



PARTNERS IN TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD:

The Métis National Council and the United Nations
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



“A sustainable future for all can be found in Métis knowledge, the Michif language, our unique culture, and our relationship to the land and water; the heartbeat of the Métis Nation’s Homeland.”¹

¹ <https://www.fsds-sfdd.ca/en/introducing-the-strategy#sustainable-development-perspectives-from-national-indigenous-organizations>

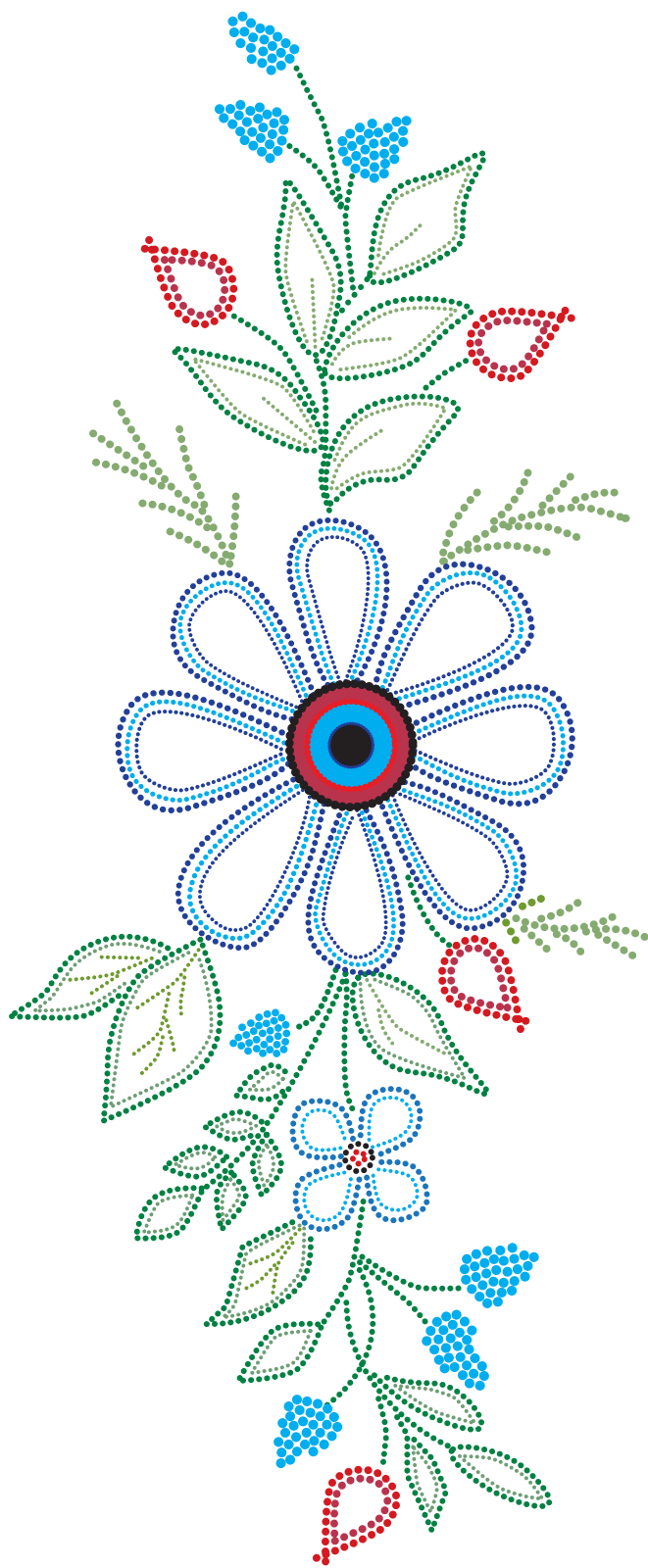


Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	4
Introduction	5
Cross-departmental implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.....	7
Children and Family Services.....	11
Economic Development	14
Education	17
Environment.....	19
Health	23
Housing	26
Justice and Policing	28
Language & Culture	31
Veterans	33
APPENDIX 1 – Métis National Council Departmental Priorities and Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators	35
Appendix 3 - Resource Guide	41

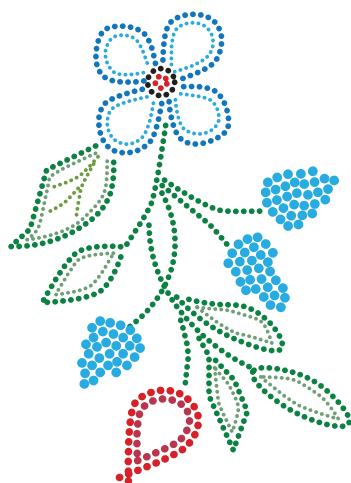


Executive Summary

There is clear alignment through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the Métis National Council's mission to enhance and promote the cultural, social, economic and political interests of the Métis Nation. The 2030 Agenda is wholistic and targets structural inequities, as articulated in Goal 10, to reduce inequality within countries. This dovetails with the Métis National Council's long-term vision, that "Métis people are healthy, resilient, grounded in their culture and language, and thriving as individuals and as members of their Métis families and communities." Like the Métis National Council, the 2030 Agenda articulates a framework where working towards sustainable development means that no one is left behind.

Every department of the Métis National Council can use the 2030 Agenda as a framework to advance their goals and priorities. By working together in this way, the Métis National Council can enhance Nation-to-Nation and government-to-government relationships; can increase its global opportunities; and can hold Canada accountable to its commitments to sustainable development. This coordinated strategy can facilitate better access to resources to further MNC priorities; can build solidarity and connection with Indigenous Peoples globally; and can present to Canada a unified message on the Métis vision of sustainable development.

In advancing work on the 2030 Agenda, the Métis National Council should note the following four principles: that all rights are interrelated, interdependent, interconnected and indivisible; that disaggregated data is essential to knowing whether or not the Sustainable Development Goals are being met; that responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making is necessary to achieving the vision set out in the 2030 Agenda; and finally, that the elimination of all forms of discrimination is crucial to effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



Introduction

All of the countries of the United Nations (the UN) have a shared vision of sustainable development and a commitment to action accompanying this vision. **Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (the 2030 Agenda) comprises of 17 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as adopted by resolution in the UN General Assembly in 2015. This Agenda and these goals are a resource through which MNC can promote development in a way that benefits the Métis Nation and that reflects Métis visions of sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The 17 SDGs are broad and ambitious, they target structural inequities through three main dimensions: social, environmental, and economic. Under these goals are 169 targets to be met to reach those 17 goals, and 231 unique indicators to measure progress on the targets. The vision encapsulated in the 2030 Agenda is that economic development does not have to come at the cost of environmental degradation or the violation of human rights. Rather, sustainable development emphasizes that “peaceful, just and inclusive societies” and “lasting protection of the planet” are the only way forward to addressing contemporary global challenges and crises.

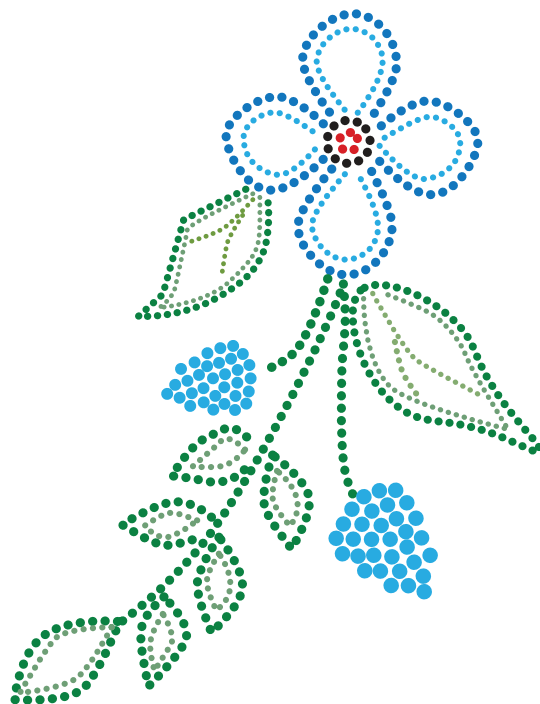
There is clear alignment through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the Métis National Council’s mission to enhance and promote the cultural, social, economic and political interests of the Métis Nation. The 2030 Agenda is wholistic and targets structural inequities, as articulated in Goal 10, to reduce inequality within countries. This dovetails with the Métis National Council’s long-term vision, that “Métis people are healthy, resilient, grounded in their culture and language, and thriving as individuals and as members of their Métis families and communities.” Like MNC, the 2030 Agenda articulates a framework where working towards sustainable development means that no one is left behind.

But what do these 17 lofty goals mean for Canada and for the Métis Nation? Canada has promised to implement the 2030 Agenda and has made legal commitments to the concept of sustainability in a range of federal laws, as have provincial and territorial governments.

The 2030 Agenda is an opportunity for Canada to make incredible progress on all aspects of wellbeing in Canada and globally. It is crucial to understand that the 2030 Agenda is grounded in the respect, protection, and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Implementation of this Agenda must fully respect international law, and countries are expected to live up to their human rights commitments – including those affirmed in UN Treaty Bodies.

These commitments by Canada further the ability of the Métis National Council to use the 2030 Agenda, along with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (the UN Declaration), to ensure that Métis values are respected in any decisions impacting them across the broad spectrum of the 2030 Agenda.

Canada’s commitments to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda include a national strategy for advancing the SDGs released in 2021. This strategy recognizes that “gaps in well-being and opportunities facing Indigenous Peoples” must be addressed to reach the SDGs. Increasing attention on addressing the growing climate crisis and greater awareness of human rights means that this is an important time to leverage the 2030 Agenda, alongside the UN Declaration, as tools to hold Canada accountable to its commitments. The 2030 Agenda is a valuable opportunity for the Métis National Council to contribute and advance their goals both domestically and on the international stage.



Cross-departmental implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

All departments within the Métis National Council should consider the following four principles in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

1. All **human rights are interrelated, interdependent, interconnected and indivisible**, regardless of the instrument in which they are affirmed.
2. **Disaggregated data** is essential to knowing whether or not the Sustainable Development Goals are being met.
3. **Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making** is necessary to achieving the vision set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. The **elimination of all forms of discrimination** is crucial to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1. **All rights are interrelated, interdependent, interconnected and indivisible, regardless of the instrument in which they are affirmed.**

The three dimensions of sustainable development – the economic, social and environmental – are integrated and indivisible. This means that implementing one goal or target will impact the implementation of another, and that efforts should be made to work beyond “silos” in the actioning this framework for sustainable development. While this strategy suggests areas of priority or focus for the Métis National Council, it is not intended to limit departments to only certain goals or targets, but rather to demonstrate where there might be areas of strength and skilled knowledge to advance certain aspects of the 2030 Agenda, as MNC works cooperatively to realize this vision for Métis citizens.

In adopting the 2030 Agenda, Member States of the UN reaffirmed “the importance of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all” (pp. 19). This reaffirmation underscores the indivisible nature of human rights; whether they relate to civil, cultural, economic, political or social issues, human rights are inherent to the dignity of every human person. Therefore, all human rights have equal status, and cannot be positioned in a hierarchical order.² In Canada, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must go hand-in-hand with implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

² <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/human-rights-principles#:~:text=Indivisibility%3A%20Human%20rights%20are%20indivisible,positioned%20in%20a%20hierarchical%20order>.

2. **Disaggregated data**

For all aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development it is crucial that there be disaggregated data to measure progress. This is especially crucial in Canada, where a distinctions-based approach must be taken with respect any measures relating to Indigenous Peoples. The phrase, “no one left behind” is oft-quoted in reference to the 2030 Agenda, and this especially means the most vulnerable – which includes Indigenous Peoples (pp. 23). Sustainable Development Target 17.1 explicitly names the need for “high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location.” Holding Canada accountable to its international commitments, in the 2030 Agenda and via other human rights instruments, requires disaggregated data. The Métis National Council should lean on the 2030 Agenda in calling on Canada for disaggregated data across all sectors. This intersectional approach will not only advance the wellbeing of the Métis Nation, but will enhance Canada’s capacity to meet these global goals.



3. **Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making is necessary to achieving the vision set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

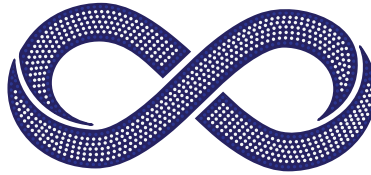
The Métis National Council must be included and represented in decision-making at all levels pertaining to them. Sustainable Development Target 16.7 commits Canada to ensuring that decision-making is responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative at all levels. It may be necessary for Canada to be reminded of this commitment, particularly when decisions are complex or are occurring at a high level. In those instances, it is even more important for representation to not only be inclusive, but to be meaningful. Indigenous Peoples can work together to ensure there are distinctions-based seats at every table, and that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is responsive to their unique needs.



4. **The elimination of all forms of discrimination is crucial to effective implementation**

The Métis National Council has an important role to play in ensuring that Canada take every measure possible to ensure that non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development are promoted and enforced (Target 16.b) in order to reduce inequality within and among countries (Goal 10). Métis citizens are disproportionately at risk of experiencing discrimination; and achievement of Targets 10.3.1 and 16.b are measured by personal experiences of harassment or discrimination. Given this, it is important to consider non-discrimination across all sectors when advocating for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

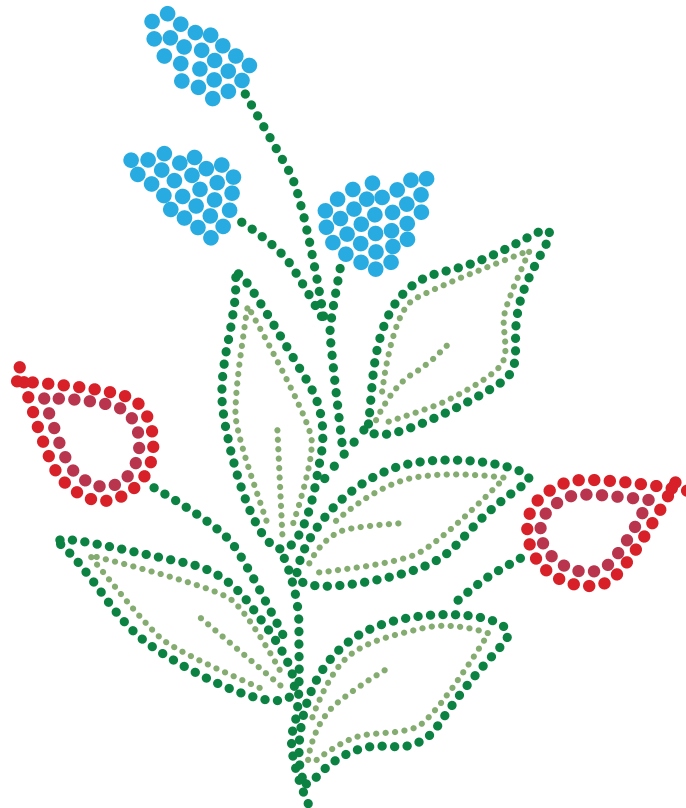




International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities

- The [Summit of the Future 2024](#) is a unique opportunity for countries to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance, and to reaffirm existing commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals. The outcome of this Summit will be a “Pact for the Future” which will chart the course for more effective global cooperation towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Canada will be participating in this Summit for the Future at a very high-level, and it may be possible for the Métis Nation to influence Canada’s position on the “Pact for the Future” or perhaps to join the Canadian delegation.
- The Métis National Council has the opportunity to join in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples globally via the [Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development](#) (IPMG). The IPMG is the main mechanism for coordination and concerted efforts to advance the rights and development priorities of Indigenous Peoples at all levels with a particular focus on the 2030 Agenda. The IPMG is always seeking to broaden its partner organizations, and the Métis Nation might find this a positive venue in which to share success stories and to uplift Indigenous brothers and sisters around the world. As one of the nine recognized UN Major Groups, IPMG can facilitate participation in [High-Level Political Forums](#) and also the [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forums](#) (including the upcoming [Forum, 24-25 February 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya](#)).
- Canada is assessed every five years for its achievement on the SDGs through a process called **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). Canada was most recently reviewed in July 2023, and will come under review again in 2028. This is a peer review process, and is an important mechanism for the Métis Nation to hold Canada accountable to its commitments. More information, including reports, from Canada’s VNR are available [here](#) and [here](#).
- While not an SDG specific process, the [Universal Periodic Review](#) involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations. The UPR will release recommendations to Canada, and the Métis Nation can use these recommendations to strengthen its advocacy on the 2030 Agenda. MNC, as a “relevant stakeholder,” can submit information in writing for consideration at the UPR review. Canada was last reviewed under the UPR in November 2023.
- [Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#): In 2023, the SRIP visited Canada and made a statement ([A/HRC/54/31/Add.2](#)), including specific recommendations to the Government of Canada. The Métis Nation can use these recommendations to strengthen its work on the 2030 Agenda. Any individual or organization, including MNC, can submit information to the SR via [Special Procedures](#).

- Every year, on August 9th, there is the opportunity to join in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples globally to uplift Indigenous rights. This is [the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#) and is an opportunity to showcase Métis culture and identity.
- Indigenous Peoples globally with similar histories of colonization may present unique opportunities for the Métis Nation to build international solidarity and the sharing of best practices across borders. In country contexts such as the USA, New Zealand, Australia, and across the Sámi regions, there are valuable insights to be learned and partnerships to be built to advance mutual interests on the 2030 Agenda.



Children and Family Services

At the heart of the 2030 Agenda is the concept of “no one left behind.” The Métis National Council’s priorities on Children and Family Services align directly with this overarching theme, and there are several specific targets that the Métis National Council can use to advocate for enhanced opportunities and meaningful engagement regarding Children and Family Services. Canada’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda includes the sentiment affirmed in preambular paragraph 25 of the Agenda, that, “We will strive to provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities [...] including through [...] cohesive communities and families.” The 2030 Agenda’s focus on education, equity, health and structural discrimination is particularly important when seeking to improve wellbeing for Métis children, youth and families.

Canada’s commitments to sustainable development regarding Métis children and families

- **Target 1.2** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
 - **Re 1.2** *Canada has committed to reduce poverty by half by 2030. To do so, Canada has stated generally that it will “make investments” and “work with partners to reduce poverty.”³ For Métis, any definition of poverty cannot be based on income alone, but must also address access to the ability to both practice and sustain culture, livelihoods and subsistence. Canada must work with the Métis Nation to provide funding and resourcing to reduce poverty for Métis children, youth, and families in a way that sustains Métis identity.*
- **Indicator 1.a.2** Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)
 - **Re 1.a.2** *Canada has committed to reducing poverty by 50% by 2030, but lags behind other developed countries in its public expenditure on children and families as a percentage of GDP.⁴ Providing distinctions-based funding for Métis children, youth and families is an important aspect of meeting this goal and simultaneously supporting the achievement of many other aspects of the 2030 Agenda.*
- **Target 10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- **Target 10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.



³ Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, 2022-2026, page 228.

⁴ Page 9: https://www.unicef.ca/sites/default/files/2022-07/UNICEF%20RC16%20Canadian%20Companion%20EN_Web.pdf

- **Target 10.4** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
 - **Re 10.2, 10.3, & 4** *Canada’s commitments to Sustainable Development Targets 10.2, 10.3, and 10.4 affirm that Métis children, youth and families must be empowered and provided with equal opportunity. This means ensuring appropriate policy, action, and distinctions-based funding that supports the rights of the Métis Nation pertaining to the jurisdiction and provision of child and family services for Métis children, youth and families.*

- **Indicator 3.4.2** Suicide mortality rate
 - **Re 3.4.2** *Métis youth are disproportionately at-risk of suicide and Canada is far behind its State peers with respect to suicide rates in adolescents. Self-determination and cultural continuity are effective measures of prevention. Canada must support Métis initiatives that uplift Métis self-determination and cultural continuity.*



Other international tools to use in tandem

In addition to its commitments to the 2030 Agenda, Canada has legal obligations to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC). Canada ratified the CRC in 1991 and was most recently reviewed in 2022. In its most recent Concluding Observations,⁵ the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended to Canada:

- 10.** (c) Define budgetary lines for all children, with special attention given to those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations that may require affirmative social measures, such as children of indigenous persons.

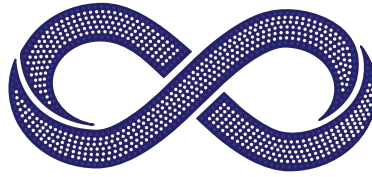
This recommendation is underscored in *CRC General Comment No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children’s rights (art. 4)*⁶:

- 61.** [...] Spending equitably does not always mean spending the same amount on each child, but rather making spending decisions that lead to substantive equality among children. Resources should be fairly targeted to promote equality. States parties are obliged to remove all discriminatory barriers that children may face in accessing their rights.

These recommendations are a valuable tool for the Métis National Council to use in holding Canada accountable to its human rights commitments towards Métis children, families, and youth.

⁵ https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FCAN%2FCO%2F5-6&Lang=en

⁶ CRC/C/GC/19 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no-19-2016-public-budgeting#:~:text=It%20identifies%20States%20parties'%20obligations,sustainable%20public%20budget%20decision%2Dmaking.>



International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities regarding children, youth, and families

- Métis children and youth are best positioned to advocate for their own rights and to speak about their own priorities. Wherever possible, Métis children and youth should be provided with the resources and support to be a **part of Métis delegations** to any international fora. This is an important way to build capacity within the Métis Nation, and to empower children and youth to become advocates. There are many **fellowships** available for Indigenous youth at the UN, including via [NGOs such as Cultural Survival](#), and also through the [OHCHR](#).
- The Métis Nation can support the inclusion and empowerment of Métis children and youth by encouraging their participation in the [UN Major Group for Children and Youth](#). The UNMGCY works on a range of issues at the global, regional, national and subnational levels and includes facilitating collective participation of young people through policy and advocacy at the UN; capacity building; knowledge and resource base; and a platform for action that encourages young people as leaders. As one of the nine recognized UN Major Groups, UNMGCY can facilitate participation in [High-Level Political Forums](#) and also the the [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forums](#) (including the upcoming [Forum, 24-25 February 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya](#)).
- Canada’s review under [the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) is a vital opportunity for holding Canada accountable to its global commitments to human rights. Canada was [last reviewed in 2022](#), and will be reviewed again in January 2027, as the review cycle occurs every five years. The recommendations in the CRC’s Concluding Observations can be used by the Métis National Council strengthen its work on the 2030 Agenda. The Métis National Council, as a “relevant stakeholder,” can submit information in writing for consideration at the CRC review.
- [UNICEF](#) is the resource hub for all UN activities relating to children. The Métis National Council should work to build relationships at UNICEF when at other UN meetings in order to be able to contribute to any educational resources pertaining to Indigenous children and youth, such as the annual [State of the World’s Children](#). UNICEF will regularly host events related to children, such as the upcoming [UNICEF Expert Meeting on Statistics on Children](#) (4-6 March 2024).
- On November 20th, annually, there is the opportunity to join in solidarity with children and youth advocates globally to uplift children’s rights. This is [World Children’s Day](#) and is an opportunity to showcase the leadership of Métis youth, along with highlighting the importance of recognizing and protecting the rights of Métis children.

Economic Development

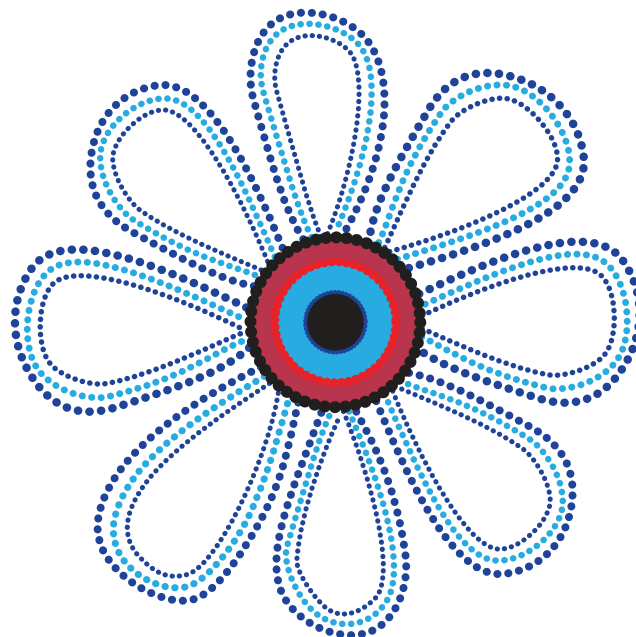
The Métis vision of economic development aligns well with the balanced approach of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda underscores how sustainable development must incorporate all three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. MNC's Economic Development Principles affirm an approach that is focused on improving the socio-economic conditions of Métis citizens. By working together with the Métis Nation, Canada can make greater strides towards achieving the ambitious goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.

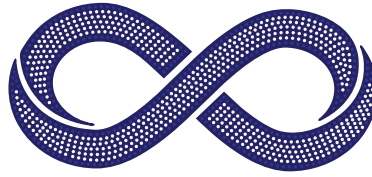
Canada's commitments to sustainable development regarding economic development

- **Target 12.7** Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
 - **Re 12.7** *To meet Sustainable Development Target 12.7, Canada's procurement practices should reflect the diversity of Canada and should therefore increase federal procurement from Métis owned businesses. The Métis Nation urges Canada to achieve 1.69% of the value of federal procurement from Métis owned businesses by the end of 2024 which would reflect sustainable procurement practices and would encourage other countries to support Indigenous businesses through sustainable procurement.*
- **Target 8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
 - **Re 8.3** *Canada's commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals begin at home by increasing capacity support and tools to build Métis economic institutions. Through this support, the Métis Nation and Canada can bring these best practices to the global stage and demonstrate how, together, it is possible to achieve sustainable Métis economic self-determination. Specific support to Métis citizens for decent jobs, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation all lead towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Target 8.3.*
- **Target 17.10** Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
- **Target 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public- private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships



- **Re 17.10 & 17.17** *To meet Sustainable Development Targets 17.10 & 17.17 Canada can improve trade policy capacity for Métis Governments and export opportunities for the Métis Nation including Métis owned businesses. An equitable trading system, as named in Sustainable Development Target 17.10, should reflect greater opportunity for Métis involvement and partnership on Canada’s trade missions.*
- **7.a** By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
- **12.2** By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
 - **Re 7.a & 12.2** *The Métis National Council is committed to fostering a just transition to a green economy. MNC is a valuable partner to Canada in achieving the Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda which hinge on this transition. Including the Métis Nation at a governance level is essential to achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources is vital, and providing distinctions-based funding to support this partnership will enable greater capacity within the Métis Nation to achieve these goals.*





International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities regarding economic development

- The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)'s [Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up](#), also known as the FfD Forum provides a platform for inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue to address the current global challenges and advance policies for financing long-term sustainable development priorities. The next Forum will take place in April 2024, and the Métis National Council might use this Forum to promote best practices and encourage Canada to make stronger economic commitments that support sustainable economic development benefitting Indigenous Peoples around the world.
- The [9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals](#) is convened by ECOSOC and has an exclusive focus on the role and contributions of science, technology and innovation to sustainable development and precedes the HLPF at the UN. This Forum may be of interest if the Métis National Council plans to attend the HLPF or join with the Indigenous Peoples Major Group in advocating for Indigenous Peoples' involvement with the 2030 Agenda.
- The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is hosting an [Expert Group Meeting on the subject of Indigenous Peoples in a Greening Economy](#). This smaller space will be an effective way to ensure Métis goals and priorities are reflected in the study on this theme, which is helpful for domestic and international lobby efforts on inclusion of Métis priorities in a green economy.
- The [UN Forum on Business and Human Rights](#) is mandated to “discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the [Guiding Principles \[on Business and Human Rights\]](#) and promote dialogue and cooperation on issues linked to business and human rights.” The Forum meets annually and is an important venue through which the Métis National Council can advance its priorities on economic development. Amplifying the 2030 Agenda in this Forum can enhance the Métis National Council's impact.
- The [World Economic Forum](#) is the foremost platform to drive public-private cooperation at the highest level, convening over 100 governments, all major international organizations, important global companies, relevant civil society and academic institutions, as well as the global media. The Métis National Council can use this Forum to raise its profile and to build solidarity with other Indigenous People engaged in global, sustainable, economic development.
- The [Annual OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum](#) is a conference for OECD countries that focuses on different cross-cutting issues related to sustainable development and green growth. Canada is one of the founding OECD countries. In the past this Forum has hosted [workshops on Indigenous Peoples](#), and it may be advantageous to the Métis National Council to engage with this Forum.

Education

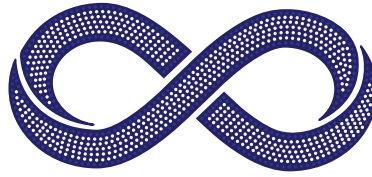
Education is at the core of the 2030 Agenda, without education it will be impossible to achieve the ambitious goals set out in the 2030 Agenda. The Métis National Council's priorities on access to quality, relevant and culturally appropriate education align directly with Sustainable Development Goal 4, to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." The Métis National Council can use SDG 4 to advocate for enhanced opportunities and meaningful engagement regarding Métis control over education.

Indigenous peoples are specifically named in preambular paragraph 25 of the Agenda, where countries committed that "Indigenous peoples [...] should have access to life-long learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society." For the Métis Nation, "inclusive and equitable" education must be grounded in Métis culture and heritage. The centrality of education to the 2030 Agenda provides a valuable opportunity for the Métis National Council to advocate for education for Métis people that is grounded in respect for human rights.

Canada's commitments to sustainable development regarding Métis education

- **Target 4.5** By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
 - **Re 4.5** *Canada has committed to ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for Indigenous Peoples by 2030, and yet we know that Métis learners do not benefit from the same advantages as many others in Canada. For Canada to achieve Sustainable Development Target 4.5 regarding equity in education, Canada must provide distinctions-based funding and enable Métis control over Métis education.*
- **Target 4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
 - **Re 4.7** *For Canada to achieve Sustainable Development Target 4.7, it is necessary that Métis culture be recognized in, and through, education as underpinning sustainable development. Métis learners must be grounded in Métis culture and history. For Métis, "the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development" are found in the rich Métis heritage. Integrating this rich culture and heritage into curriculum at all stages of learning is necessary for the preservation of Métis identity. Métis learners can become global citizens and help Canada to achieve this goal by sharing Métis culture with the world, provided there is committed, long-term funding that supports Métis cultural education and identity.*





International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities regarding education

- The [World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education](#) (WIPCE) is a triennial conference, led by individuals and organisations dedicated to the design and development of culturally affirming and intellectually enriching education for Indigenous Peoples. Aotearoa will host the next WIPCE in November 2025. This Conference is an incredible opportunity for the Métis National Council to learn and share best practices in Indigenous education, and to join in solidarity with Indigenous educators globally.
- The [World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium](#) (WINHEC) aims to bring professionals together to achieve common goals for Indigenous Peoples through higher education. Their Annual General Meetings bring together their membership to celebrate the uniqueness of being Indigenous and to nurture relationships across higher education. Involvement in WINHEC may be an opportunity for the Métis National Council to build bilateral relationships for knowledge exchange across Indigenous Nations.
- The [UN Special Rapporteur on Education](#) has a mandate to gather, request, receive and exchange information from governments and other concerned stakeholders on: the realization of the right to education; obstacles limiting effective access to education; and to make recommendations on appropriate measures to promote and protect the right to education. Engaging with the SR might mean contributing to their studies which can advance the global understanding of Indigenous peoples' rights to education as advanced via Sustainable Development Goal 4. Any individual or organization, including MNC, can submit information to the SR via [Special Procedures](#).
- January 24 annually is the [International Day of Education](#). United Nations' "International Days" can be an effective social media strategy through which to engage, educate, and promote Métis priorities on education. Linking with other international education initiatives on this day to promote Targets 4.5 and 4.7 could be a beneficial opportunity to connect with others and share Métis educational initiatives.
- [Education](#) is one of the six mandated areas of the [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (UNPFII), and as such there are studies and reports available on this subject from the PFII including: [E/C.19/2022/10](#) Study on The Use of Indigenous Languages in Formal Education Systems; and [E/C.19/2013/17](#) Study on how the knowledge, history and contemporary social circumstances of indigenous peoples are embedded in the curricula of education systems. Contributing to the work of the UNPFII through studies such as these, and using these studies domestically to advance work on education, can contribute to the advancement of Indigenous rights globally.

Environment

In the 2030 Agenda the global community agreed to “address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation” (pp. 31) and recognized that “social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet’s natural resources” (pp. 33). The Métis National Council’s priorities on conservation, emergency management, climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions, water protection, and sustainable natural resource extraction align well with many aspects of the 2030 Agenda, making clear the leadership role that the Métis Nation can play in achieving these global goals.

The 2030 Agenda affirms that resiliency is at the core of environmental protection and any measures to address climate change. For the Métis, resiliency means preservation of the Métis way of life. In the 2030 Agenda, countries agreed to promote resilience (pp. 33) and to an overarching vision of “a world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable” (pp. 7). The 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity for the Métis Nation to assist Canada in achieving these goals, provided there is financial and political support for Métis-led initiatives in addressing the environmental crises the world is facing today.

Canada’s commitments to sustainable development regarding the environment

- **Target 11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage
 - **Re 11.4** *The Métis way of life is grounded in a deep connection to the land and waters and underscores our distinct history of resilience and adaptation. For Canada to achieve Sustainable Development Target 11.4, it is essential that the Métis Nation be supported in uplifting the indivisible nature of Métis cultural and natural heritage and that Métis-led conservation efforts are promoted.*
- **Target 13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
 - **Re 13.1** *Canada’s commitments to Sustainable Development Target 13.1 and to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, highlight that Métis and Indigenous Peoples must be positioned as leaders in determining proactive solutions to climate-related emergency management. Métis citizens are disproportionately negatively impacted by climate-related disasters in comparison to their non-Indigenous counterparts within Canada. Equitable efforts to meet this Target rely on building capacity and providing meaningful support for Métis-led initiatives on disaster risk reduction.*



- **Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts⁷
 - **Re 13** *While Métis people are disproportionately impacted by the changing climate, the Métis Nation’s unique heritage of adaptability positions the Métis Nation as a leader in navigating solutions to the climate crisis. As per its global commitments, Canada must promote and fund mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management (Target 13.b), including a focus on Métis women, youth, Elders, and LGBTQ2S people.*

- **Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- **Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 - **Re 6 & 14** *The Métis Nation’s distinct historical and contemporary relationship with water means that Métis citizens are uniquely positioned to provide innovative solutions pertaining to water protection. Canada has committed to “ensure clean and safe water for all Canadians” and to “develop knowledge of water sustainability in Canada.”⁸ With committed financial and political support, the Métis Nation can assist Canada in meeting these goals. The Métis Nation is compelled to take urgent action to protect our relationship with water such that future generations’ can enjoy the Métis way of life.*

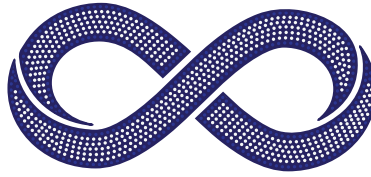
- **Target 12.2** By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
 - **Re 12.2** *Canada has committed that, “By 2030, 90%, and in the long term 100% of Canada’s electricity is generated from renewable and non-emitting sources.”⁹ The Métis National Council will always strive to build a cleaner, brighter future for all, and for Canada to achieve its commitments to Sustainable Development Target 12.2, the Métis Nation must be in navigating this transition as leaders and stewards of a sustainable future.*



⁷ Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

⁸ Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, 2022-2026, page 234.

⁹ Ibid, page 236.



International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities regarding environment

- The [UNFCCC](#) is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. Through [the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Platform](#), MNC can participate in the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on mitigation and adaptation.
- The [United Nations Environment Assembly](#) (UNEA) is the world's highest-level decision-making body for matters related to the environment. UNEA will gather from in February/March 2024 in Kenya. This is an important body for MNC engagement, either in partnership with Canada on the Canadian Delegation or via the IPMG. MNC could use this Forum to raise the profile of Indigenous Peoples as leaders on environmental issues, and to share Métis-led initiatives on environmental issues.
- The **UN Environment Program** hosts the [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forums](#) including the upcoming [Forum, 24-25 February 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya](#). These forums help Major Groups and Stakeholders to prepare their input and participation in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). The involvement of the Métis National Council, via the Indigenous Peoples Major Group on Sustainable Development (IPMG) could be a valuable tool for strengthening solidarity and building connections with Indigenous Peoples globally.
- The [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD) meets biennially, focusing on the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Indigenous Peoples are involved through the [Working Group on Article 8\(j\)](#) which seeks to enhance the role and involvement of Indigenous Peoples in the achievement of the objectives of the Convention. It is important in these forums to be wary of the conflation of Indigenous Peoples and “local communities” which can lead to the diminishment of Indigenous Peoples’ collective rights.
- The [Green Climate Fund’s Indigenous Peoples Policy](#) is the mechanism for inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the GCF’s work to support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing countries. The Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG) functions to enhance coordination between GCF, States, and Indigenous Peoples in relation to matters concerning them. As climate-related crises unfold around the world, it will be important to develop and maintain solidarity and support between Indigenous Peoples on the frontlines of climate change. MNC may want to learn more about this policy and the IPAG to see how it can support and advocate for more funding to support Indigenous Peoples’ global adaptation and mitigation.
- The [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES) was established to improve the interface between science and policy regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services. In 2017, the [Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples’ Platform](#) was established as a participatory mechanism at IPBES. MNC can participate in IPBES via the [International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IIFBES), which facilitates and enhances the participation of Indigenous Peoples in IPBES processes. It is important in these forums to be wary

of the conflation of Indigenous Peoples and “local communities” which can lead to the diminishment of Indigenous Peoples’ collective rights.

- The [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat](#) (the Convention on Wetlands) [meets regularly](#) to review protection and conservation of the world’s wetlands. MNC’s unique historical relationship with water and wetlands may be of particular benefit in this forum. [World Wetlands Day](#), on February 2nd annually, is another opportunity for engagement on this subject.
- The [UN Special Rapporteur on the Environment](#) has a mandate to examine the human rights obligations relating to the environment; to promote the use of human rights in environmental policymaking; and to respond to human rights violations. Engaging with the SR might mean contributing to their studies to advance the global understanding of Indigenous peoples’ unique relationships with the environment. Any individual or organization, including MNC, can submit information to the SR via [Special Procedures](#).
- The [UN Office on Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (UNDRR) focuses on the implementation of the [Sendai Framework](#) and works with Member States to develop and implement their DRR strategies. Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately impacted by climate-related disasters MNC has an important role to play in meetings and forums led by UNDRR to advocate for Indigenous led solutions and proactive disaster response.
- The [environment](#) is one of the six mandated areas of the [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (UNPFII), and as such there are studies and reports available on this subject from the PFII including: [E/C.19/2021/5](#) on Indigenous Peoples and climate change; and [E/C.19/2018/9](#) on conservation and Indigenous Peoples’ human rights. Contributing to the work of the UNPFII through studies such as these, and using these studies in domestic advocacy, can contribute to the advancement of Indigenous rights globally.



The 2030 Agenda envisions “a world with equitable and universal access to [...] health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured” (pp. 7). Countries, including Canada, clearly stated in the 2030 Agenda that, “we must achieve universal health coverage and access to quality health care. No one must be left behind” (pp. 26). These ambitious commitments stand in stark contrast to the experience of Métis people, who face exclusion on top of many layers of discrimination in accessing health care, individually and systemically.

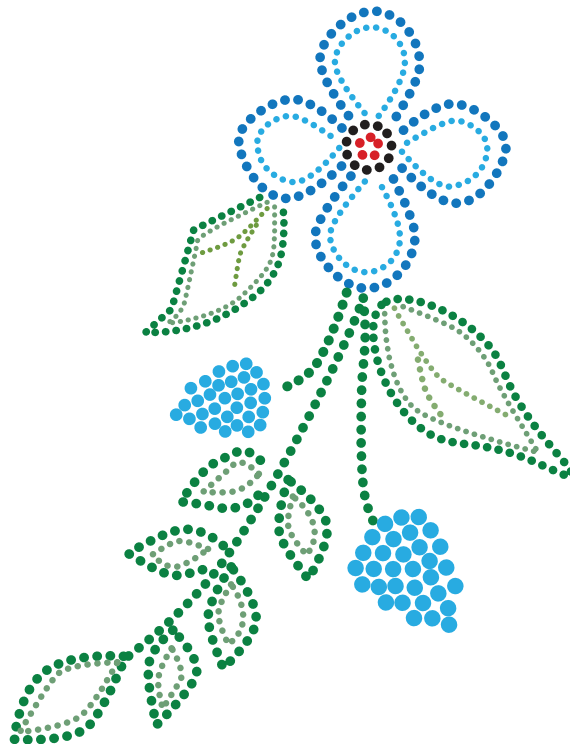
The Métis National Council’s wholistic priorities for health care, including access to care, healthy living, and comprehensive community wellness are well aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” The Métis National Council can use this alignment to advocate for enhanced, distinctions-based, resourcing for health care for Métis citizens. The Métis National Council prioritizes culturally competent health systems that provide cultural support and traditional well-being, and it is important to note that the international community has recognized that all implementation measures regarding health care should be culturally sensitive.

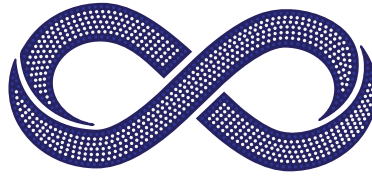
Canada’s commitments to sustainable development regarding health

- **Target 3.1** By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- **Target 3.7** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
 - **Re 3.1 & 3.7** *By working in partnership, the Métis Nation can assist Canada in achieving Sustainable Development Targets 3.1 and 3.7, regarding maternal health and reproductive health respectively. Métis citizens must have access to culturally relevant sexual health and reproductive care, and Canada can provide the political and financial support for the Métis Nation to have culturally appropriate access to pre- and post-natal care, and sexual and reproductive health care.*
- **Target 3.5** Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
 - **Re 3.5** *Canada must work alongside the Métis Nation in order to meet Sustainable Development Target 3.5 regarding substance use. To promote mental wellness, there must be funding for culturally appropriate substance use supports that enhance comprehensive Métis community wellness. Métis-led initiatives, with distinctions-based funding provided by Canada, will be the most appropriate way to support Métis citizens on their journey towards wellbeing and achieving success on this target.*
- **Target 3.8** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all



- **Re 3.8** *Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as affirmed by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, Métis citizens are often excluded and marginalized in the health care system. For Canada to meet Sustainable Development Target 3.8, long-term, sustainable resourcing must be provided that enables equity in the health care system. Equity in health, for Métis citizens, entails culturally appropriate access to primary and specialist care that promotes healthy living and disease prevention.*





International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities regarding health

- The **Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly** (of the World Health Organization, WHO) passed an important resolution in May of 2023 ([WHA76.16](#)). This resolution, titled, “The health of Indigenous Peoples” recalls that Indigenous individuals have the “equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.” This resolution urges countries to take action to “to develop, fund and implement national health plans [...] to reduce [...] social, cultural and geographic barriers to their equitable access to quality health services, provided in Indigenous languages” among other measures. Importantly, the resolution calls on the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop a comprehensive **Global Action Plan for the well-being of Indigenous Peoples** and present it at the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly in 2026. The Métis National Council might work alongside Canada to ensure Indigenous Peoples’ involvement in the development of this Global Action Plan and to take action on this Action Plan domestically to advance Canada’s progress on the SDGs.
- The [UN Special Rapporteur on the right to Health](#) has been mandated to pay attention to groups in vulnerable or marginalized situations, to apply a gender perspective, and to address the needs of children in the realization of the right to health. Engaging with the SR might mean contributing to their studies to advance the global understanding of Indigenous peoples’ right to health. Any individual or organization, including MNC, can submit information to the SR via [Special Procedures](#).
- [Health](#) is one of the six mandated areas of the [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (UNPFII) and most recently this study was released, [E/C.19/2023/5](#) on Indigenous Determinants of Health in the 2030 Agenda. Contributing to the work of the UNPFII through studies such as this, and using this study domestically, can contribute to the advancement of Indigenous rights globally.

Housing

The Métis Nation is clear that addressing housing and homelessness presents a unique challenge as housing insecurity relates not only to shelter, but also to socio-economic status, safety, health, security and much more. In this instance, the wholistic nature of the 2030 Agenda is useful, as the goals are indivisible and interrelated. Target 11.1, to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing, cannot be achieved on its own, but must be integrated with all efforts to reduce poverty and improve health and wellbeing. In Canada, the *National Housing Strategy Act*¹⁰ recognizes housing as a human right; commits organizations and governments to reform housing laws, policies and programs from a human rights perspective; and even names the SDGs in its preamble.

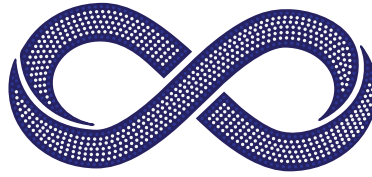
The Métis National Council can propel action on housing by holding Canada accountable to this legislative commitment. As a human rights-based strategy, Canada must recognize the diversity within Indigenous Peoples in Canada and therefore must support a distinctions-based approach that allows the Métis Nation to determine their own priorities; and to determine how to address the complexities of housing and homelessness for Métis citizens.

Canada's commitments to sustainable development regarding housing

- **Target 11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services
 - **Re 11.1** *Canada must take action, in cooperation with the Métis National Council, to truly realize its Housing Policy Declaration, which states that it will further the progressive realization of “the right to adequate housing as recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.” While this rights-based approach is welcomed, this declaration must be accompanied by meaningful action and sustained, long-term, distinctions-based funding to address Métis housing priorities Métis citizens experience housing insecurity at a higher rate than their non-Indigenous counterparts as a result of sociohistorical conditions. Only when access to long-term, sustainable, safe spaces that are geographically and culturally appropriate are ensured for all Métis citizens, will the Métis Nation be clear that Canada has met its commitments under the 2030 Agenda.*
- **Target 11.7** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
 - **Re 11.7** *Sustainable Development Target 11.7 highlights the importance of safety for women, and we know that access to safe, affordable, and adequate housing is a necessary step toward reconciliation and justice. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls to Justice directly references housing and social supports as necessary to improving the safety of Indigenous women and girls. Inclusive spaces means safe cities and urban areas for all, especially Métis women and LGBTQ2S people. Canada must recognize the distinct needs of Métis citizens in providing funding that enables safe and inclusive cities and communities.*



¹⁰ <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-11.2/page-1.html>



International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities regarding housing

- The [UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing](#) has been mandated to promote the full realization of adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; to identify practical solutions, best practices, challenges, obstacles and protection gaps in relation to the right to adequate housing; and to identify gender-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the right to adequate housing and land.
- In 2019, the SR wrote a [report](#) titled “**The right to housing for Indigenous Peoples**” (A/74/183). This report highlighted that housing conditions for Indigenous Peoples around the world are overwhelmingly abhorrent and too often violate the right to adequate housing, depriving them of their right to live in security and dignity. The report contains guidance for States, Indigenous authorities and other actors on how to ensure that their obligations under international human rights law regarding the right to housing are met. Engaging with the SR might mean contributing to studies such as this to advance the global understanding of Indigenous peoples’ right to adequate housing. Using this study in domestic advocacy efforts can strengthen MNC’s work towards achieving the SDGs. Any individual or organization, including MNC, can submit information to the SR via [Special Procedures](#).
- UN Habitat hosts the [World Urban Forum](#), which is the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization. The upcoming conference is taking place November 4-8, 2024, in Cairo, Egypt. WUF12 will focus on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities, and the Métis National Council might be interested in learning more about this Forum to advance it’s goals and priorities in such a setting, and to share best practices globally.
- **Various international human rights instruments** affirm rights to housing. The *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, affirms Indigenous Peoples’ rights to housing (article 21) and their involvement in developing housing programmes affecting them (article 23). Additionally, adequate housing is recognized as part of the right to an adequate standard of living in article 25 of the 1948 [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and in article 11.1 of the 1966 [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#). Furthermore, the UN [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) has underlined that the right to adequate housing should not be interpreted narrowly. Rather, it should be seen as the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity. The characteristics of the right to adequate housing are clarified mainly in the Committee’s general comments [No. 4 \(1991\) on the right to adequate housing](#) and [No. 7 \(1997\) on forced evictions](#).

Justice and Policing

Central to the 2030 Agenda is the concept that there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development. Peace, in this context, means more than the absence of war or violence, but rather encompasses many conditions that enable a culture of peace. The Métis National Council can work in partnership with Canada to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16, which commits States to “provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

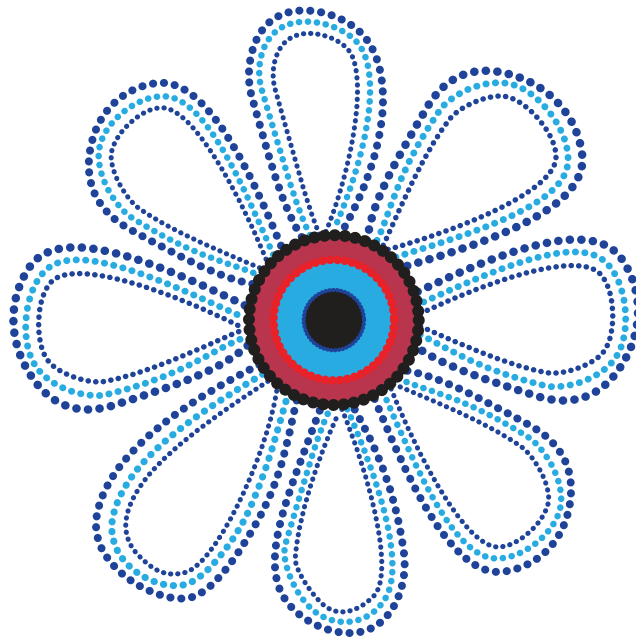
Canada can only truly meet these goals when no one is left behind. Unfortunately, as a result of sociohistorical conditions, Métis citizens are more likely than their non-Indigenous counterparts to encounter the criminal justice system. There is an urgent need for high-level political agreements at a government-to-government level, with a focus on justice and policing to enable Canada and the Métis Nation to work together to meet this Sustainable Development Goal and related Targets.

Canada’s commitments to sustainable development regarding justice and policing

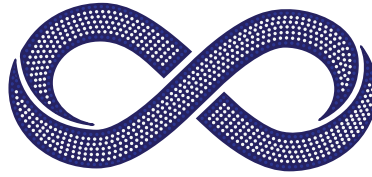
- **Target 10.3:** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.
- **Target 16.b** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
 - **Re 10.3 & 16.b** *Canada must work with the Métis Nation and provide distinctions-based funding to address and eliminate laws, policies and practices that are discriminatory and that result in the disproportionate representation of Métis citizens in the criminal justice system. A rights-based approach to addressing systemic discrimination, which uplifts Métis self-determination and comprehensive community wellbeing, requires sustainable long-term funding and would assist Canada in meeting its commitment to the SDGs.*
- **Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- **Target 16.3** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
 - **Re 16 & 16.3** *The Métis Nation and Canada can work together to achieve a more peaceful and inclusive society, but to meet these goals it is imperative that there be a long-term, well-resourced, government-to-government agreement to enable Métis leadership with respect to justice and policing. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has specifically recommended to Canada that there be an “effective action*



plan towards eliminating the disparity in the rates of sentencing and incarceration of indigenous children and adolescents.”¹¹ This recommendation is symptomatic of a wider problem, and Canada is legally obligated to respond under its commitments to CRC. One step towards achieving this goal, as recommended by the CRC, would be to provide training to all legal professionals on Canada’s human rights commitments, including the CRC and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



¹¹ CRC/C/CAN/CO/5-6, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3978336?ln=en>



International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities regarding justice and policing

- The [Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (SRIP) is mandated to promote good practices, including new laws, government programs, and constructive agreements between indigenous peoples and states, to implement international standards concerning the rights of indigenous peoples; to make recommendations and proposals on appropriate measures to prevent and remedy violations of the rights of indigenous peoples; to report on the human rights situations of indigenous peoples around the world; and to address specific cases of alleged violations of indigenous peoples' rights.
- In 2019, the SRIP authored a study concerned with the **rights of Indigenous Peoples and justice** ([A/HRC/42/37](#)) and makes 16 strong recommendations to States and others pertaining to Indigenous rights and justice. The Métis National Council can use these recommendations to strengthen its domestic advocacy on the 2030 Agenda. For reports such as these, and the SRIP's other mandated work, any individual or organization, including MNC, can submit information to the SR via [Special Procedures](#).
- The [UN Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNODC) is the central UN body concerned with the criminal justice system, and is leading [work on implementation of SDG 16](#) regarding peace and access to justice. The Métis National Council can monitor the work of this Office to engage with any opportunities affecting Indigenous Peoples globally.
- In 2020, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held [Expert Group Meetings](#) on Indigenous Peoples and Goal 16, including the provision of access to justice to remote communities. The report from this meeting might assist the Métis National Council in advocating for support from Canada on the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples with respect to this goal.
- The UN has a leading role in promoting **restorative justice practices**, including through declaring a [decade of action on restorative justice](#) and through [education and training materials](#), including with a [focus on children](#). Canada has been [actively engaged](#) in these processes through the UNODC.
- The UN also promotes equal access to justice, including through the [UN Principles on Access to Legal Aid](#). Internationally recognized guiding principles, such as these, can be leveraged as advocacy tools for advancing the Métis National Council's goals and priorities on justice and policing.

Language & Culture

Canada, alongside countries of the world, pledged under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to “foster intercultural understanding” and acknowledged that all “cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development” (pp. 36). Canada has also made international commitments to revitalizing Indigenous languages under the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.¹²

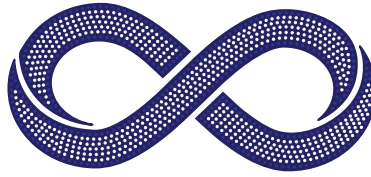
The Métis Nation’s vibrant cultural unity is expressed in all aspects of Métis life, from the Michif language through to unique customs, art, sports, music and histories. To meet its global commitments under the 2030 Agenda, Canada must “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage” (Target 11.4). Indeed, the preservation and revitalization of Michif language and of Métis cultural identity presents an opportunity for the Métis National Council to lead efforts to assist Canada in meeting its international commitments to protect social and cultural rights.

Canada’s commitments to sustainable development regarding languages and culture

- **Target 11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage
- **Indicator 11.4.1:** Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)
 - **Re 11.4** *Canada must provide sustainable, reliable, and consistent funding that is distinctions-based in order to revitalize Michif and to support cultural revitalization and protection efforts. Indicator 11.4.1 measures Canada’s success on this front through the total per capita expenditures on the preservation of cultural heritage. To maintain traditions and to continue to evolve into the future, cultural relevancy for Métis people must be felt in all aspects of life, it must be present within education, health care, social supports, and the justice system. This wholistic approach to cultural revitalization aligns with the 2030 Agenda as a comprehensive roadmap towards sustainable development. The Métis Nation is urgently awaiting Canada’s support on language and cultural revitalization through a distinctions-based approach.*
- **Target 4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development
 - **Re 4.7** *For Canada to achieve Sustainable Development Target 4.7, it is necessary that Métis culture and the Michif language be recognized in, and through, education as underpinning sustainable development. Métis learners must be grounded in Métis culture, language, and history. For Métis, “the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development” are found in the rich Métis heritage. Métis learners can become global citizens and can help Canada to achieve this goal by sharing Métis culture and language with the world, provided there is committed, long-term funding that supports Métis cultural education, language revitalization and identity.*



¹² <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379853>



International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities regarding language and culture

- The UN General Assembly has proclaimed the [International Decade of Indigenous Languages \(2022-2032\)](#) (more information [here](#)). This Decade, led by [UNESCO](#), seeks to draw global attention on the critical situation of many Indigenous languages and to mobilize stakeholders and resources for their preservation, revitalization and promotion. As part of this Decade and the [Global Action Plan, Canada has committed](#) to creating a National Action Plan recognizing the priorities of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples for their languages. The Métis National Council has an important role to play in holding Canada accountable to this commitment.
- The [Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights](#) is mandated to give greater visibility to cultural rights in the human rights system; and to foster a better understanding of the severity of their violations, and of the opportunity of their realisation for all. Engaging with the SR might mean contributing to their studies to advance the global understanding of Indigenous peoples' cultural rights. The use of these studies and recommendations domestically can enhance MNC's advocacy on the 2030 Agenda. Any individual or organization, including MNC, can submit information to the SR via [Special Procedures](#).
- [Culture](#) is one of the six mandated areas of the [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (UNPFII). As such, studies and reports on this subject are regularly written, such as [E/C.19/2022/10](#) on "The Use of Indigenous Languages in Formal Education Systems." Contributing to the work of the UNPFII through studies such as this, and using these studies in domestic advocacy towards the SDGs, can contribute to the advancement of Indigenous rights globally.
- February 21st is [International Mother Language Day](#). United Nations' "International Days" can be an effective social media strategy through which to engage, educate, and promote Métis priorities on language and culture. Linking with other international education initiatives at on this day to promote Targets 4.7 and 11.4 could be a beneficial opportunity to connect with others and to share Métis cultural and language initiatives.

Veterans

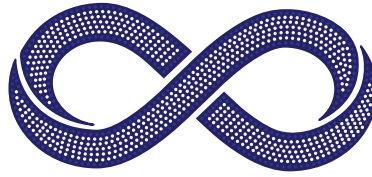
Many aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pertain directly to Métis veterans through the overarching focus on ensuring that human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality. The 2030 Agenda declares that countries “are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives” and brings an equity framework to enable this vision. Métis veterans are disproportionately at risk of living in poverty, and face exclusion and discrimination in accessing the services they need, including education, healthcare, and housing. By working together, Canada and the Métis Nation can support Métis veterans and simultaneously work towards the achievement of many aspects of the 2030 Agenda.¹³

Canada’s commitments to sustainable development regarding veterans

- **Indicator 1.a.2** Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)
 - **Re 1.a.2** *Canada has committed to reducing poverty by 50% by 2030, but this commitment is not reflected in the daily lives of Métis veterans who are disproportionately impacted by poverty in comparison to their non-Indigenous counterparts. Providing distinctions-based funding for Métis veterans is an important aspect of meeting this goal and simultaneously supporting the achievement of many other aspects of the 2030 Agenda.*
- **Target 3.8** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
 - **Re 3.8** *The prejudice and discrimination experienced by Métis veterans upon their return from war had an immense impact on not only their own lives, but also on the lives of future Métis generations. Indeed, Métis veterans and their descendants are often excluded and marginalized in the health care system. For Canada to meet Sustainable Development Target 3.8, resourcing must be provided that enables equity in the health care system. Equity in health, for Métis veterans, entails culturally appropriate access to primary and specialist care that promotes healthy living and disease prevention which reflects the dignity which they deserve.*
- **Target 11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services
 - **Re 11.1** *Métis Veterans experience housing insecurity at a higher rate than their non-Indigenous counterparts as a result of the discrimination they faced upon their return home. Only when access to long-term, sustainable, safe spaces that are geographically and culturally appropriate are ensured for Métis veterans and their descendants, will the Métis Nation be clear that Canada has met its commitments under the 2030 Agenda.*

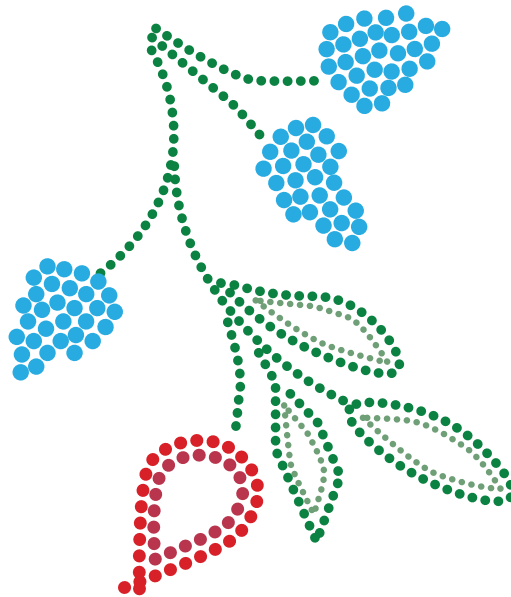


¹³ <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/publications-reports/reports/departmental-plan/2021-2022/supplementary-tables/united-nations-agenda>



International opportunities for the Métis Nation to advance their goals & priorities regarding Veterans

- Indigenous veterans can find **solidarity in their experiences through global connections** with other Indigenous veterans' associations. In Australia and in New Zealand (Aotearoa) there are organizations that advocate and support Indigenous veterans. In Australia this is the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans and Services Association](#). In New Zealand this is led by Veterans Affairs through the [28th Maori Battalion Association](#). As Commonwealth countries with shared wartime histories, these connections may strengthen the ability of Indigenous veterans, in Canada and globally, to advocate for access to services including health, housing, and education through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- [Mental health and wellbeing is at the core of Goal 3](#), and any initiatives on advancing the health and wellbeing of Métis veterans should include consideration of Goal 3 to promote the right to health.



APPENDIX 1 – Métis National Council Departmental Priorities and Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators

MNC Departments	MNC Departmental Priorities	Sustainable Development Goals	Targets & Indicators
Cross-departmental		Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard Indicator 10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law
		Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
			Target 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
		Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Target 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
Children and Family Services	All child and family service initiatives need to collectively improve Métis child, youth, family, and community wellbeing.	Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Target 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions Indicator 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)

			Target 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
		Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Target 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being Indicator 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate
			Target 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
	Non-Metis governments must ensure the best interests of Metis children and respect Metis Nation rights related to the jurisdiction and provision of child and family services to Metis children, youth and families.	Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
			Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
	Non-Métis governments need to provide distinctions-based funding that meets the needs of Métis.		Target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
		Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Target 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
		Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations, Canada & General Observation 19	10. (c) “Define budgetary lines for all children, with special attention given to those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations that may require affirmative social measures, such as children of indigenous persons”

<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>Non-Métis governments need to provide distinctions-based funding that meets the needs of Métis.</p> <p>All economic development initiatives need to improve socio-economic conditions of Métis people and create wealth within the Métis Nation.</p>	<p>Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	<p>7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology</p>
		<p>Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	<p>Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services</p>
		<p>Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p>
			<p>Target 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities</p>
		<p>Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Target 17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda</p>
			<p>Target 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public- private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>Improving educational outcomes requires a partnership between the federal government and the Métis National Council</p>	<p>Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>Target 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations</p>

	Access to quality, relevant and culturally appropriate education for all Métis citizens		Target 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
Environment	Water protection	Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	
	Conservation	Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Target 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
	Sustainable natural resource extraction	Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Target 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
	Emergency management Climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions	Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (acknowledging UNFCCC)	Target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
	Conservation	Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	
Health	Pre- and post-natal care; Culturally relevant sexual health and reproductive care	Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Target 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

	Mental wellness and substance use supports; Meaningful and collaborative relationships; Comprehensive community wellness		Target 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
	Pre- and post-natal care; Culturally relevant sexual health and reproductive care		Target 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
	Extended health benefits; Access to primary and specialist care; Healthy living, disease prevention, and health promotion; Cultural support and traditional well-being; Virtual health; Climate change impact on health		Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
Housing	Housing insecurity relates not only to shelter, but also socio-economic status, safety, health, and security	Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services
	Access to safe, affordable, and adequate housing for all Métis citizens		Target 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
Justice and Policing		Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.
		Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

			Target 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
Languages and Culture	Preservation and revitalization of Michif	Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Target 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development
	Preservation of culture and connection to the Métis identity through customs, art, sports, music and histories	Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Target 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage Indicator 11.4.1: Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)
Veterans	Access for Métis Veterans and their descendants to education, healthcare, and housing and equal opportunity	Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Indicator 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)
		Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
		Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Target 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
		Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services

Appendix 3 - Resource Guide

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/70/1, <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/71/313, https://ggim.un.org/documents/a_res_71_313.pdf

Factsheet One: Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples https://www.declarationcoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Factsheet_1.pdf

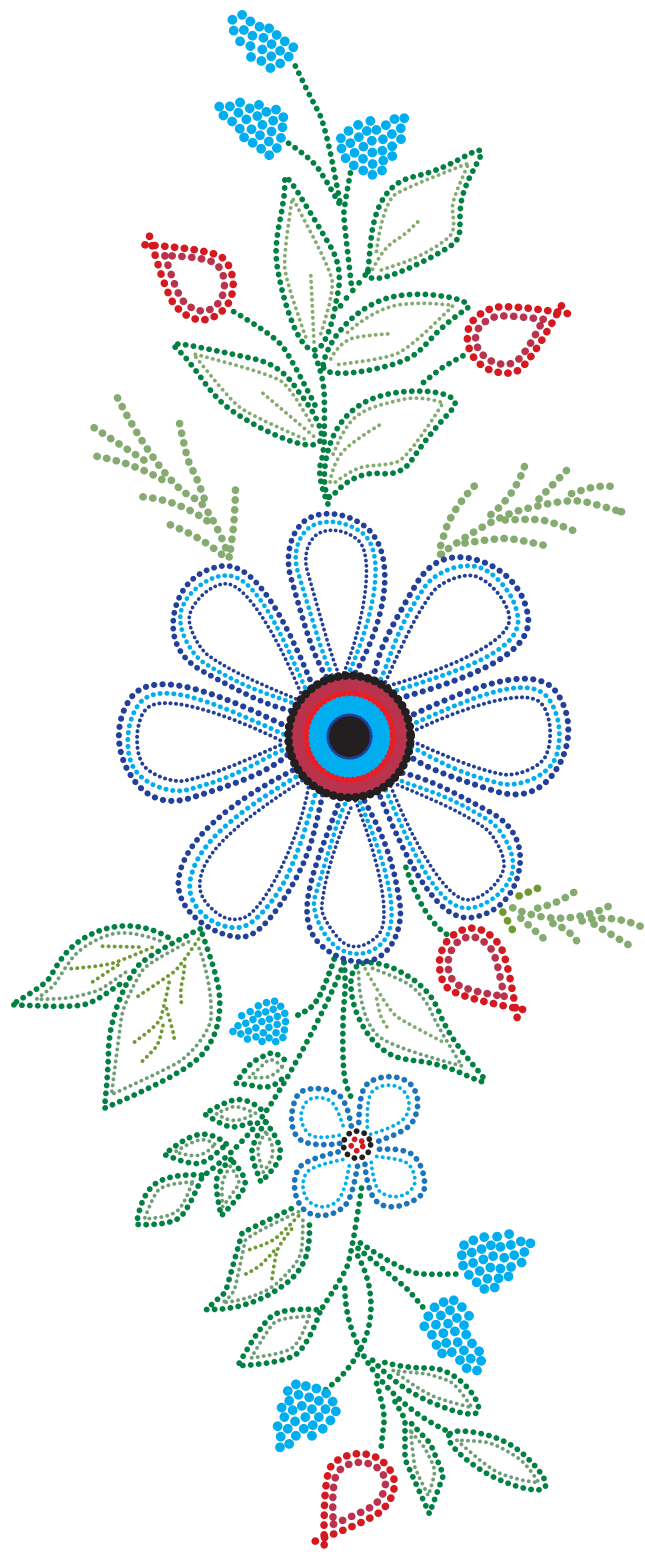
Factsheet Two: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples https://www.declarationcoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Factsheet_2.pdf

Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development: <https://indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/index.php/english/>
Including position papers and resources: <https://indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/index.php/english/all-resources/ipmq-position-papers-and-publications>

Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights – Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/indigenous-peoples/indigenous-peoples-and-2030-agenda>

The UN Declaration & Sustainable Development: Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights and Ecological Knowledge. Report of the Symposium hosted by the Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the University of British Columbia, and Canadian Friends Service Committee. <https://www.declarationcoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Symposium-Report-1.pdf>

Sustainable Development and the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples <https://www.declarationcoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Sustainability-and-Human-Rights-Paper.pdf>





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