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File No.:2021-63

Métis Nation British Columbia
380 – 13401 108 Avenue
Surrey, B.C. V3T 5T3

“Via Mail & Email”

Attention: Lissa Smith, Acting President

Dear Ms. Smith:

Re: False and Defamatory Statements Regarding the Manitoba Métis Federation

We are general counsel to the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”). We write to you with respect to a recent and current posting titled “Special Statement from Acting Vice-President” which appeared on the MNBC web page on December 7th, 2021, and which is also linked to your Facebook page, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram accounts. The posting consists of a video and a transcribed statement by “Acting Vice-President Louis De Jaeger”. The video and statement contain false and defamatory statements about the MMF and its President, David Chartrand. The false and defamatory statements include the following (which is not an exhaustive listing):

1. “MNBC is deeply concerned to learn that an illegitimate branch of the Manitoba Métis Federation – an MMF-BC chapter – has been established for the singular purpose of disrupting our government and supporting the political aspirations of Manitoba Métis Federation politicians. This new BC branch of the Manitoba Métis Federation threatens our ability to self-govern”.
2. “In fact, according to documents we have obtained from the provincial government, the Manitoba Métis Federation BC franchise is located in Golden, BC at the home of Dale Drown, former CEO of Métis Nation BC”.

3. "If you recall, Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand and his political allies were running the Métis National Council without any input from the other four governing members for almost three years..... and our court case forced their hand to make sure the MNC remained accountable to you - our citizens".
4. "But they didn't go quietly. In the dying days of their control at the MNC, they left behind an organizational and a financial mess. A mess that our new national President Cassidy Caron and the four governing members have been left to clean up".
5. "Let's put the pieces together. Having left the MNC, the MMF is encroaching into British Columbia through this hostile action, after falling out with our national organization. B.C. may be the first Province where they attempt this type of coup.... but it won't be the last. The MMF won't stop until they are controlling all Métis governments in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario".
6. "It gets more interesting. Mr. Chartrand is in cahoots with our deposed past president - Clara Morin Dal Col - who was legally removed from office due to a breach of fiduciary duty".
7. "You could say that Clara is Chartrand's "right hand man". Some would argue this role has been played by her for years. And guess what? Ms. Morin Dal Col is now leading Manitoba Métis Federation's new B.C. chapter".
8. "It's embarrassingly clear that Mr. Chartrand is considering doing more special favours for his friends and insiders".
9. "These antics undermine our Nation's collective ability to improve the lives of all Métis citizens. It's a distraction. And it's intended to do harm".
10. "Whatever name this B.C. faction wants to call itself, it will be nothing more than a splinter group intended to do political harm, and to prop up David Chartrand's attempt to overtake our duly elected government in British Columbia".

As well, part of the posting refers to "MMF exposed".

The incorporation of the Red River Métis in British Columbia ASSN was not done by the MMF.

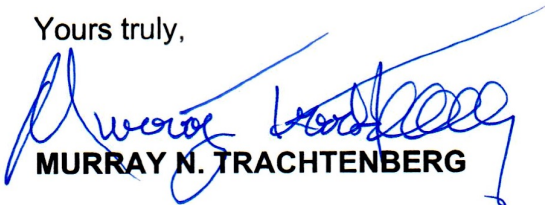
The Red River Métis in British Columbia ASSN is not part of the MMF, nor is it a Manitoba Métis Institution, MMF associate, or affiliate, and it is not an MMF "branch", "chapter", "faction", "franchise", or "group".

The unsolicited funding proposal dated September 30, 2021 has not been approved by the MMF and there is no intention of the MMF to do so. No funds have been offered or provided.

This letter constitutes a formal demand that you **immediately remove** these false and defamatory statements from the MNBC website and all social media, and issue a full retraction and apology to the MMF, the Manitoba Métis, and President Chartrand on your website and all MNBC social media platforms.

Our clients will not tolerate false and defamatory statements being made by MNBC leadership for political gain, and will hold both MNBC and Mr. De Jaeger personally responsible for this politically motivated attack.

Yours truly,



MURRAY N. TRACHTENBERG

MNT/cm

Cc: Louis De Jaeger, MNBC Acting Vice-President (via email)