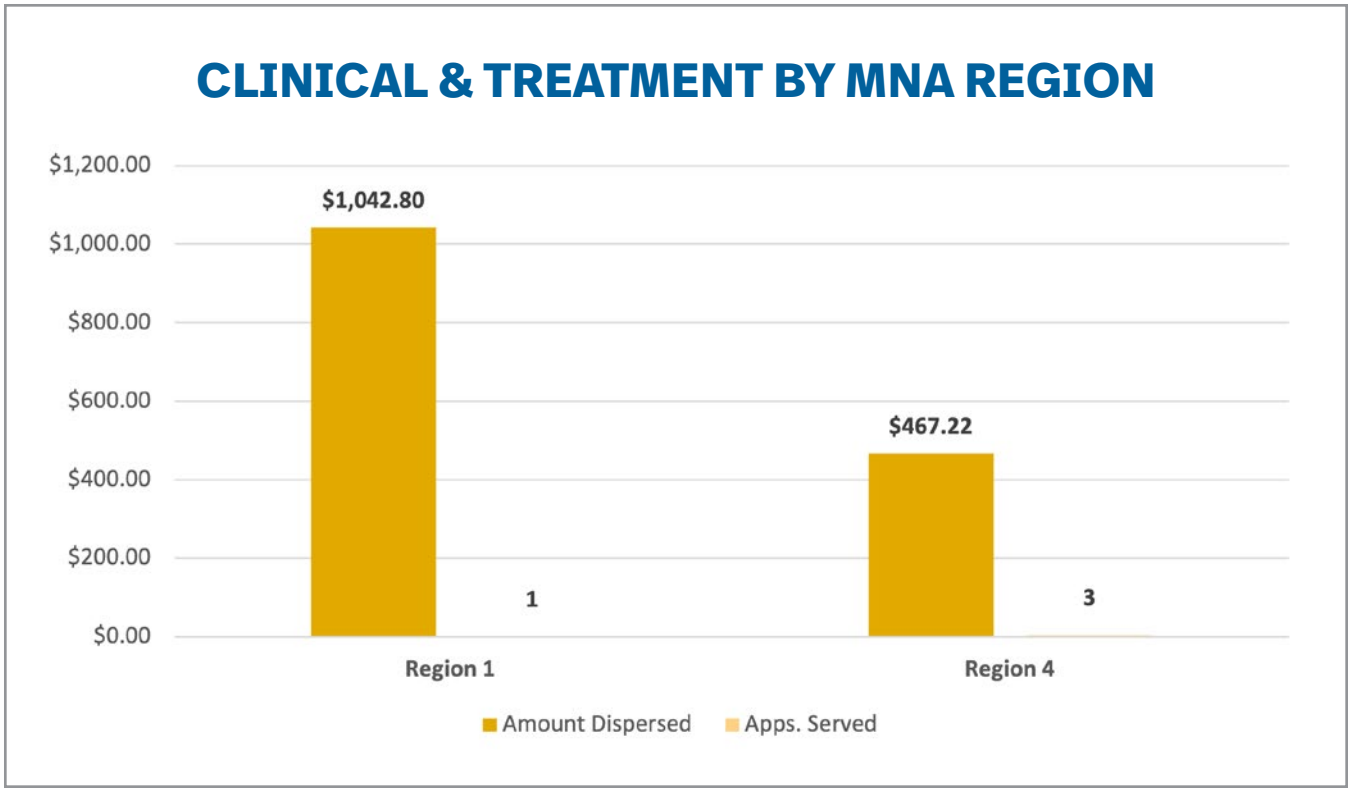


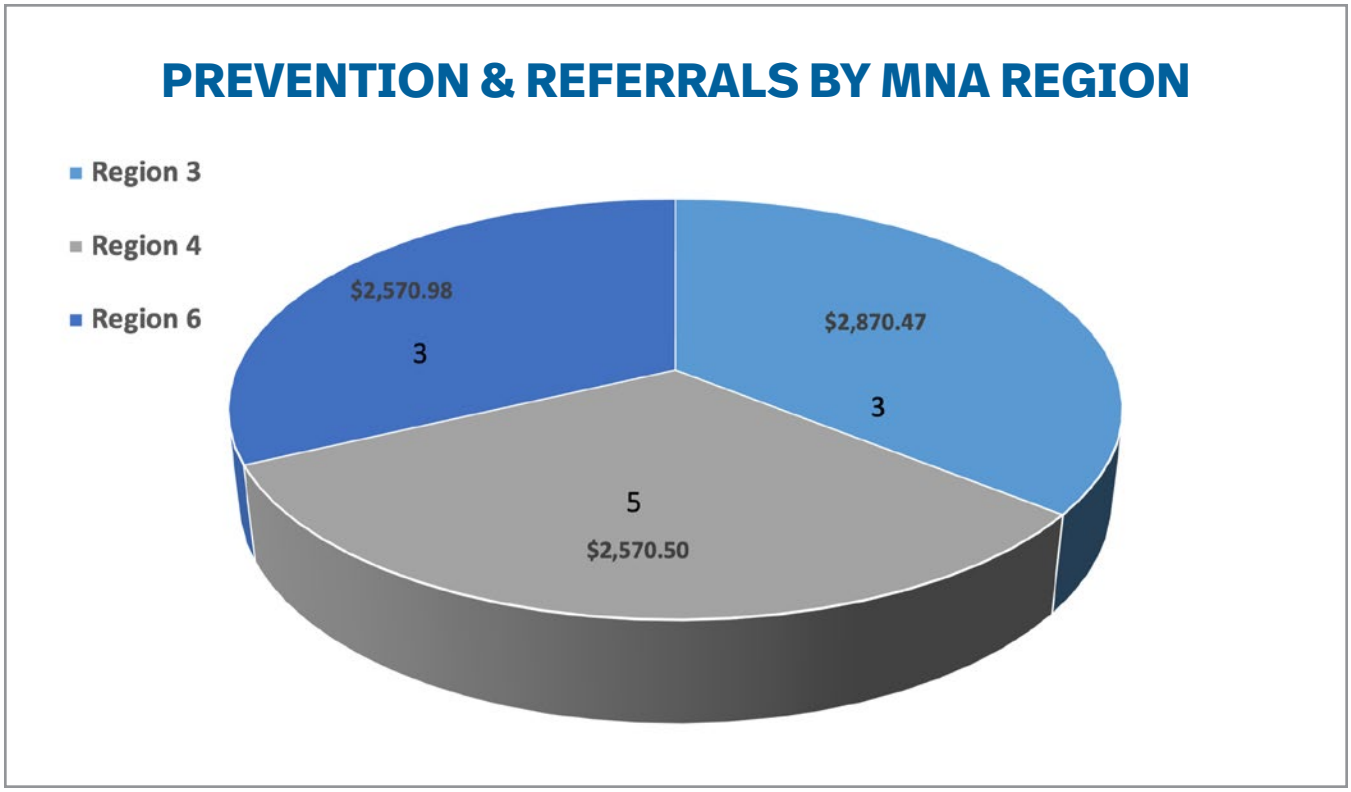
Reaching Home Financial Statistics by Category and Region



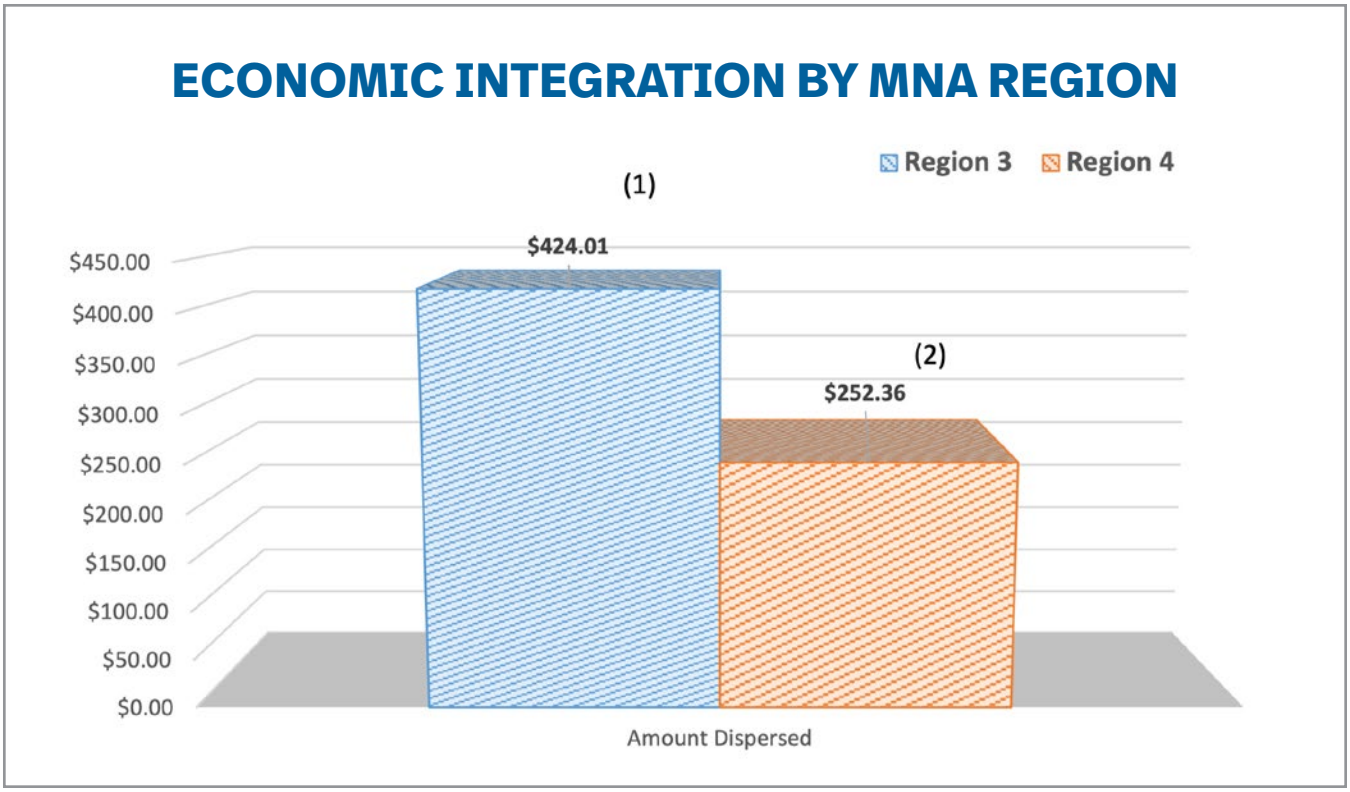


Reaching Home Financial Statistics by Category and Region





Reaching Home Financial Statistics by Category and Region



Family Reunification Program (FRP)

The FRP is dedicated to reuniting Indigenous mothers, fathers, and their children by providing long-term housing and 24/7 family wellness support. The FRP families work through the "Healing Wheel Framework," which includes four quadrants in which the family's journey towards self-determination, breaking the oppressive and systemic cycles of addiction, child welfare involvement, and intergenerational trauma. Each quadrant includes a time frame, so families experience continued success until graduation.

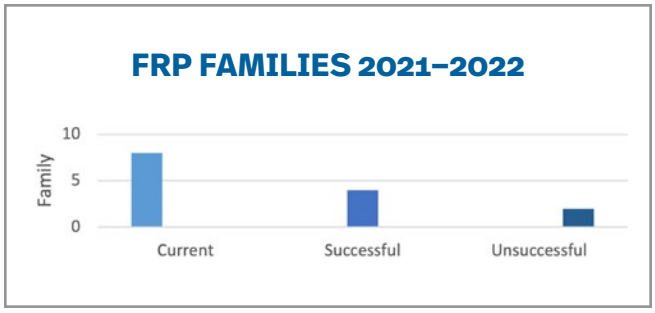
Current Families (including transitions, both successful and unsuccessful)

Total number of families: 13

a. Currently at FRP - 8

b. Successful Transitions - 4

c. Unsuccessful Transitions - 2



Transitions (Successful/Unsuccessful)

Family	Dated Accepted into FRP	Date Transitioned from FRP	Successful	Length of time Spent (months)
1	November 2019	November 2021	NO	24
2	March 2020	June 2021	YES	15
3	March 2020	December 2021	YES	21
4	September 2020	December 2021	YES	15
5	January 2021	April 2021	NO	3

Current Residents

Family	Dated Accepted into FRP	Tentative Transition from FRP	Length of time Spent (months)
6	January 2021	August 2022	19
*7	January 2021	June 2022	17
8	April 2021	October 2022	18
9	July 2021	September 2022	14
10	October 2021	February 2023	18
11	November 2021	March 2023	18
12	January 2022	May 2023	18
13	March 2022	July 2023	18

*7 – Family is current resident as of June 2022 and successfully transitioning at the end of June 2022.

FRP Successes

Family 2 – Transitioned into independence in June 2021 – a single father with two daughters. He moved into a non-Métis Housing unit, and his mother moved in with him so he could pursue a trade.

FRP WATERPARK OUTING JULY 1, 2021

Family 3 – Transitioned into independence in December 2021 - single father with one daughter. He started the Trade Winds to Success Program and obtained his first-year apprenticeship. He and his daughter moved into Métis Housing, and he continues to work and utilize his natural support system.

Family 4 – Transitioned into independence in December 2021. As a single mother with two sons, she moved into the Terra Family Support unit. She is currently completing her hairdressing course with the Alberta Academy of Aesthetics.

Family 7 – Transitioning into independence in June 2022. As a single mom with two children, she currently attends Norquest for upgrading and will start the Social Work Diploma program through Yellowhead Tribal College in September 2022. The family is moving into Métis Housing. They are very excited about the next chapter in their life.

Overall Summary

The need for the FRP continues to grow and remains a valuable resource for Indigenous families. The four quadrants in the Healing Wheel Framework prove to be successful when families are committed to change. The FRP is sought-after and currently has a waitlist. As our FRP families move to independence, a new family is excited to begin their healing journey.

Home Programs

Our four housing programs – Down Payment Assistance, Home Repair Assistance, Student Rental Supplement, and Rental Supplement programs have been a tremendous success.

Down Payment Assistance: Eligible MNA Citizens can receive up to a 5% down payment to a maximum of $20,000 per application.

Home Repair Assistance: The Home Repair Program can help MNA Citizens cover up to $20,000 for all interior and exterior home repairs and renovations.

Student Rental Supplement: Eligible students can receive up to $200 per month of the student's rent paid directly to the landlord and up to $850 of the student's security deposit paid directly to the landlord.

Rental Supplement: Eligible Citizens can receive up to $5,400 per year towards their rent and up to $850 towards their deposit.

Our Citizens have shown incredible interest in these programs, and we feel so fortunate to be part of raising our community.

A total number of MNA Citizens who were approved for different programs and amounts disbursed as of May 30, 2022:

Down Payment Assistance	511	$5,650,185.48
Home Repair Assistance	510	$9,032,055.92
Rental Supplement	492	$2,860,785.96
Rental Supplement for Métis Students	74	$179,200.00
Total	**1,587**	**$17,722,227.36**

Housing

To get the aged and unrentable properties rent-ready, Métis Housing has developed a strategic work plan to renovate such properties in the next three to five years. We are working with all government orders to obtain as much support as possible and participating in their initiatives to promote affordable housing. We are also working with the provincial government to renew MUHC's expiring operating agreements and have made progress.

In 2021 we completed medium to major renovation on 46 MUHC properties and 10 MCHC properties

As of June 2022, renovations on 12 MCHC and 22 MUHC properties are underway, which means at least 34 homes will be rent-ready in less than two months and will serve the housing needs of many Indigenous families waiting to access affordable housing.

New Building Project

- 11240 96 Street (Existing and New Build)
- 12038 37 Street (Existing and New Build)

Peace River

We applied for CMHC's Rapid Housing Initiative funding to build more affordable housing in MNA Region 6, particularly Peace River. Even though we were unsuccessful in accessing this funding, The MNA has made the decision to move forward with this project.

In partnership with Region 6, MCHC will build a three-story, 11-suite apartment building on over 21,000 sq. ft. lot to offer affordable housing to MNA Citizens in Peace River. This building will be located at 10302 90 Street in Peace River.

There will be a mix of one-bedroom to four-bedroom suites, including two barrier-free suites on the main floor. These suites range from 692 sq. ft. to 1,230 sq. ft. We will offer additional support, including various workshops and programming to the residents based on their household needs.

At present, we have finalized the project design. The image shown is taken from one of the shade studies which were undertaken for development permit purposes. The MNA will release further details on the construction schedule in the near future.

Griesbach

MCHC has received a federal land initiative grant for an affordable housing project in Griesbach. We look forward to providing another safe option for our community to live and thrive in.

The development will comprise 127 affordable units for low-income Indigenous families, focusing on women and children. It will be a place of inclusivity, community, and healing. The sites will be located adjacent to the future Metro Line Northwest Light Rail Transit in the Griesbach community, located 12 minutes north of downtown Edmonton.

There will be 42 barrier-free suites with 10 fully automated units to meet the needs of handicapped people. 50 suites will be assigned to women and children fleeing domestic violence seeking permanent and safe housing. Further, the remaining suites, a mix of one-bedroom to four-bedroom suites, will be available for growing families, focusing on single parents and children.

The proposed project will give women and children a safe place to start their healing process surrounded by cultural programming, teachings, healing circles, group and one-on-one counseling.

As they become available, we will provide further details, such as construction timelines. ■

Griesbach

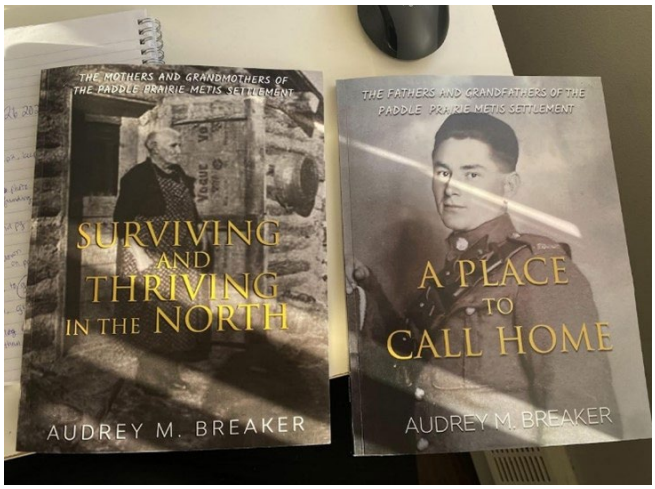
Rupertsland Institute

The Rupertsland Institute (RLI) is a Métis Centre of Excellence that provides professional, transparent, and accountable services under its triple mandate entrusted by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) in education, training, and research. RLI was incorporated in 2010 as a non-profit, section nine company under the Alberta Companies Act and is governed by a professional Board of Governors with representatives from the Métis business community, the University of Alberta, industry, and the MNA Provincial Council. As part of its education mandate, the MNA Provincial Council assigned to RLI administrative responsibilities over the Métis Education Foundation, and in 2012, the MNA Provincial Council extended the RLI's education mandate to include primary and secondary education (K-12).

RLI provides employment services and financial support through a service delivery structure that divides the province into four regions (Northwest, Northeast, Central, and South), including eleven Métis Education, Training, and Information Services (MÉTIS) Centres. Additionally, two RLI Mobile Services Unit provides itinerant services to remote communities through regularly scheduled visits.

Corporate Services

Since COVID-19, Corporate Services has been able to create a strong and secure computer network allowing RLI staff to work from home and maximize technological use to ensure we continue to provide uninterrupted services. While RLI strengthens its ability to provide services remotely, offices have reopened to ensure availability of in-person service to clients in its MÉTIS Centres. RLI is upgrading its technology to enhance quality assurance and oversight, and we are investing in RLI capacity building to deliver more programs and services to support Métis students in the lifelong learning spectrum.



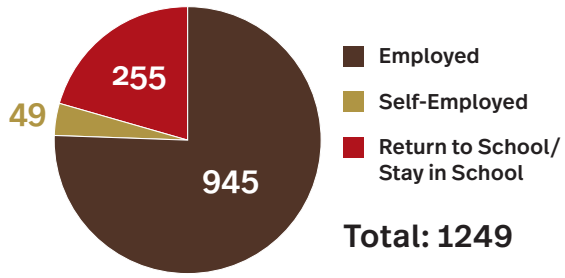
Métis perseverance documented in books
RLI released two books on Amazon in early 2022 that were created to document the Métis experience in Alberta. For Métis author Audrey M. Breaker, this was a personal journey as much as a research project as she obtained consent to share stories to create a written record of Métis history in Alberta with a specific focus on culture, language, ways of knowing, and ways of being. The resulting collection of stories from the fathers and grandfathers of Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement as well as the mothers and grandmothers demonstrates characteristic Métis resilience in tough times. We are proud to bring these stories to a global audience through Amazon.

Métis Training to Employment

RLI is in the early stages of a ten-year Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Agreement with the Government of Canada signed in 2019. The Alberta Métis Education and Training Strategy (AMETS) has been established to help close the employment and earnings gap between Métis and other Albertans focusing on skills and employment training leading to quality, better paying, and long-term career success in the labour market.

In 2021-2022 the number of successful employment outcomes has grown substantially as compared to 2020-2021. The most notable growth can be seen in the trades, transport, and equipment operators fields, where we helped 342 Alberta Métis become employed this year, as compared to 202 in the previous year.

RLI Annual Statistics, Fiscal Year 2019-2020



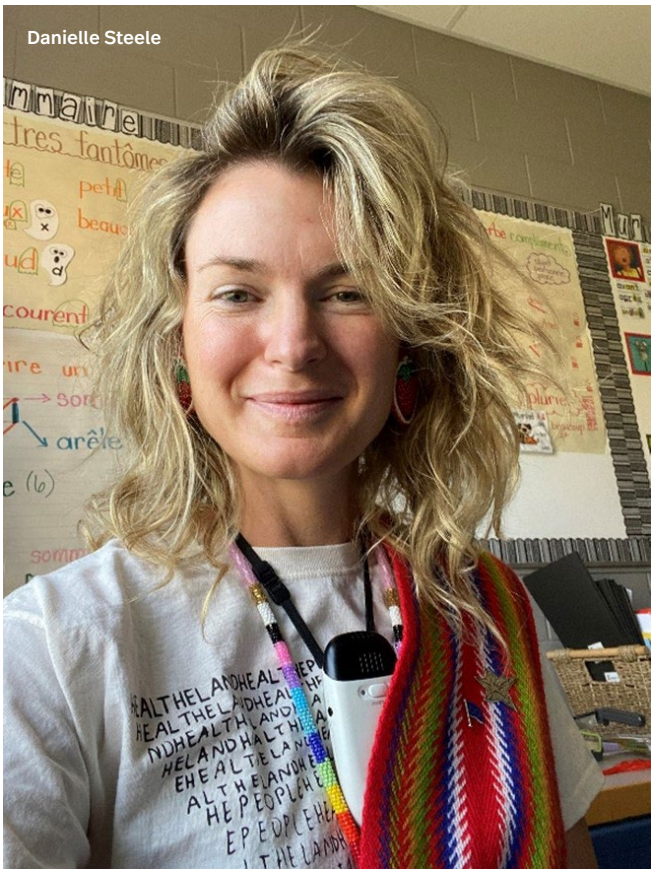
This year Métis Training to Employment (MTE) set up innovative youth programs that had great success. Métis students between 15-18 were invited from all around the province to attend fun, interactive, and dynamic career exploration events. Events were held in Calgary and Edmonton with attendance from 110 students, 29 parents, and teachers. Students learned about Métis history, RLI services, career exploration in non-traditional provincial jobs. Several emerging industries were demonstrated including virtual reality, e-commerce, robotics, renewable energy, and tourism.

Danielle Steele

In the fall of 2020, I was heading into my final practicum for the Secondary Education Undergraduate Degree program at the University of Alberta.

My stress beyond the pandemic was that for a long time I've known I was hearing impaired. What I couldn't deny, however, and what was ironically amplified by the pandemic, was that with masking I couldn't read lips. My audiologist gave me a great deal of hope, however with hardly any benefits coverage, hearing aids felt financially out of reach. I connected with RLI and immediately I was put in touch with Avery via Andrea. Both these women supported me with love, compassion, and a huge amount of empathy. Those early meetings about my situation were very emotional and when I heard RLI would be supporting me in obtaining my hearing aids, words cannot express the gratitude I felt.

I have been with hearing aids now for just over a year. I tell my students all the time about my hearing impairment and I am constantly met with kindness


Danielle Steele

and a willingness to accommodate my disability. Being a recipient of financial assistance for my hearing aids has completely transformed my life. I am no longer on the outside or the periphery of conversations. I am deeply grateful to RLI for supporting me and making sure I felt assisted, accommodated, and ultimately included. I will forever look for ways to pay this forward. Maarsi a million times.

Most sincerely, Danielle Steele

Randall Pope

As a young Métis man local to Peace River, I have such great appreciation and respect towards the Rupertsland Institute for helping get me off my feet. Through building my resume and helping me with job searching, they have helped lead me to where I'm now at in my life.

I am currently working as an apprentice barber here in Peace River at Split Endz & Trendz.

Rupertsland Institute helped me with completing all the paper work for funding my tuition and schooling. Answering and replying to many emails and calls as I didn't know what to expect or think about furthering my education. The professionalism is amazing.

Randall Pope

If it wasn't for the Rupertsland Institute, I don't think my career path would be as great and successful as it is today with such great expectations to come after I get ticketed.

Thanks again for everything. It is greatly appreciated.

Madison Moore

The funding that Rupertsland Institute has provided me for my degree in Kinesiology at the University of Alberta has allowed me to pursue my academic goals, while also pursuing my passion for competitive figure skating.

Figure skating and university tuition are both expensive. With the help of Rupertsland Institute, I did not have to choose between sport and academia. I was able to continue competing while attending university. This past year I completed my second year of credits at university, and I finished in 13th place at the 2022 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships. Thanks!

Kiera (Sunderland) Milgate

Rupertsland Institute (RLI) was instrumental in my last year of schooling in so many ways. The financial stress they relieved allowed me to focus on excelling in my studies and pushed me to seek out my career goals. The help the online counsellors offer prior to, during, and following the training process relieves many of the stresses around navigating schooling, employment, and life in general. My online employment counsellor has never hesitated to offer advice or help throughout this entire process. It is the willingness and passion within people like her to help raise up individuals within the Métis community that can give

Madison Moore

back to society that allows people like me to find success in doing that. The stress that she, and RLI collectively, has taken off me during my final year of my undergraduate degree is something I will forever be grateful for.

My desire has always been to serve others and give back to my community, and RLI has relieved many of the burdens and obstacles that stand in our way as students, allowing me to accomplish my goals and fulfill my desires of contributing to the needs of society.

Thank you, RLI!

Kiera (Sunderland) Milgate, Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education University of Alberta – December 18, 2021

Education

RLI, through the Rupertsland Centre for Teaching and Learning (RCTL, established in 2019) is diligently supporting and advancing Métis education across the province. RLI, in consultation with the Alberta Métis Education Council and MNA leadership, has developed five foundational knowledge themes instrumental in sharing the Métis story in Alberta. Content for these themes is developed by engaging with Alberta Métis community members, archival resource analysis, and drawing from academic papers published by scholars in Métis academia. These themes are available through RCTL to help teachers develop their foundational knowledge to meet teaching quality standards for Indigenous content.

New App

This is the new augmented reality app that allows people to activate images and narrations that make learning about Métis easier and fun.

Community History & Engagement Project: Métis Memories

In 2020, the Métis Education Division facilitated an intergenerational art collaboration to acknowledge, highlight, and share Métis residential school survivor experiences. This powerful educational resource was designed in collaboration with respected Métis Elder and artist Mrs. Angie Crerar, author Jude D. Daniels, Canadian artist Lewis Lavoie, graphic designer Emma Grant, RLI, the Werklund School of Education, and the Métis community.

Together, collaborators created images that reflect the stories shared in the book *Métis Memories*. These images were made into a mural with art cards, used as an educational tool for K-12 students to learn about the colonial school experience many MNA Citizens endured.

The mural image (depicted below) was inspired by Métis artist Samantha Pratt. To explore the mural, visit: **muralmosaic.com/metis-memories**

In April 2022, the Métis National Council (MNC) sent a delegation of residential school Survivors, Elders, youth, and community members to Rome to share with Pope Francis, and the world, the experiences of the Métis in residential schools. The Métis delegation gifted the Pope with the *Métis Memories* mural and book of stories, photographs, and other documents collected from across the Métis Nation homeland.

Michif Language Revitilization

RLI's Métis Education Division has been working to reclaim, maintain, and strengthen Métis language and culture through our Michif Revitalization Project. It is anticipated the knowledge gained from this language revitalization project will contribute to improved outcomes for Métis students and enhance the experiences of Métis families and communities in the Alberta school system.

RLI's online Michif course is an accessible language learning resource and a core part of the Michif Revitalization Project. Alberta Métis Educator Sandra Davenport and Métis Scholar Ashley Shaw co-developed the course starting in November 2021, working closely with Michif language speakers, knowledge keepers, Elders Elaine Malbeuf, and Norman Fleury, the RLI Education team, and the Instructional Design team from CLR Media.

RLI also established a partnership with the Faculty of Werklund Education at the University of Calgary. Through

this partnership, Métis Scholar Dr. Jaime Leigh Fiddler is working with Métis graduate students to develop an annotated Michif bibliography and several enhancements for RLI's online Michif course. Having secured extended grant funding in the spring of 2022, we look forward to expanding the Michif Revitalization Project over the coming years.

Métis Elder Norman Murray

Métis Elder Norman Murray is instrumental and inspirational in guiding a Michif online language course development with Métis educators and other venerated Métis elders.

Métis Access To Post-Secondary (Maps)

RLI launched MAPS in the fall of 2021. This program aims to provide support to Métis high school students in choosing a meaningful career and post-secondary education program, decrease barriers, and increase pathways to higher education for Métis learners in Alberta. By partnering with several school districts to distribute a campaign connecting students to the program, approximately 75 students from grades nine to 11, and 30 grade 12 students found support. RLI Alumni Sydney Leddy shared her journey with students.

High school teachers and graduation success coaches are being recruited across Alberta as MAPS ambassadors who will guide students on the critical journey from high school to post-secondary and into careers. Live events such as MAPS Expeditions, Journey of a Métis Professional, and Connect with Krista are designed to increase engagement, build community, and share the journeys taken by Métis professionals in a variety of careers.

Early Learning & Childcare Program

Throughout 2021, RLI developed a unique Early Learning Education and Childcare Training (ELECT) program to support existing Early Learning Diploma holders who seek training in Métis-centric ways of knowing, being, and doing for early learning education. ELECT supports early learning and childcare providers working in Métis communities and early learning centers. To inform the development of the program, RLI held community engagements, including focus groups and contributions from Métis early learning educators. This approach ensures Métis culture, language, and land-based learning is woven into the fabric of the ELECT program. The program will be officially implemented with a pilot of five early learning directors or educators from each of the six MNA regions. This first cohort will engage in synchronous and asynchronous learning through the training program over the next fiscal year.

RLI Student Emergency Program (RSEP)

In 2021-22, $1,000 in COVID-19 post-secondary emergency funds were provided to eligible post-secondary education students, and over 2,000 Chromebooks were provided to Métis K-12 students bringing the total to more than 5,000 Chromebooks given to Métis families since the pandemic began.

RLI has developed online resources for home bound students such as virtual job fairs and the Rupertsland Education Community Connections (RECC) Room, a Facebook-like online platform that has fostered a safe teaching and learning community made up of teachers, parents, and Métis students. Pre-school support was provided to Métis families this year in a pilot project that will continue this fall.

Many supports are available for early learners and K-12 students through the RECC Room including tutoring, practice exams, live paint and read along sessions with Métis teachers. Register for free here: **rli.connectedcommunity.org/home**

RLI Post-Secondary Education Program

RLI's new post-secondary education program provides supports for:

- Students entering post-secondary from high school or in their later years.
- Years one to four of an undergraduate university degree.
- Years one to two of a college diploma.
- Post-graduate (e.g., Ph.D., M.A., Professional Degree).

Online Services

Online Services administers three programs and provides quality case management for:

1. Post-secondary Education (PSE).
2. Final Year (MTE).
3. Métis Student Supports (MSS).

In 2021-2022, a total of 1,108 eligible students in the pursuit of a college diploma or university degree were funded through the RLI programs:

- 742 PSE undergraduate students.
- 366 MTE final year graduate students.

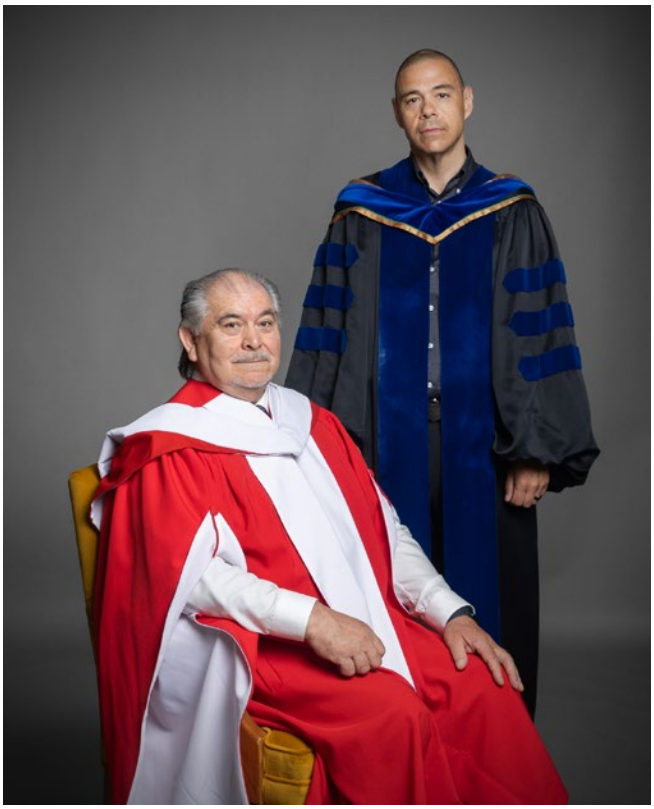
Of the 742 PSE undergraduates, 330 received MSS supports based on individual needs (e.g., emergency). More than 800 students applied for the fall semester, and applications will be accepted pending availability of resources in October 2022 for the winter semester.

Métis Education Foundation

About 200 Métis Scholar Awards are provided annually. Established in 1991 by the MNA, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) incorporated as a non-profit charitable foundation with the goal of improving education outcomes for Métis Albertans. In 2006, the MNA and RLI's predecessor, the Labour Market Development Unit (LMD), began to capitalize the MEF and started the process of negotiating Métis endowments with post-secondary institutions across Alberta with funds derived from the Federal Indigenous Labour Market Program. Today the Métis Education Foundation holds an endowment portfolio with a market value approaching $31 million and supports 20 post-secondary institutions and two MEF internal endowments.

In 2021-2022, in partnership with three new partners, $1,875,000 was added to the endowment portfolio as follows: Keyano College with a $1,000,000 endowment, Red Deer Polytechnic with a $525,000 endowment, and Olds College with a $350,000 endowment. Since its inception, nearly $8 million has been awarded to more than 2,000 Métis Scholars.

U of A honors Dr. Gladu



RLI retired CEO Lorne Gladu (seated) is presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree at the University of Alberta's June 2021 convocation. Dr. Gladu was honored as a "builder in the field of Indigenous education," said Dr. Chris Andersen, the University of Alberta's Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies. "We celebrate his visionary leadership which will have a positive impact on the lives of Métis people and Métis communities for generations."

Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR)

The Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR) is an expansive, independent academic research centre housed in the Faculty of Native Studies located in Pembina Hall at the University of Alberta. RCMR was established twelve years ago in 2011, born from a memorandum of understanding between the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), the Rupertsland Institute: Centre for Métis Excellence (RLI), and the University of Alberta (UofA). This relationship was renewed on May 27, 2021.

The RCMR mandate includes building provincial and national connections with the Métis community; increasing research capacity to advance Métis-specific research; and training and employing student researchers. We carry out academic research on topics of interest to Métis people in five main areas:

- Historical research and Métis rights
- Institutional deficit in Métis education
- Land use and resources, contemporary Métis issues
- Research and analysis capacity on current topics and general policy areas

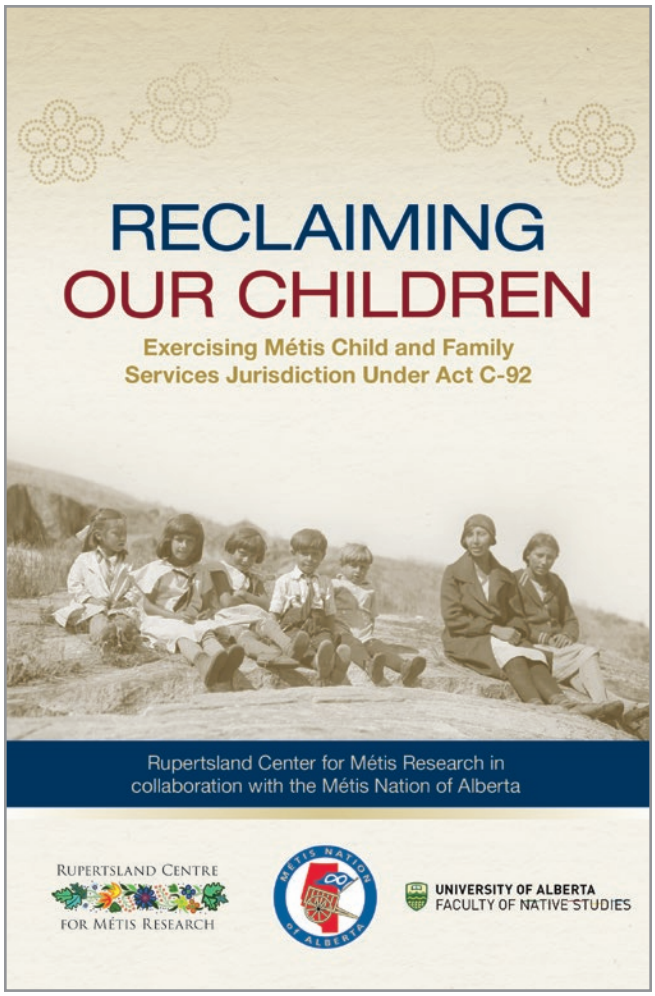
RCMR website: **ualberta.ca/native-studies/research/rupertsland-centre-for-Métis-research/index.html**

Métis Kinscapes: Researching Métis Relations and Peoplehood at Lac Ste. Anne

In Spring of 2020, the scholars of the Métis Kinscapes project, Dr. Paul Gareau, Dr. Cindy Gaudet, Dr. Shalene Jobin, Dr Kisha Supernant, Marilyn Dumont, and Dr. Nathalie Kermoal, received a Kule Research Cluster Grant. Research is ongoing and interviews with community members starting soon. If you are interested in sharing your experiences of Lac Ste. Anne, please contact Tanya Ball: **tcball@ualberta.ca**

Métis Child and Family Services

Métis Nation of Alberta–Child and Family Services (MNA-CFS) partnered with RCMR in February 2020 to work on research looking into current child protective services in Alberta and models of Indigenous child welfare around the world, and Métis kinship care for children through history. Faculty of Native Studies Ph.D. student Angie Tucker continues this work with Dr. Nathalie Kermoal on this initiative. The forthcoming booklet for this project, *Reclaiming Our Children: Exercising Métis Child and Family Services Jurisdiction Under Act C-92*, is set to be published Spring 2022 with a Métis Talks event being planned for Fall 2022 on this topic.



Principles of Ethical Métis Research

There is a need to articulate a more specific Métis research ethic and methodology that take into consideration unique historical, political, legal, and socio-economic factors as well as cultural protocols. RCMR is proposing to lead the way in thinking about the principles of ethical Métis research where we will help organize a series of brainstorming workshops with Métis scholars

in Edmonton and Calgary. These brainstorming sessions will inform possible avenues of future activities including consultation with Métis community members. These future activities will help further define these protocols and principles.

Métis Talks

Métis Talks is the signature event of RCMR. Each spring and fall we host a get-together with interested community members to talk about different academic and artistic research themes. These are community-oriented presentations with discussions centred around particular research themes.

Métis Talks Fall 2021

The November 18, 2021, Métis Talks event centred on the theme of Métis women. Co-presenters, Bailey Oster, and Marilyn Lizee authors of *Stories of Métis Women: Tales My Kookum Told Me*, discussed the power of stories, and how understanding our history can strengthen connections to family, community, and culture. Dr. Cheryl Troupe, presented: *Re/Storying Métis Road Allowance Communities*. Using Métis stories, Cheryl's talk challenges the depiction of road allowance communities as marginal, liminal, and temporary spaces, instead recasting them as places of strength, resilience, and resistance where Métis cultural practices, Michif language, and the roles of women remained strong.

Métis Talks Spring 2022

The theme for Métis Talks this spring was Métis food sovereignty with online presentations from Natalie Pepin and Chef Jennifer Lessard. Natalie Pepin is a Métis Cultural Educator who runs "Meeting My Ancestors" and hosts the Wasakam Indigenous Food Sovereignty Camps in Northern Alberta. She is a Harvard graduate who left university with a profound desire to live simply and regain a connection with the land. She presented *Two Roots: Métis Cultural Foodways Beyond the Hunt*. Jenni Lessard, a chef and culinary consultant, lives and

works on Treaty Four Territory and Homeland of the Métis in the Qu'Appelle Valley near Regina, Sask. Jenni serves as Secretary of the Indigenous Culinary of Associated Nations and is a citizen of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. Her presentation was titled *From Rose Hips to Spruce Tips... A Recipe for Food Sovereignty*.

RCMR Presents with the Métis Nation of Alberta

On February 8, 2022, RCMR along with the Métis Nation of Alberta hosted an online event. MNA President Audrey Poitras and Jason Madden, co-managing partner in the law firm Pape Salter Teillet LLP both presented on Métis self-government.

All RCMR event videos can be found on our website.

Impact Connection Award

We are thrilled to share that in December 2021 RCMR Director Dr. Nathalie Kermoal, also a professor in the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta, was a recipient of the 2021 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connection Award. This award recognizes an outstanding SSHRC-funded initiative that facilitates the flow and exchange of research knowledge within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community. Dr. Kermoal received the award along with a team of five other researchers (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) that are part of a research network called DIALOG. The award honours DIALOG's 20-year mission of building relationships with Indigenous communities and mobilizing knowledge for reconciliation.

Podcasts

Work began in January 2021 on developing two podcasts showcasing research and academic researchers to go alongside our 10-year anniversary celebration.

Our Foods

Our Foods: Chatting about Métis Food Sovereignty is a six-episode podcast series hosted by Faculty of Native Studies Master's Student Devonn Drossel, who developed the concept of the podcast under the direction of Dr. Nathalie Kermoal.

Episode One: *What is Métis Food Sovereignty?*

This episode outlines the concepts of food sovereignty and Indigenous food sovereignty to inform what the definition of Métis food sovereignty is and begins a discussion about how Métis food sovereignty could be defined.

Episode Two: *Urban Métis Gardens*

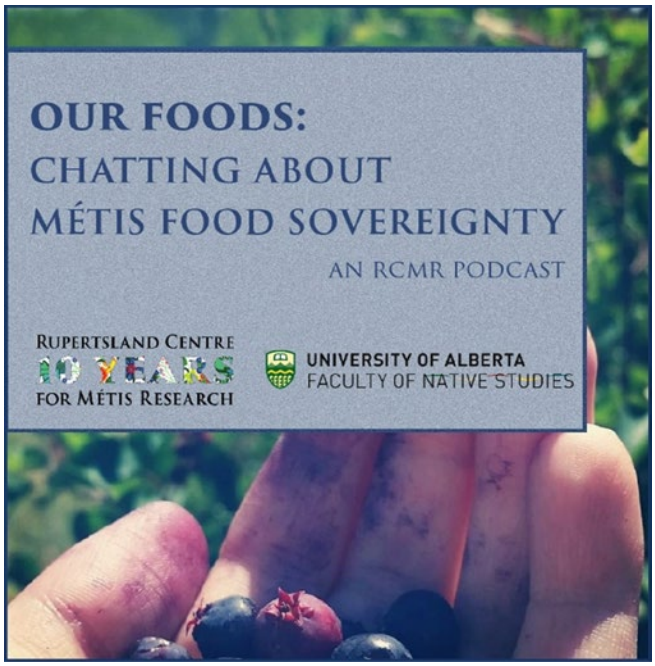
Morgan Hrycak, the MNA Climate Leadership Coordinator, joins Devonn Drossel to talk about the MNA's community garden in Edmonton, as well as the importance of gardening to Métis food sovereignty.

Episode Three: *Métis Hunting and Harvesting*

In this episode, Devonn Drossel chats with Bob Montgomery, a Métis hunter, and a member of the MNA Harvesting Council. They chat about the importance of hunting, barriers to hunting, and how you can get involved.

Episode Four: *Health, Wellness and Métis Food Sovereignty*

Devonn Drossel discusses to the intersection of food sovereignty (especially urban food sovereignty) and health discussion: urban food deserts and their



implications for health with a focus on health and wellness and how they relate to Métis food sovereignty.

Episode Six: *Seed Saving Part One and Two*

Natalie Pepin joined Devonn Drossel for a two-part chat to talk about seed saving; specifically, the role that seed saving can play in our Métis community and how it relates to Métis food sovereignty and our food practices.

Along the Trail

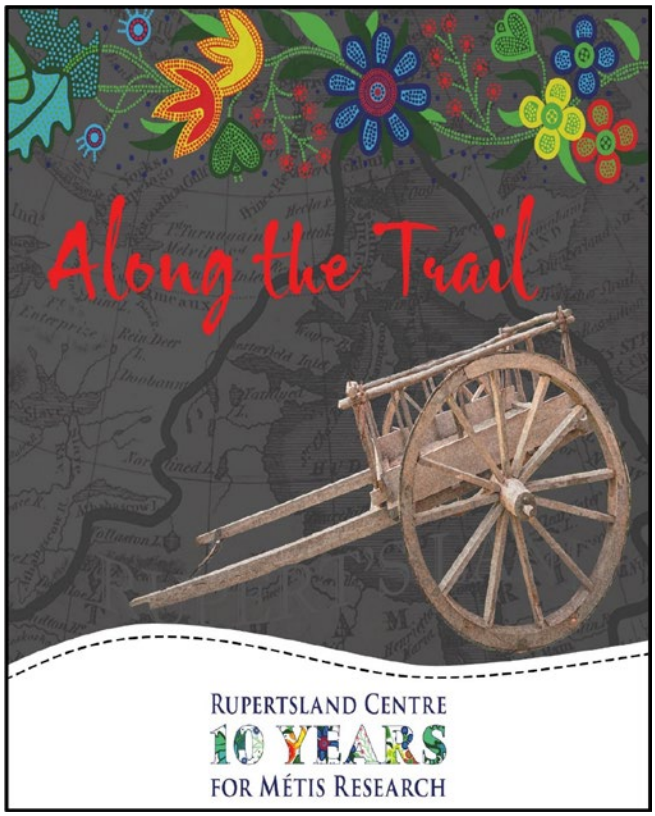
As part of the 10-year anniversary of the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research, on July 8, 2021, we launched the podcast, *Along the Trail*, featuring Métis studies researchers and their journey. There are now five episodes hosted by Faculty of Native Studies Ph.D. student, Molly Swain and master's student Devonn Drossel.

Episode One: MNA President Audrey Poitras, Lorne Gladu, and Dr. Nathalie Kermoal

Molly Swain sits down with MNA President Audrey Poitras, Rupertsland Institute CEO Lorne Gladu, and RCMR Director Dr. Nathalie Kermoal, to talk about the founding of the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research, the first independent academic Métis Research Centre of its kind in Canada.

Episode Two: Dr. Frank Tough, Professor in the Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta and director of the Métis Archival Project.

Episode Three: Dr. Yvonne Poitras Pratt, Associate Professor at the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary.



Episode Four: Dr. Paul L. Gareau, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta.

Episode Five: Dr. Daniel Voth, Associate Professor and Academic Director of International Indigenous Studies in the Political Science program at the University of Calgary.

Research Fellowship

The 2021–2022 RCMR Research Fellowship application was awarded to Dr. Michelle Porter, University of Toronto. This fellowship supports Dr. Porter with building a network of research relations that explore the links between Métis cultural renewal, the renewal of relationships with the home/land(s), Métis connections to bison (across time and geography), and bison mobility and geographies

Research Affiliates

In 2018 RCMR began a dedicated effort towards creating a network of academic research affiliates who specialize in Métis Studies and Research to help us take up the academic research work of the Métis Nation. Our network includes 20 researchers across 12 Canadian universities and colleges.

Métis Studies University Courses & Modules

NS 280: Reach for the Sky: Métis Women's Leadership

In the Spring 2021 RCMR began talks about a collaborative project between Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) to design and deliver a five module Métis Women's Leadership course for credit university students and non-credit students going through the LFMO Women's Leadership Program. The pilot for this course is now being delivered Spring 2022 with two more course offerings for Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 semesters.

NS 380: Métis Land-Based Learning

The pilot for this two-week intensive course is going to be delivered at the University of Alberta and Métis Crossing on August 2-12, 2022. Students will spend one week in the classroom learning from Métis Studies scholars at the University of Alberta and one week on the land at Métis Crossing learning from Knowledge Holders. Students will engage with historical and present day topics, including river lots, scrip, spiritual and cultural practices, and Métis relationships with the land. This course includes hands-on experiential learning of land-based activities, lectures, and teachings on Métis ways of knowing and being.

Métis Health Module

In the Fall of 2021 MNA's Department of Health contacted FNS and RCMR to work towards researching and developing a Métis Health Module geared towards healthcare providers, research partners, and service/program providers looking to do work with the Métis Nation of Alberta. This project is developed by Faculty of Native Studies Ph.D. student Wyatt Schiefelbein, Dr. Nathalie Kermoal, and Dr. Chris Andersen. The pilot for this module is planned for Winter 2023 semester. ■

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS

ARTICLE 26 of the bylaws of the METIS NATION OF ALBERTA ASSOCIATION sets out the proper procedure and requirements for the calling of a Special Meeting which includes notice of 21 days in writing of the time and place of the Special Meeting and the Proposed notice for same;

AND WHEREAS

Proper notice to call a Special Meeting for June 4, 2022 by the MNAA Provincial Council did not follow the bylaws of the Association, the Societies Act section 1 d i A, and Alberta's Interpretation Act, given the notice posted online on May 15, 2022 failed to meet the 21 day notice, such notice being sent on May 15, 2022 for the proposed special meeting of June 4, 2022;

AND WHEREAS

The rationale for holding such a meeting was presumptive in assuming the MNAA Constitution would be passed at the Annual General Assembly in August 2022 in Calgary and ratified in a province wide vote in the fall of 2022;

AND WHEREAS

The Special meeting location was in a jurisdiction that did not allow for adequate accessibility in terms of location, time and expense for MNAA members to attend and was in a location not central to membership thereby creating a hardship for members to attend upon such short notice;

AND WHEREAS

MNAA Election Bylaws specifically state that all rules, regulations and procedures shall be identical. Or as identical as possible, to those of the Election Act of the Province of Alberta;

AND WHEREAS

Section 3 (3) of the Alberta Elections Act clearly states:

(3) The Chief Electoral Officer **may,** where the Chief Electoral Officer considers it necessary for the efficient conduct of an election, enumeration or plebiscite under this Act, an election under the ***Alberta Senate Election Act*** or a petition, plebiscite, referendum or vote under any other Act to which this Act applies,

(a) extend the time for doing anything under this Act, ***except***

(i) <u>the time for the holding of an election.</u>

AND WHEREAS

The Rule of Law considering the Rules of Democracy state that there must be an opportunity for the changing of elected officials as set out in legislation and to postpone or ignore that important requirement would be to ignore the Rule of Law in Canada;

AND WHEREAS

The 12 principles of democracy are Citizen participation, equality, political tolerance, accountability and transparency, regular free and fair elections, economic freedom, control of the abuse of power, bill of rights, accepting the results of elections, human rights, multiparty system, and the Rule of law of which seven of those principles are being violated by the stated postponement of the 2022 elections contrary to the MMNA bylaws, the Alberta Elections Act and the Society's Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the June 4, 2022 MNAA Special Meeting to postpone the 2022 MNAA provincial elections be repealed and the MNAA Provincial elections stand for 2022 in accordance with MNAA bylaws, the Alberta Elections Act and the principles of a free and democratic society.

Moved by: M. Jeannette Hansen. Seconded by: Dr. Adam Browning

Notes

Provincial Office:
Delia Gray Building • 11738 Kingsway Avenue • Edmonton, Alberta
780-455-2200 • 1-800-252-7553
albertametis.com

@abmetis @albertametis @albertametis