



Métis Nation



September 2018

Métis Nation Presses Health and Wellness, Family and Child Care Priorities at Policy Sessions in Ottawa



Métis Nation and Federal Officials make significant progress under Canada-Métis Nation Accord in addressing Métis health and wellness issues and child and family concerns.

At their summit in June, 2018, Prime Minister Trudeau and the Métis Nation leadership

established Year 2 priorities under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord which sets out a process for Canada and the Métis Nation to co-develop policies and programs to improve social and economic conditions of Métis people. At policy forums in early July, ministers and officials from the MNC and its

Governing Members worked on proposals and federal budget asks on two of these priorities, education and economic development, that will be taken up by federal Ministers and Métis Nation leaders at their next meeting under the Accord in October. In late August, similar policy forums were held

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in Ottawa on the critical issues of health and wellness as well as child and family services.

The Métis Nation Health Policy Session in Ottawa August 20-21, 2018, concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Canada for the development of a 10-year Accord that will identify the health needs of Métis people and ways in which the Government of Canada can support the Métis Nation in improving health outcomes for its citizens.

The 10-year Accord will address the following themes:

- a. Métis capacity to participate effectively in health care systems;
- b. Métis Nation research, surveillance, knowledge and evaluation;
- c. Métis Nation supplementary health benefits;
- d. Métis Nation participation in primary health and specialist care;
- e. Métis Nation home, community, long-term and palliative care models;

- f. Métis community and wellness hubs (i.e. Métis service/wellness access centres);
- g. Métis people within the health human resources sector;
- h. Healthy living and disease prevention and health promotion capacity;
- i. Cultural competency of the health care system;
- j. Intergovernmental coordination to adapt and to improve health care systems that reflect expanded roles of the Métis Nation;
- k. change related health effects and risks mitigation, and associated data management; and
- l. Access to mental health supports.

The Child and Family Services (CFS) Policy Session August 22-23, 2018, built on the work started with the Emergency Meeting on First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation Child and Family Services sponsored by Minister Philpott in January 2018 and a follow-up Summit on Métis Nation Child and Family Services in March. At the first of these earlier conferences, the Government of Canada committed to the following

specific actions to address the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in care in Canada.

1. Continue to fully implement the orders from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal including Jordan's Principle, and reform First Nations child and family services including moving to a flexible funding model.
2. Work with partners to shift the focus of programming to culturally-appropriate prevention, early intervention, and family reunification.
3. Work with our partners to support communities to draw down jurisdiction in the area of child and family services, including exploring co-developed federal legislation.
4. Participate and accelerate the work at tripartite and technical tables that are in place across the country in supporting reform.
5. Support Inuit and Métis Nation leadership in their work to advance meaningful, culturally-appropriate reform of child and family services.
6. Create a data strategy with provinces/territories and

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Indigenous partners to increase inter-jurisdictional data collection, sharing and reporting to better understand the rates and reasons for apprehension.

At the recent CFS session in Ottawa, ministers and officials

from the MNC and Governing Members examined the issue of federal legislation that would provide jurisdiction over family and child services to Métis government and the types of investments needed in Budget 2019 to support a Métis Nation delivered child and family

services system. These are also priorities expected to be taken up by federal Ministers and Métis Nation leaders at their next meeting under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord in October.





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Message from the President

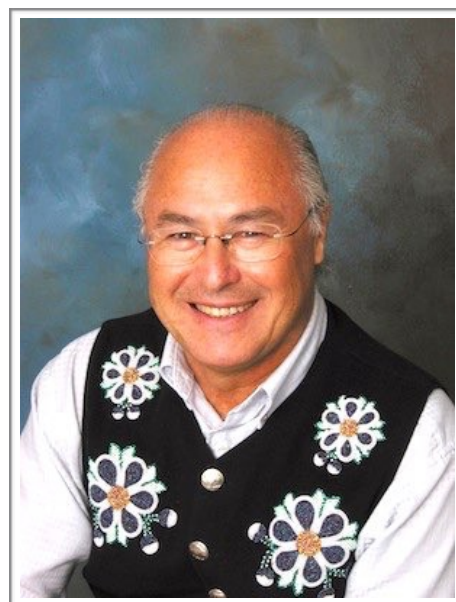
With each passing year, throughout Canada, the number of individuals with any degree of First Nations ancestry, or with none at all, suddenly claim they are Métis, i.e., in their eyes Métis being any person of mixed Indian-White blood, or who can simply get away with saying they are. This is not a misunderstanding which will be easily changed.

While it often creates challenges for the historic Métis Nation which is a distinct Indigenous people possessing a well-defined geographic homeland and a long and enduring history, culture, language and lifestyle through their persistent struggles over the past few centuries in defence of their people and nationhood, these contemporary challenges to the integrity of their sense of peoplehood can be easily cast aside.

Over the past two decades, while the Supreme Court of Canada has been extremely helpful in articulating the

section 35 rights of the Métis contained in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, of which the Métis Nation is grateful, it has also created some mischief by also stating that there may also be other Métis aside from the historic Métis Nation. In the *Powley* decision, such was the case where the courts therein involved created a Métis community in and around Sault Ste Marie, which they said may encompass the whole of the Great Lakes.

In *Daniels* (2016) the Supreme Court further opened the “Metis” door by finding that all Indigenous peoples fall within the term “Indians” in s.91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, which they further ruled included all Metis and non-Status Indians. They did however temper their ruling in *Daniels* by stating that while people of mixed-ancestry (Metis) would be encompassed by s.91(24), this did not mean that they met the test of being “Métis” for Aboriginal rights purposes under s.35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.



These two cases combined, and especially with the 2016 *Daniels* decision, has witnessed a proliferation of individuals from Ontario-east claiming to be Métis with severe spikes in the 2017 census Metis identity responses. Coupled with this is the fact that many of these new and proliferating organizations in eastern Canada are now not only calling themselves Métis, but are also appropriating the term “Métis Nation” and the

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Métis Nation's flag and using them as their own in total disregard of their origin and ownership. In this regard, both the term "Métis Nation" and the "Métis Nation Flag" are the registered official marks of the government of the Métis Nation, and those who are using them without the permission of the Métis Nation's government should cease doing so.

While these forms of misappropriations may be hard to monitor and correct, it is nevertheless incumbent on the government leaders of the Métis Nation to continue consolidating the political gains made by the Nation in its assertion of its right to exist as a people; a people possessed of the right of self-determination. In so doing, the Métis Nation

governments (national and regional) must also ensure the integrity of its peoplehood, homeland, government, democracy and authority.



2018: Rights of the Métis Nation Child





September 2018

Métis Nation of Alberta holds 90th Annual General Assembly



President Chartier attended and spoke at opening of the 90th Annual General Assembly of the MNA in Lac La Biche, along with well over 500 delegates. Besides the regular business of the MNA annual meeting, there was heightened interest this

year as the Métis citizens registered with the MNA go to the polls on September 18, 2018 to cast their ballot in the MNA election.

At the conclusion of the business of the assembly, there

was a candidates' forum where all three candidates for the MNA Provincial Vice-President position articulated their respective platforms, followed by the two candidates for the MNA Provincial President position.





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Fifteenth (15) Annual Métis Hivernant Rendezvous Held

August 4-5th, witnessed another successful long weekend rendezvous organized by the Hivernant Métis Cultural Society (HMCS) overseeing the development of the site as well as its activities. This year was special as it centered on the dedication of 24 story boards depicting the history and culture of the Métis Nation. This project was made possible through a financial contribution from the Alberta-Canada 150 Community Initiatives Program.

Due to rain, the dedication took place in the community hall which was well attended. The driving force behind these initiatives was Marlene Lanz,



HMCS President as well as President of MNA Region 3.

Marlene in her usual way made the ceremony interesting and received a lot of acknowledgement for the achievement which she graciously shared with other committee members and volunteers.

The dedication was followed by a light lunch and entertainment.

Through efforts like this weekend's, the Society is hoping to develop a Hivernant Cultural Interpretative Village in order to tell the story of the Métis buffalo hunters who lived in the area.





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In Memory of Marlene Lanz

December 11, 1943 – August 25, 2018



It is with great sadness that Mrs. Marlene Lanz died on August 25, 2018. While she will be sadly missed, her contributions to Métis Nation culture and life generally has been much appreciated and will be remembered fondly.





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Métis Elders Conference Held Again This Year



Following last year's successful Elders Conference, another gathering took place at Old Grant's Mill in Winnipeg on August 30-31st. The theme of this year's Conference was "Making a Nation".

The conference was well attended by Elders and Youth, with well informed discussions, activities and traditional meals, one of which was a meal of moose meat brought and prepared by a number of Métis

Elders and leaders from Pinehouse, Saskatchewan.

At the opening sessions, the delegates were addressed by Presidents David Chartrand, Glen McCallum and Clément (Clem) Chartier.





September 2018

Organization of American States celebrates First Inter-American Week of Indigenous Peoples



Events in Washington D.C. from August 6-10th coincide with the UN declared International Day of Indigenous Peoples on August 9.

The Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly in June 2016 adopted the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In June 2017, it adopted a four year Plan of Action for its implementation which this year

involves the declaration of the Indigenous week and “American Indigenous Languages” as this year’s theme. This is contained in the attached OAS Note (Concept Paper).

On August 9, 2018, President Chartier addressed the OAS Permanent Council on behalf of the Métis Nation and the newly created American Council of Indigenous Peoples (see video of presentation). Canada has not

yet adopted the American Declaration. President Chartier had earlier written to the Prime Minister and a number of his ministers encouraging them to adhere to the Declaration and embrace the 2017 Plan of Action. He also worked with the Canadian Mission to the OAS in Washington which took a lead role in working toward the success of this first event.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting Sept 14-16 Richmond, BC
- Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework Announcement Sept 17 Ottawa, ON
- Manitoba Metis Federation Annual General Assembly Sept 21-23 Winnipeg, MB
- Métis Nation Environment Committee Meeting Sept 24-25 Winnipeg, MB
- UN High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis Sept 26 New York, NY
- World Indigenous Business Forum Oct 9-11 Rotorua, New Zealand
- Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak General Assembly Oct 13-14 Toronto, ON
- Sixties Scoop Conference Oct 19-21 Winnipeg, MB





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