

Métis Nation



July 2021

Message from the President

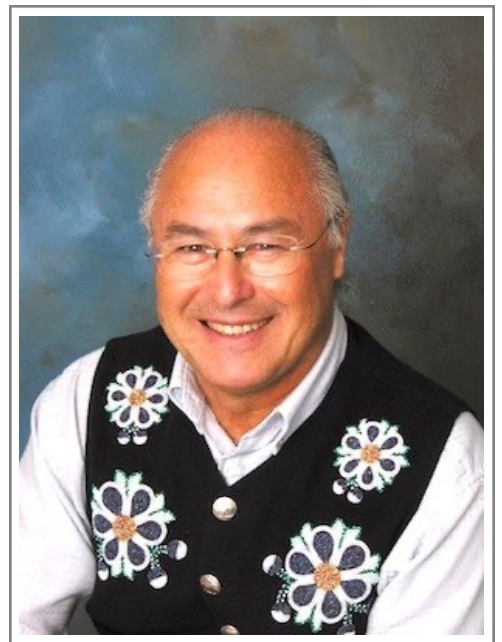
The historic Métis Nation is deeply rooted in the soil of western Canada, particularly in what are now the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. While the historic Métis Nation homeland in 1870 covered part of what is now the province of Alberta, northwestern Ontario and the NWT within Canada, the vast majority of the population of the Métis Nation was centered at the Red River Settlement with a number of smaller fixed settlements in Saskatchewan, coupled with ever moving hivernant camps (wintering sites) based out of the Red River.

With the entry of the Métis Nation into Confederation in 1870 through the Manitoba Act negotiations led by President Louis Riel and the Provisional Government, and the subsequent reign of terror at the Red River, thousands of Métis were forced to relocate westward joining existing Métis settlements or forming new ones. This diaspora was the direct result of the invasion by

troops from eastern Canadian, primarily from Ontario, who were anti-Métis, anti-French and anti-Catholic.

Once again, in 1885 troops from eastern Canada marched on Batoche and, with a numerically superior armed force of well-equipped soldiers, were eventually able to overrun the Métis defences at Batoche after a four-day battle, which had been preceded by Métis victories at Duck Lake and Fish Creek. President Louis Riel turned himself in to the Canadian troops, faced trial and was given a death sentence resulting in his hanging on November 16, 1885.

With the bloodshed at both the Red River in 1870 and at Duck Lake, Fish Creek and Batoche in 1885 the homeland of the Métis Nation is a sacred testament to the resolve and strength of the people of the Métis Nation to always and forever protect and defend their heritage,



citizenship and homeland in what is now western Canada.

Subsequently displaced from their lands by the scrip process of the federal government, the Métis became marginalized and became refugees in their own homeland eking a living off the land and living on road allowances in the southern prairies. In the northern parts of their homeland, the Métis were able to continue their

Continued on the next page



July 2021

traditional way of life for the first part of the 20th century.

Through organizational efforts in the 1960s mainly led by Métis Nation World War Two Veterans the Métis of the prairie provinces were able to slowly regain their rightful place within Canada, although the right to their lands and resources remains unfinished business.

The success of the prairie Métis, particularly after patriation of the Canadian Constitution in 1982 and the realignment of the Métis Nation under the Métis National Council in 1983, has been accompanied by challenges now boiling to the surface. The Métis Nation of Ontario was admitted into the Métis National Council in 1994 to represent the Métis Nation

citizens of northwestern Ontario and those Métis Nation citizens who had moved from western Canada to Ontario but, through slow creep and stealth, the MNO ended up representing non-Métis Nation citizens from southern and eastern Ontario and into an adjoining part of Quebec.

In 2017 the MNO declared 6 “new historic” Métis regional communities in Ontario, only one of which was acknowledged to be a part of the historic Métis Nation: Northwestern Ontario.

While the MNC General Assembly in November 2018 suspended the MNO, with a one-year grace period or probation during which time the MNO could meet certain conditions to have the suspension lifted, the MNO

declined to even attempt to meet those conditions. It had the backing of the presidents of the Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Nation – Saskatchewan who, in total disregard and betrayal of the Métis Nation, deliberately abandoned the Métis Nation for political expediency.

Those of us who truly believe in the Métis Nation cannot simply sit back and let this happen. We must seek all potential measures to keep the Métis Nation intact and not let it be overrun by thousands of non-Métis Nation persons from Ontario represented by the MNO. They cannot be allowed to determine the future of our nation and people.





July 2021

Reconciliation Advances with UNDRIP Implementation Legislation Coming into Force

June 21, 2021 was an important day for the Métis Nation and for all Canadians. With Royal Assent given to *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (the *Act*), this important legislation is now law.

The *UN Declaration* affirms the right of self-determination of the Métis Nation, First Nations and Inuit. It sets out the minimum standards for our survival, dignity and well-being. The *Act* establishes a framework to implement the *UN Declaration* in Canadian law in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

Métis National Council Vice President and National Spokesperson David Chartrand states, "This legislation is the foundation for a renewed relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples. The Métis Nation has been a strong supporter of implementation legislation. We have worked

tirelessly to bring this day to fruition. We would like to thank Prime Minister Trudeau for keeping his promise to bring this legislation forward and Ministers Lametti and Bennett for overseeing its advancement through Parliament. This is a win-win-win for Indigenous peoples, industry and all Canadians."

The *Act* was co-developed in 2020 by the Métis National Council, the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Government of Canada. It mandates the development of an action plan within two years to achieve the objectives of the *UN Declaration*, in partnership with the Métis Nation, Inuit and First Nations. We will work on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis with our First Nations, Inuit, and Government of Canada partners to design and implement a distinctions-based action plan that upholds the

inherent rights of the Métis Nation and strengthens our citizens, communities and governments.

Métis National Council President Clément Chartier reflects that, "This is the culmination of decades of hard work and advocacy by Indigenous leaders, within Canada and globally. The recent heart-breaking discovery of the children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School reminds us that the deadly effects of colonialism remain with us to this day. We will work urgently to create an action plan that overturns these harmful legacies and creates a future where our human rights as Indigenous peoples are honoured and respected. We owe this to our future generations and to all Canadians."





July 2021

Federal Ministers and Indigenous Leaders Speak on UNDRIP Implementation Bill Following its Passing in the Senate




On June 18, 2021, at a news conference in Ottawa, federal ministers Ministers David Lametti (justice) and Carolyn Bennett (Crown-Indigenous relations) were joined by Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Inuit Tapiriit

Kanatami President Natan Obed, Métis National Council Vice-President David Chartrand, as well as Chief Wilton Littlechild, a former member of Parliament and former commissioner for Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to

discuss the passing in the Senate of Bill C-15, the federal government's legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Canada.

Continued on the next page





July 2021

Métis National Council (MNC) welcomes the passing of the federal bill to advance the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

prejudice and eliminating all forms of violence, racism and discrimination, including systemic racism and discrimination, against Indigenous Peoples.

Perspectives Summary Report on Bill C-15. <https://www2.metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/UN-Declaration-Engagement-Session-March-2021-final.pdf>

The passing of Bill C-15 is a major step to advance Indigenous peoples rights in Canada. Royal Assent is the next step. This Act is about addressing injustices, combating

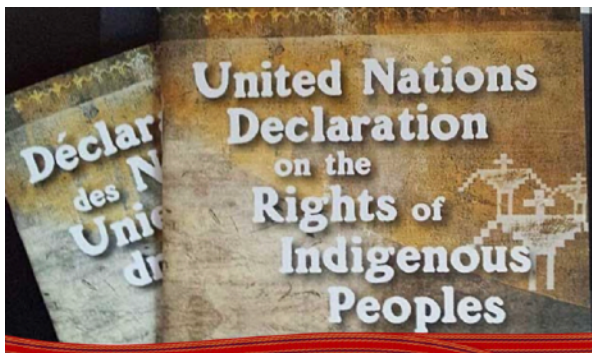
Ensuring the full and effective implementation of these rights through federal legislation will make a difference in every area of life for Métis Nation citizens. Read Métis Nation Citizen

Visit <http://Canada.ca/Declaration> to learn more about [#UNDRIP](#) and how this Bill creates a roadmap for Canada and Indigenous Peoples to implement the Declaration.

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Michif Translation: Li Declarasyoon di Naaysoon Unitii Oschi Li Dwaay Li Moond Indigene

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the most comprehensive international instrument on the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. It affirms a wide array of rights that constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and



wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples worldwide. As Canada moves to implement the UN Declaration domestically, it is important that citizens of the Métis Nation are informed of its content and its implementation so that they can make their voices heard. The following video provides an introduction to the creation of the UN Declaration, its reception by Canada and by nations around the world, what it contains, and its implementation.

Watch Métis Nation Engagement on UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Introductory Video: <https://youtu.be/ibrOckf2R9I>





July 2021

New federal Indigenous Languages Commission vital to urgent work of revitalizing Métis Nation languages



June 14, 2021 – Ottawa, ON: The Métis National Council (MNC) welcomes the appointment of the first Commissioner and Directors of the newly created Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages.

Today, Federal Minister for Canadian Heritage Steven


Guilbeault announced the appointment of Ronald E. Ignace as the first Commissioner of Indigenous Languages, and Robert Watt, Georgina Liberty, and Joan Greyeyes as the first Directors.

Clara Morin Dal Col, the Métis National Council's Minister of Heritage, Culture and Families,

said, "The Métis Nation is looking forward to working with the Commissioner and Directors. We are particularly pleased by the appointment of Georgina Liberty as one of the three Directors. It is very important to the Métis Nation that the leadership of the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages includes a citizen with direct experience of

Continued on the next page





July 2021

the unique language and cultural needs of our Nation. Georgina Liberty is well placed to play that important role.”

Georgina Liberty is a Métis Nation citizen who has been a leader in the protection, revitalization and promotion of the Michif language. Ms. Liberty has been an active member of the Manitoba Metis Federation since 1969 and has many years of experience in governance and policy. She served as the Director of *Métis Nation 2020 and Manitoba 150* for the Métis National Council, which marked Manitoba’s 150th anniversary and the historic role of Louis

Riel in bringing Manitoba into Confederation.

The Commissioner and Directors are appointed by the federal government but will work independently. The Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages is intended to support Indigenous language practitioners and to help ensure that the federal government lives up to its commitments under the 2019 *Indigenous Languages Act*.


MNC President Clément Chartier said, “Our national language, Michif, is critically

endangered, as are some of the other Indigenous languages spoken by our citizens. The next few years will be crucial to expanding the number of fluent speakers so that Michif can continue to be a living language. I’m glad that the new Office is in the hands of people who appreciate that urgency and who have the skills and expertise needed to support the vital work of language protection and revitalization.”

Watch the Remarks by MNC President Clément Chartier and Director of Indigenous Languages Georgina Liberty

<https://www2.metisnation.ca/news/new-federal-indigenous-languages-commission-vital-to-urgent-work-of-revitalizing-metis-nation-languages/>





July 2021

Statement by the Métis National Council's Minister Responsible for Veterans on the 77th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy




David Chartrand, Minister responsible for Veterans

The Métis National Council's Minister Responsible for Veterans issued the following statement today on the 77th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy:

"Today, on the 77th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, we reflect and give our heartfelt appreciations to the brave military servicemen and women of the Métis Nation

who alongside forces comprised of Allied soldiers from Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom fought bravely or gave their lives in a battle that is a historic milestone in

Continued on the next page





July 2021

Canadian and the Métis Nation's collective history."

"On this day, June 6, 1944, over 150,000 soldiers; 14,000 Canadian soldiers composed of hundreds of our Métis Nation soldiers bravely stormed Juno Beach, as part of extensive combined air, land and sea military operation. With Canada's Allies and military might, Métis Nation soldiers participated in the destruction of German defences on the beaches of Normandy and the elimination of tyranny over the oppressed people of Europe that resulted in peace and security for the world."

"Métis soldiers alongside Canada and Allied forces breached the Atlantic Wall and overcame painstaking odds to achieve a victory that is enshrined in our collective memories. The bravery and selflessness demonstrated by Métis soldiers on that day in Normandy and throughout the war remind us of our peoples' incredible determination to defend our freedom, fundamental human

rights, and democracy across the Métis Homeland. Our soldiers are a shining example of strength under adverse conditions and graciousness in uplifting situations."

"The Métis Nation continues to face COVID-19, which has forced us to augment this year's commemorative day. I would like to invite all Métis Nation citizens to pay their respect to Métis Nation Second World War (WWII) Veterans who fought in the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy safely and creatively. Visit our website at www.metisveteran.ca for information on our national Métis Veteran Legacy Program honouring Métis Nation WWII Veterans and see how you can get involved."

"Our collective responsibility is to pay our respect to those who served and sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom. Métis Veterans joined Canada's call to arms to protect rights and liberties around the world, they are our true heroes, and they

will forever be in the thoughts and prayers of our Nation."

***"Our Heroes Today,
Tomorrow, and Forever"***


Meeqwetch,

David Chartrand

Minister responsible for
Veterans

Métis National Council






July 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

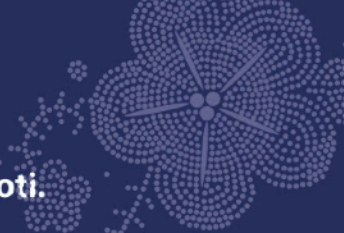
- MNC & RCMP Commissioner meeting July 13
- Métis Nation Homelessness Technical meeting July 14
- Métis Nation Environment Working Group meeting July 28-29



Métis Nation COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is key to
protecting our families and communities.

Par shwayzir powr pren COVID-19 vaksin,
ti va ti protekti twaymem, ta famiyl ipi ta komunoti.





MÉTIS NATION

**Métis National Council
#4 - 340 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 0M6**

(800) 928-6330

www.metisnation.ca

info@metisnation.ca



FACEBOOK



TWITTER

