



Métis Nation of Alberta

A strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights

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Office of the President

My fellow MNA citizens,

For generations, like-minded Métis have come together to build the Métis Nation of Alberta into the democratic and now federally recognized government that represents the Métis Nation within Alberta. **This month, we need Métis citizens to come together again.**

For generations, the federal government denied collectively held Métis rights, including the Métis right to self-government, and refused to negotiate nation-to-nation, government-to-government treaties with the Métis. But we persevered. We worked together and always found a way.

In 1961, the Métis Association of Alberta incorporated an association under the Alberta Societies Act. We needed to do this to establish intergovernmental relations and funding arrangements with the federal and provincial governments. Thirty years later, we changed our name to the Métis Nation of Alberta and adopted new bylaws for the association. These bylaws were intended to “continue the process to self-determination and self-government” for the Métis Nation.

Since then, we relied on the “Métis Nation of Alberta Association” to serve as our legal and administrative arm, but this does not and should not undermine or diminish our self-government.

For generations, Alberta Métis have called for:

- a constitution for the Métis Nation within Alberta to be adopted as Métis law.
- a treaty with the Crown to establish a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with Canada.
- the Métis Nation of Alberta to no longer need an incorporated society to serve as its legal and administrative arm.

In November 2022, after years of consultation, every registered citizen of the Métis Nation of Alberta over 16 years of age had an opportunity to vote on the ratification of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution. An overwhelming majority, 97%, voted Yes. Through this vote, the citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta exercised their inherent right to self-government and adopted the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution as Métis law.

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution establishes the Otipemisiwak Métis Government as the successor to the Métis Nation of Alberta. **But we still need your help!**

On May 27, we are holding a Special Meeting. We need you to participate and keep our momentum going!

At the Special Meeting, a special resolution will be voted on. This resolution would do two things: repeal and replace the registered objects of the association; and repeal and replace the association's bylaws. For simplicity's sake, we have packaged those two things into one resolution. The new bylaws of the association will enable MNA's transition to Otipemisiwak Métis Government under the Constitution.

These new Bylaws must be adopted in order to give effect to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution following our general election this September. This is a temporary but necessary measure to help us continue on our self-government journey. Once federal implementation legislation is passed and a treaty is ratified between the Métis Nation within Alberta and the Government of Canada, the recognition of the legal status and capacity of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government will be complete.

We want to keep up our momentum and continue building the Métis government we have dreamt of for generations. A Métis government our children and grandchildren will be proud of.

Please join me at the Special Meeting to keep persevering and building, as our people always have. I hope to see you on May 27th.

Sincerely,



Audrey Poitras
President
Métis Nation of Alberta