



MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL
RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES MÉTIS

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Métis National Council eager to work with Conservative Government

Ottawa, ON – Métis National Council President Clément Chartier today offered his congratulations to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party of Canada on winning another minority government.

“Just prior to the election call we started to forge a new relationship between the Métis National Council and the Government of Canada with the signing of the Métis Nation Protocol,” said President Chartier. “With a new mandate from the Canadian people, I look forward to building this relationship even stronger with Prime Minister Harper, his Cabinet and the Conservative Caucus.”

The Métis Nation Protocol was signed on Sept. 5, 2008 by President Chartier and Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Federal Interlocutor for Métis. It commits the MNC and the Government of Canada to a bilateral process for discussions on issues important to the Métis Nation. The protocol also opens the door for multilateral discussions between the MNC, the Government of Canada and provincial governments from Ontario westward.

“I look forward to new opportunities to work with Minister Strahl,” said Chartier. “With his commitment and dedication, I am sure we can move the Métis Nation Protocol forward and achieve real improvements in the lives of Métis people in Canada.”

President Chartier also offered his congratulations to the leaders of the opposition parties, and all the elected and re-elected Members of Parliament.

“In a minority Parliament, it will be important for all parties to work together in addressing the issues of the Métis Nation,” said Chartier. “I hope the party leaders and their MP’s will be able to move beyond partisan politics to help close the quality-of-life gap for the Métis, First Nations and Inuit.”

One of the issues the MNC hopes to see addressed in the 40th Parliament is the proper recognition of Métis residential school survivors. Many of the schools attended by Métis were excluded from the Indian Residential Schools Settlement, leaving thousands of Métis survivors ineligible for compensation.

In letters sent during the election campaign, President Chartier asked the major federal parties how they will ensure Métis survivors are recognized and compensated the same as other survivors. All the parties that replied stated they were committed to resolving this problem. The federal party replies to President Chartier’s letter, and their commitments to dealing with Métis issues, can be viewed on the MNC website (www.metisnation.ca).

For more information, contact Greg Taylor, MNC Communications, (613) 296-9263, or gregt@metisnation.ca

The MNC represents the Métis Nation in Canada at the national and international level. The Métis Nation’s homeland includes the 3 Prairie Provinces and extends into Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and the northern United States. There are approximately 350,000 – 400,000 Métis Nation citizens in Canada, roughly a quarter of all Aboriginal peoples in the country.