



# Métis Nation



June 2017

## Métis Nation Meets with Minister of Finance Morneau



On May 24, 2017, federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau sat down with MNC President Chartier and Vice-President Chartrand in the Manitoba Metis Federation building in Winnipeg to discuss ways to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and the Métis Nation.

The meeting with the federal Finance Minister is an

important follow-up to the Canada-Métis Nation Accord that was signed at the Summit with the Prime Minister on April 13, 2017. The Accord set a number of priorities for this year's work which include employment and training, education, housing, health and a new fiscal relationship.

The Métis Nation leaders impressed upon Minister

Morneau the critical importance of ensuring that the results of the policy development talks involving federal Ministers and Métis Nation leaders during the course of the year are translated into meaningful action in the federal budget. It was agreed that a bilateral working group of officials from Finance Canada and the Métis Nation will examine issues of mutual concern.





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## Glen McCallum elected Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President in Huge Turnout at Polls

The MN-S completed its return to democratic accountability on Saturday May 27, 2017, with close to 5,000 citizens of the MNS voting. Glen McCallum was elected President and Gerald Morin was re-elected as Vice-President.

“This election marks a return to open, democratic Métis Nation government in Saskatchewan,” said MNC President Clément Chartier. “The large turnout is testimony to the strong desire of Métis Nation citizens in Saskatchewan for the MN-S to renew its historic mission of securing the rights and interests of the Métis.”

The outcome of the election, held in the wake of the successful Summit with the Prime Minister on April 13 and the signing of the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, is seen as having a positive impact for the Métis Nation as a whole.

“Resuming its mandate from the people is critically important for

the MN-S and also for the Métis Nation across our homeland” said Chartier. “With our central base on the prairies, we need an effective MN-S to negotiate section 35 rights with the federal government including self-government at its regional table as well as joining with the MNC and its other Governing Members in the broader bilateral, nation-to-nation process with the Trudeau government. With this election and the months of hard work preceding it, we now have that effective voice in the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.”

Other candidates elected to provincial office were Ashley Norton elected as Secretary and Mary Ann Morin as Treasurer.




Photo: Prime Minister and Glen McCallum at Métis Nation-Crown Summit on April 13, 2017

At the Regional level, the election produced a number of new Regional Directors.







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## Message from the President

As we are nearing the 10th anniversary of the adoption in 2007 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the United Nations General Assembly, it is a good time to reflect on the universal principles endorsed by the United Nations, particularly in light of the recent developments by the Trudeau government.

One of the most cherished rights of Indigenous peoples is contained in Article 9 of the Declaration, which states:

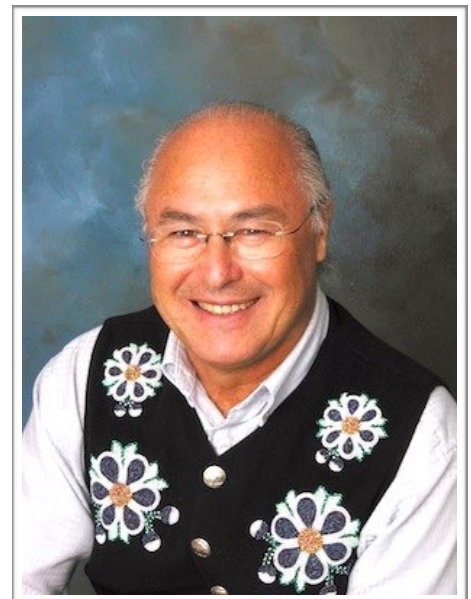
Article 9. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

This is certainly supported by the national government of the Métis Nation which in the

General Assembly in 2002 adopted criteria by which its citizens would be registered. Since the 2003 *Powley* decision by the Supreme Court of Canada, the federal government has been providing fiscal resources to the Métis Nation's five Governing Members for the purpose of registering Métis Nation citizens based on the eligibility criteria established by the Métis Nation.

This is in conformity with the recent developments by the Trudeau government which has recognized the requirement of section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the UN Declaration to engage in a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with the Métis Nation, as well as the Supreme Court's statement in the 2011 *Cunningham* decision which recognized the right of the Métis Nation to determine its citizenship.

This is quite distinct from membership in an organization, club or society under provincial




or federal legislation. Clearly organizations, clubs or incorporated societies/institutions have the right to determine who belongs and the rules for expulsion of members.

The Métis Nation is governed nationally by its national government (the Métis National Council) and provincially by its five Governing Members, which are themselves governments, not organizations.

All have constitutions or bylaws

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which set out their respective authorities, structures and mandates and the criteria for registering Métis Nation citizens based on the national criteria. These five registries have been funded by the federal government for the purpose of registering Métis Nation citizens by the respective governments.

As we all know, the history of the Métis Nation has over the past 150 years been one of struggle particularly since the formation of our provisional governments in 1869/70 and 1884/85 and the blood shed in the battles waged against us by the State in what are now the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. One of the basic principles or rights our ancestors

sacrificed their lives for was the right to belong, the right to be counted as a citizen of the Métis Nation.

This is still a strong principle upheld by the majority of our citizens who support the two main goals of securing our right of self-determination and a land base. Rights we have been strenuously advocating for during the constitutional conferencing processes of the 1980s and 1990s. Rights which we continue to push for in this new distinctions-based, nation-to-nation, government-to-government approach with the federal government under the newly established Permanent Bilateral Process and the emerging s. 35 rights reconciliation process between

the federal government and the Governing Members.


As we move towards marking our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 of our Nation joining Confederation under President Louis Riel, we must ensure that all of our citizens are afforded their inalienable right to have their names entered onto the Métis Nation registries currently administered by each of the five Governing Member governments. Hopefully by 2020 our governments will also agree to the creation of a national registry which will house all Métis Nation citizens registered through the current process.

DECADE OF THE  
*2011-2020*  
MÉTIS NATION

**2017: Promoting Métis Nation Families**







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## Business has a crucial role to play in the reconciliation process, says Canadian Chamber of Commerce Report

Amanda Keenan – 11/05/2017

Ottawa, May 11, 2017 – Business, government and Indigenous peoples need closer collaboration for real progress to be made in the reconciliation process, says a new report released today by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. This progress is crucial for Canada to move forward as a unified, stronger and, ultimately, more competitive country.

“Reconciliation is not a responsibility that is solely facing government or even business, but a challenge facing all Canadians,” said the Hon. Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. “By coming together and finding a productive path forward, we can ensure our Indigenous communities have the tools they

need to start and grow businesses, enter into respectful and lucrative agreements with businesses and, fundamentally, contribute to a stronger, more inclusive business environment in Canada.”


Coming Together, Making Progress: Business’s Role in Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples identifies the challenges both government and business face and makes recommendations for all parties to work together on the process. The report was developed through consultations with Indigenous leaders, representatives from the business sector and legal and national experts.

“This latest report from the Canadian Chamber continues

its insightful and constructive approach to enhancing economic opportunities for indigenous peoples and strengthening the Canadian economy,” said Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council. “Business can and should take an important role in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. We in the Métis Nation are eager to collaborate with the private sector and governments in acting on the important recommendations in this report.”

Recommendations to the federal government in the report include developing core education materials and making them available to the public and making it easier for Indigenous entrepreneurs to access

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affordable capital. The report also calls on businesses to publicly support government-funded projects to improve Indigenous peoples' quality of life and to examine how they can better collaborate with Indigenous communities in the development of projects, as stated in the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

"The Canadian Chamber has made an important contribution to this critical debate for Canadians. Reconciliation is not the job of governments alone. It's up to all of us, and that includes Canadian businesses, large and small," said the Hon. Bob Rae, senior partner at Olthuis Kleeer Townshend LLP.

In the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, Call to Action 92 is directed at the business community, but it is often unclear what their responsibilities are. Coming Together, Making Progress calls on the Crown to take the lead and provide clarity to all parties on what their role should be. But corporate Canada should not wait for that to happen.

"Business moves at a different pace than government and has an opportunity to make real, effectual change right now," said Mr. Beatty. "When projects are being developed, businesses have the chance to get to know the Indigenous communities involved. We should be the champions in collaborating with these communities and provide our support and partnership. Investments in these communities are investments in the future of all Canadians."

This report follows the Canadian Chamber's Seizing Six Opportunities for More Clarity in the Duty to Consult and Accommodate Process, released in September 2016, which called on the federal government to bring more clarity to businesses and Indigenous peoples on the constitutional duty to consult and accommodate on proposed projects.

"The future of Indigenous Canada in all of its aspects is most important and the Canadian Chamber is to be congratulated for its initiative," said the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin, former Prime Minister and

founder of the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative.

"There are no easy solutions or quick fixes," said Mr. Beatty. "Reconciliation will take time and effort. But it needs to happen and it needs to start right away."

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is the vital connection between business and the federal government. It helps shape public policy and decision-making to the benefit of businesses, communities and families across Canada with a network of over 450 chambers of commerce and boards of trade, representing 200,000 businesses of all sizes in all sectors of the economy and in all regions.





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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |   |              |                  |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| • Public Health Conference  | June 6-8     | Halifax, NS      |
| • Louis Riel Opera  | June 15 & 17 | Ottawa, ON       |
| • Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly                    | June 19-21   | Cancun, Mexico   |
| • National Aboriginal Day   | June 21      |                  |
| • Council of the Federation (COF) Meeting                                   | July 17-19   | Edmonton, AB     |
| • MNC Reconciliation Conference and Special Sitting of the General Assembly | July 19-20   | Saskatoon, SK    |
| • Back to Batoche Day   | July 21-23   | Batoche, SK      |
| • Métis Nation of Alberta AGA   | Aug 10-12    | Peace River, AB  |
| • Métis Nation of Ontario AGA   | Aug 19-21    | Kenora, ON       |
| • Manitoba Metis Federation AGA   | Sept 23-24   | Winnipeg, MB     |
| • Métis Nation of British Columbia AGM                                      | Sept 23-24   | Dawson Creek, BC |







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