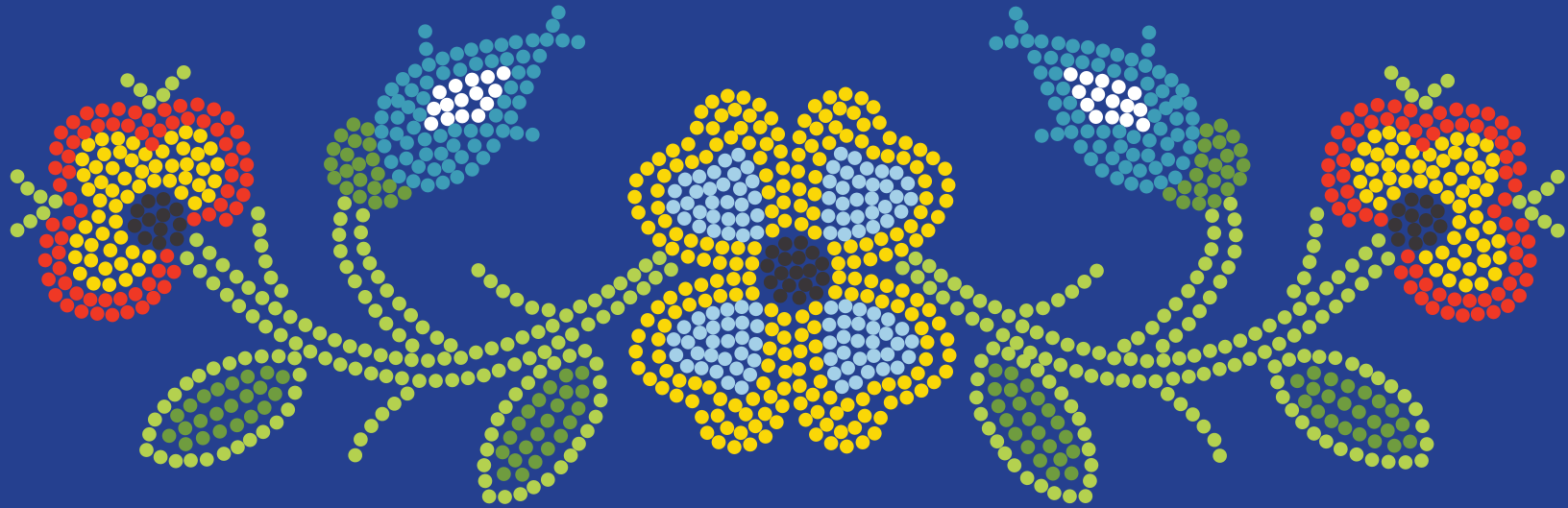


MARCH 31, 2022

# THE PEMMICAN POST

THE OFFICIAL BI-WEEKLY  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MÉTIS NATION



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

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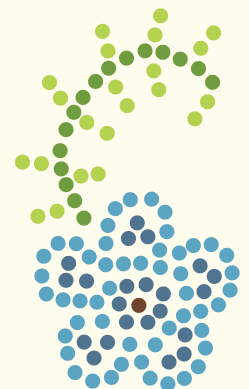
Welcome to the new and improved Métis National Council newsletter, entitled “The Pemmican Post”. We’ve chosen this title because of the importance of pemmican to our communities throughout history, both as a food source and as a driver of trade.

Our new bi-weekly newsletter will feature a message from MNC President Caron; stories from across the homeland to highlight the incredible work of our Governing members; as well as work being done by your Métis National Council to support Métis citizens in their communities.

We’re very happy to be starting this new communication tool from the Métis National Council to ensure that citizens across the homeland can hear directly from the MNC on the work being done to ensure healthy, vibrant Métis communities. Keep an eye out for other new and exciting initiatives that will be coming soon!

## LATEST NEWS IN THIS ISSUE:

- ∞ WELCOME
- ∞ MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
- ∞ STORIES FROM ACROSS THE HOMELAND
- ∞ MEETING WITH THE POPE
- ∞ MNC UPDATES





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### *MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT CARON*

I am very excited to be restarting the Métis National Council’s biweekly newsletter. When I was first elected, I dedicated myself and the Métis National Council to a new era of transparency, accountability, and open communication with Métis citizens.

This newsletter will be just one more way we’ll provide you with regular updates on the work that we are doing at the Métis National Council, as we continue working alongside and supporting our Métis Governments in their national advocacy efforts. Together, we are creating an even greater array of distinctions-based programs and services for Métis citizens that respond to our communities’



unique needs, and are moving quickly toward the full recognition and implementation of our inherent rights as Métis—including the right to self-government

As you may know, I recently travelled to the Vatican with a delegation of Métis Residential School Survivors, Elders, and community members from across the Homeland. Together, we shared our stories and the Métis Nation’s truth with Pope Francis, on behalf of Métis Survivors, Elders, families, and communities. We invited the Pope to join the Métis Nation on our pathway of truth, reconciliation, healing, and justice. We made it clear that a new relationship with the Métis Nation can

only begin after an apology and a commitment to meaningful action. We also spent time with our First Nations and Inuit relations to share stories and culture, strengthen our relationships, and support one another during the trip

While preparing for that journey was heavy at times, it was deeply meaningful and life-changing experience. I had the privilege of meeting Métis Residential School Survivors and their families from across the Homeland, and to hear their stories that in many cases have gone unheard and ignored for far too long. I will carry those stories for the rest of my life and feel a deep responsibility to ensure that they are heard and, more importantly, never forgotten

These experiences have only further reinforced my belief in the power of sharing our stories and our truths as Métis. Every one of our stories has power and can make a positive difference for the future of our Métis Nation

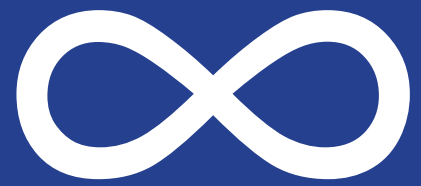
We are one Nation of many stories. This newsletter is dedicated to sharing as many of those stories as we can. Those from the past and those of Métis citizens from across the Homeland who are making positive difference in their families and communities today.

Those of individuals and grassroots leaders who are proud to be Métis.

As travel and gathering become safe once again, I look forward to getting back out into community, having tea, visiting, and sharing stories in the ways that Métis people have done for generations. I look forward to listening, learning, and finding new ways to raise the voices of our entire Nation.

I am committed to sharing openly, honestly, and generously with you. I hope you will do the same with me!

See you soon!



## MOMENTS IN MÉTIS HISTORY

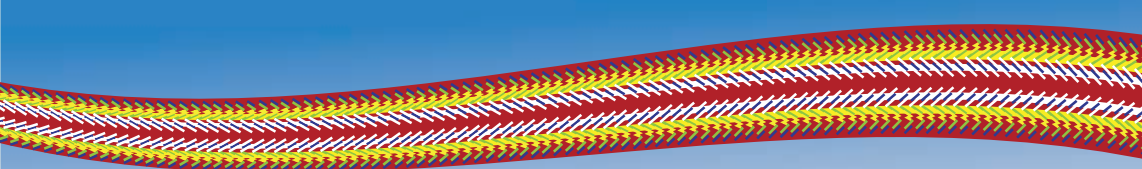
March 8, 1983  
The Métis National Council was Formed

The National Council was formed in 1983 to support the recognition of the Métis as a distinct ethnicity who identify separately from other Indigenous peoples, share Métis ancestry and form recognized communities.

The MNC was formed to advocate at the federal level in Canada.

It is a recognized voice of the Métis in four Canadian provinces to the Government of Canada, and represents the Métis on the international stage.





# ONE NATION. MANY STORIES.

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNING MEMBERS

We are pleased to share this news in the first edition of ‘The Pemmican Post! The foundation of Métis Nation– Saskatchewan (MN–S) is Métis identity, culture, values and language, and working to advance Métis rights in Saskatchewan by engaging our citizens first. MN–S is known for celebrating Métis

The Métis in BC video series includes an introduction to Métis history and segments on Métis Music & Dance, Traditional Craftsmanship, Beadwork, Connection to the Land and Knowledge Carriers/Keepers. The videos feature Métis artists, craftsmen, historians, and Elders who each share their knowledge and experiences of being Métis in BC.

Métis have a long history in B.C., going back to the 1700s, and the creation of this project demonstrates the distinct, diverse, and rich culture of Métis peoples. It also serves as a resource tool to educate the broader public, and our own people

A strong digital presence is key to creating the opportunity for people to connect to and experience Canada’s Métis cultural heritage in ways that are



culture and heritage with events like the Back to Batoche festival. After two years of celebrating online, the 50th edition of the in-person festival is happening July 21-24! More details will be released soon at [bactobatochedays.com](http://bactobatochedays.com), or sign up to receive a copy of the MN-S newsletter ‘Our Nation News’ each month and never miss out on the exciting news of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan.

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is increasing direct access to Métis culture with the creation of the Métis in BC exhibit and video series. MNBC partnered with Parks Canada to produce the exhibit, which can be found at Fort Langley’s National Historic Site. Langley Township is located on the traditional unceded territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui and Semiahmoo First Nations

Advancing the cause of Métis cultural awareness is a critical strategic goal of MNBC’s Cabinet and MNBC has made a commitment to the preservation and revitalization of Métis culture.



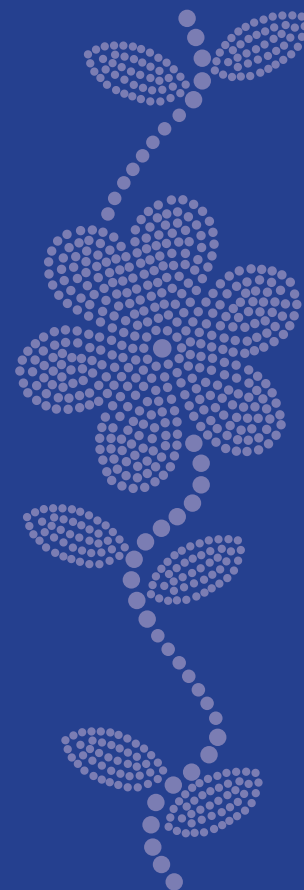
meaningful to them. As a part of the exhibit’s launch, MNBC is launching the #MétisInBC hashtag to encourage Métis Citizens across BC to share what it means for them to be Métis in our province. Over the coming weeks, months, and years, MNBC will utilize the hashtag to tell stories of Métis unique to BC, and encourages Citizens across the province to do so too.

Visit: <https://metisinbc.mnbc.ca/>

## Do you know a Métis citizen or group doing good in their communities?

Nominate them to be highlighted in future editions of the Pemmican Post! We want to take the opportunity to show all of the good work that is being done by Métis citizens across the homeland.

If you have a nomination, please send their name, contact information, and why you are nominating them to [newsletter@metisnation.ca](mailto:newsletter@metisnation.ca)





# ONE NATION. MANY STORIES.

*BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNING MEMBERS*



MNO holds its first-ever Post-Secondary Resiliency Gathering

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held its first-ever Post-Secondary Resiliency Gathering on March 12 and 13, 2022.

The virtual event sought to equip current and aspiring Métis post-secondary education students with the knowledge and confidence to respond to situations they may face as they move through the education system — precarious housing, domestic abuse, and potential legal issues.

The fact that the event was virtual allowed the MNO to reach a larger audience than may have occurred if it was in person with over 100 participants attending.

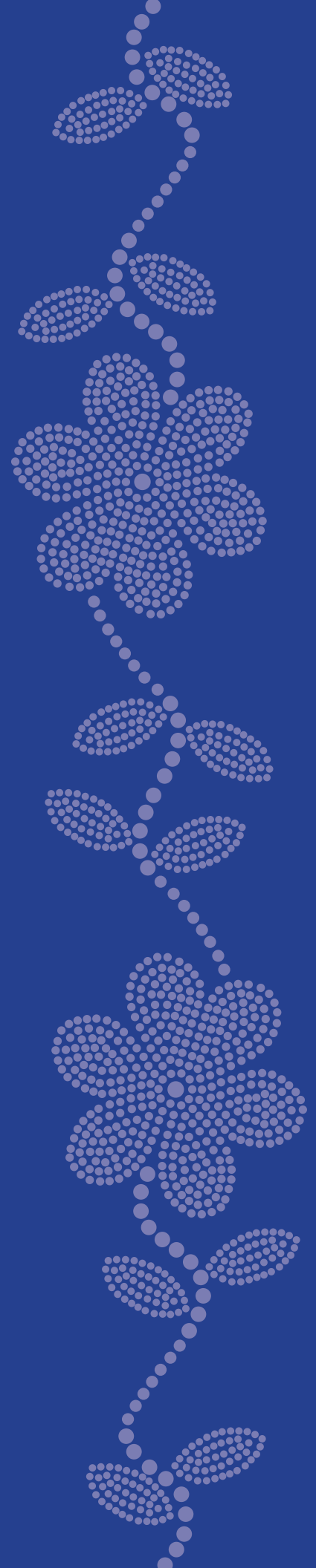
We were happy to be joined by Métis National Council President Cassidy Caron who gave a special keynote address. She shared some of her post-secondary experiences and talked about her deep connection to her people.



## *Métis Nation of Alberta Holds Survivors Gathering Prior to Vatican Trip*

On March 5-6, Metis residential school Survivors, Elders, and knowledge Holders from all over Alberta came together in Edmonton to support fellow Survivor Angie Crerar before she joins the Metis Vatican delegation later this month.

It was a powerful, emotional, positive two days full of sharing, support, laughing, and dancing.



# DELEGATION TO THE VATICAN

## *Meeting with the Pope Francis and Other Church Officials*

Over the last week, Métis Nation delegates travelled to the Vatican to meet with Pope Francis and other Church officials to invite them to join us on a pathway to truth, reconciliation, justice, and healing.

President Caron, alongside the delegates spoke not only to Pope Francis but to the international community through the media on numerous occasions to ensure that Métis stories are heard around the world.



## KOKUM'S KITCHEN RECIPES

Is there a recipe that has been passed down from your kokum that you want to share with the rest of the Métis Nation?

Send us your name, where you're from, your recipe, and a picture of your amazing creations and you could be highlighted here next!

Send all recipes to [newsletter@metisnation.ca](mailto:newsletter@metisnation.ca)

# MNC UPDATES

## *Updates on Work that the Metis National Council is Doing*

The staff at the Métis National Council have been hard at work supporting the initiatives from Governing Members across the homeland.

### ***International Decade of Indigenous Languages***

On April 22, 2022, UNESCO will host the launch event of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL). You can register for this event at <http://idil2022-2032.org>

Earlier this year in a joint statement with the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Canadian Heritage, President Caron had this to say about the IDIL.

***“Colonization has led to the near eradication of the Michif language, and, because language, culture and identity are inextricably linked, has had a devastating impact on Métis identity. The United Nations Decade of Indigenous Languages gives us an opportunity to highlight the work that our Michif speakers and Métis Governments are doing to reclaim and revitalize the use of Michif in our communities.”***

Continue to watch this space for more information.

### ***MNC Environmental Events***

The Métis National Council has been engaged in a number of events designed around environmental action. We’ve highlighted a couple below.

Hosted by the Métis Nation and Parks Canada was Nurturing the Relationship/Pishkaapahtamihk Miyoo Wiichayhtoowin, this event was about fostering further collaboration between the Métis Nation and Parks Canada, within the realm of conservation. This gathering helped advance key areas outlined from the previous gathering, as well as created a space for tangible collaborative opportunities to be developed. Some of these key areas of focus include: Métis youth and stewardship, climate change, wildland fire, and cultural keystone species.

Métis National Council representatives attended COP 26 in early November 2021. MNC’s role at these international meetings is critical to ensure that the Métis Nation is advocating to support Indigenous peoples’ rights in the climate action dialogue and development of international policies.

President Caron joined Regional Chief Adamek from the Assembly of First Nations and Siila Watt-Cloutier at the launch of the Indigenous Climate Atlas. Working with the Prairie Climate Centre, MNC and it’s Governing Members will now be able to better share their climate actions and strategies with all Canadians. To learn more visit: <https://climateatlas.ca/indigenous>.

