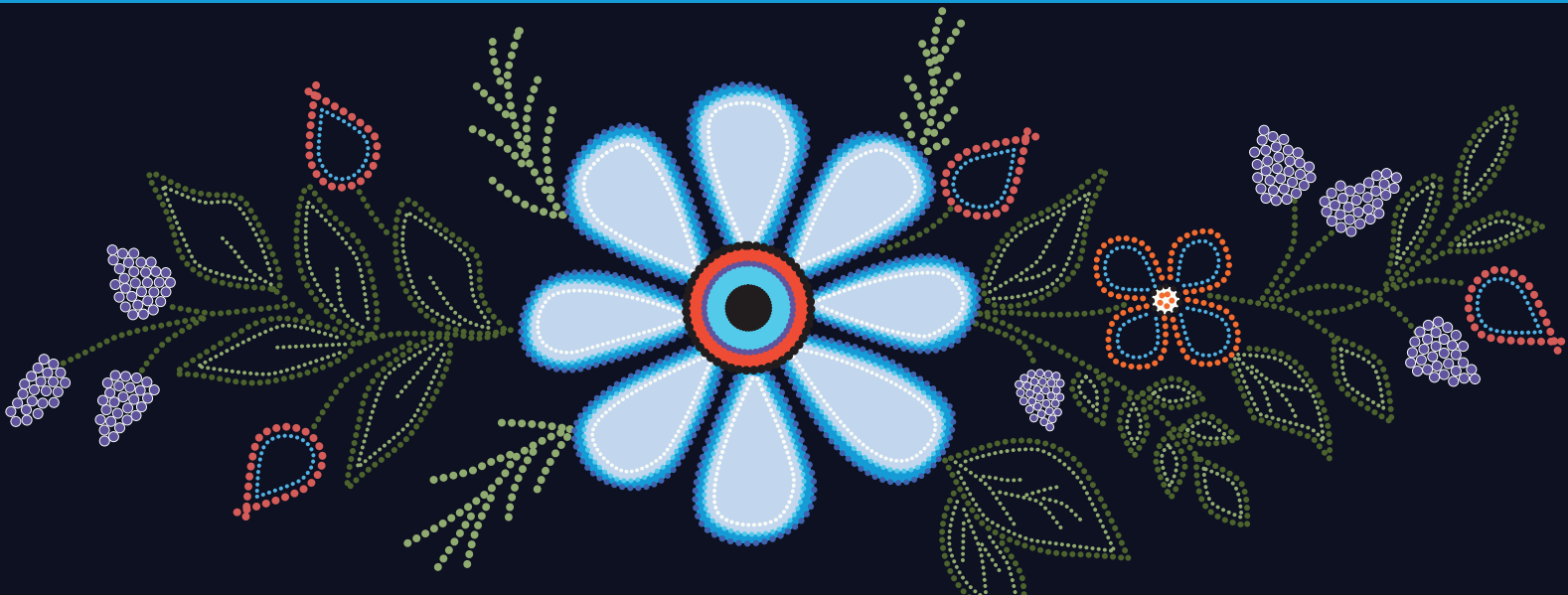
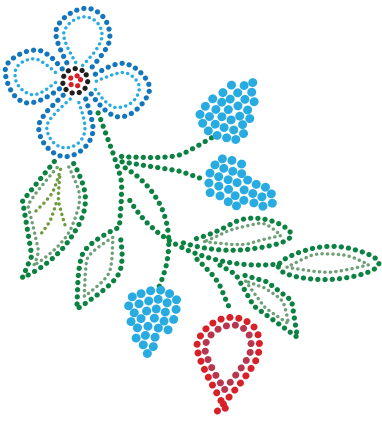




RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES  
**MÉTIS**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL

2025 PRE-BUDGET  
SUBMISSION TO THE  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE





## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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#### **BUDGET 2025 ALLOCATIONS FOR THE MÉTIS NATION**

*Upholding the Nation-to-Nation, Government-to-Government relationship*

Recommendation 1: Investing in the Métis Nation through a co-developed, distinctions-based approach

Recommendation 2: Pursuing legislation to institutionalize the Canada-Métis Nation Accord and Permanent Bilateral Mechanism

### BUDGETARY RECOMMENDATIONS

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#### **HOUSING – \$1B over 7 years**

*Addressing the critical housing needs of the Métis Nation*

Recommendation 3: Re-allocating Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing (URN) funding through a distinctions-based approach

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#### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS – \$13.43B over 10 years**

*Improving health outcomes of Métis citizens through self-determination*

Recommendation 4: Investing in the Canada-Métis Nation Health and Wellness Sub-Accord

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#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – \$34.4M over 10 years**

*Strengthening the Métis economy and supporting Métis entrepreneurs across the Homeland*

Recommendation 5: Métis Business Directories and a Métis Procurement Institute (MPI)

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#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – \$363.9M over 10 years**

*Building the Métis Nation's capacity to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from emergencies*

Recommendation 6: Capacity-building for emergency management

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#### **WOMEN AND GENDER— \$60M over 10 years**

*Advancing Métis women and gender equality through Métis Nation governance*

Recommendation 7: Capacity-building and core funding for Métis women & gender equality initiatives

# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

## BUDGETARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

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### **CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**

*Supporting Métis Governments exercising jurisdiction in child, youth and family services*

- Recommendation 8:** Re-structuring and advancing funding under an Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families to advance the reduction of the number of Métis children in care.
- Recommendation 9:** Supporting the development of a Métis-specific Child First Initiative aimed at enhancing family support and community resources to realize greater social, educational, and health outcomes.

## ABOUT THE MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

Established in 1983, the Métis National Council (MNC) is the national and international voice of the Métis Nation. The MNC receives its mandate and direction from the democratically elected leadership of the Métis Governments in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia. These Métis Governments are the contemporary expression of the centuries-old struggle of the Métis Nation to exercise its inherent right of self-determination within the Canadian federation and are the Governing Members of the MNC. The Métis National Council is respected as an ethical organization that is transparent to its Métis Governments, the Government of Canada, and its partners across the country.

## THE CANADA-MÉTIS NATION ACCORD

On April 13, 2017, the Prime Minister of Canada, the President of the MNC, and the Presidents of its Governing Members signed the Canada-Métis Nation Accord. The Accord is a foundational document in the contemporary expression of the special constitutional relationship between the Métis Nation and the Crown as partners in Confederation and has among its objectives:

- ∞ Upholding Métis section 35 rights;
- ∞ Establishing a process for co-development and negotiation;
- ∞ Ending the legacy of colonialism in federal legislation, policies, and practices; and
- ∞ Improving the socio-economic conditions of Métis citizens.

## THE CANADA-MÉTIS NATION PERMANENT BILATERAL MECHANISM

### BACKGROUND

Through the 2017 Canada-Métis Nation Accord, Canada, the Métis National Council and its Governing Members committed to establishing a Permanent Bilateral Mechanism (PBM) that allows the Parties to undertake joint policy development to advance shared priorities and renew the Nation-to-Nation, Government-to-Government relationship through a co-development, distinctions-based approach.

The Accord commits the parties to a cycle of meetings: annually at the Prime Minister level ("Crown -Métis Nation Summit"), biannually at Ministers' level ("Leaders Meetings"), and quarterly at the Assistant Deputy Ministers' level ("Senior Officials Meetings").

The current focus of PBM priority areas for 2024/25 includes Métis health and wellness, economic development and emergency management.



## CURRENT STATUS

Together, Canada and the Métis Nation have proven that the process under the PBM can be an effective avenue to advance the needs, priorities, and interests of the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada. Between 2017 and 2019, the Government of Canada and the Métis Nation as represented by the MNC and Governing Members entered into seven sub-agreements across policy areas including housing, early learning and childcare, and economic development.

In 2024, the MNC and Governing Members are concerned with the lack of progress made this past year towards joint PBM commitments. Despite repeated commitments made through the PBM by the Prime Minister, Cabinet, and federal officials to enter into and fund sub-agreements across priority policy areas, such agreements have not been reached since 2019. This lack of progress has real consequences and is detrimental to the Métis Nation, Métis Governments, and Métis citizens across the Homeland.

Too often, the Métis Nation has been forgotten by the Government of Canada. Eight years ago, the Daniels decision affirmed that Canada holds the same fiduciary duty to Métis as it does to Inuit and First Nations. Despite this, the Métis Nation continues to face barriers across many jurisdictional areas, including housing, health and wellness; economic development; emergency management; women and gender initiatives; and child, youth and family services.

The Métis Nation has placed considerable faith and trust in the PBM process. In its early years, the PBM process worked for the Métis Nation, and it worked for Canada. The MNC and Governing Members are committed to building on this early progress and restoring the effectiveness of the PBM as a whole.

## OPENING STATEMENT

The Métis National Council's 2024 pre-budget submission recommends specific, high-priority funding investments in the Métis Nation in six policy areas:

- ∞ Housing;
- ∞ Health and wellness;
- ∞ Economic development;
- ∞ Emergency management;
- ∞ Women and gender; and
- ∞ Child, youth, and family services.

This pre-budget submission also includes two policy recommendations to underpin these investments. The proposed investments described in the pages that follow align with the Government of Canada's current mandate, including policy and legislative commitments such as implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, upholding the 2017 Canada-Métis Nation Accord, fulfilling shared commitments through the Canada-Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism, and implementing the Canada-Métis Nation Accord Principles of Co-Development through a whole-of-government approach to co-develop law and policy together in an equitable manner that upholds the Métis Nation's right to self-determination.

These budgetary recommendations reflect the priorities of the Métis Governments and citizens across the Métis Homeland. Meaningful investments in housing; health and wellness; economic development; emergency management; women and gender initiatives; and child, youth and family services will serve to close socio-economic gaps rooted in generations of chronic underfunding and the enduring exclusion of the Métis Nation from federal funding, programs, and services.

Since the time of Louis Riel, the Métis Nation has had an ambitious vision for recognition and self-government and has acted collectively to protect our rights and ongoing existence as a distinct Indigenous People within Canadian federation. Métis Governments are best positioned to deliver programs and services to Métis citizens in a fair, transparent, cost-efficient, and accountable manner. The federal investments outlined in this submission will support Métis Governments in realizing their vision of self-determination in the areas of Métis housing, health and wellness; economic development; emergency management; women and gender initiatives; and child, youth and family services.

The MNC and its Governing Members remain committed to working with the Government of Canada on a government-to-government, nation-to-nation basis to deliver positive outcomes for Métis citizens across the Métis Homeland. We look forward to building on past federal investments and working together to co-develop Budget 2025 that meets the needs, priorities, and interests of Métis citizens and all Canadians.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### BUDGET 2025 ALLOCATIONS FOR THE MÉTIS NATION

*Upholding the Nation-to-Nation, Government-to-Government relationship*

**Recommendation 1:** Investing in the Métis Nation through a co-developed, distinctions-based approach

Through the signature of the Canada-Métis Nation Accord in 2017, the Government of Canada, the Métis National Council, and Governing Members committed to renewing the Métis Nation-Crown relationship on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis. To uphold this commitment, the Government of Canada must invest in the Métis Nation through a co-developed, distinctions-based approach that is premised on sufficient, predictable, and sustained long-term funding.

On January 31st, 2024, the Canada-Métis Nation Accord – Principles of Co-Development were endorsed through the PBM. These Principles set out how the Métis Nation and Canada can co-develop law and policy together in a timely, equitable manner that fulfils Canada's legal obligations and upholds the Métis Nation's inherent right to self-determination. Federal budgetary allocations for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit need to be distinctions-based and co-developed.

The Métis Nation advocates for the co-development of all Budget 2025 funding that pertains to the rights, priorities, and interests of the Métis Nation, Métis Governments, and citizens across the Métis Homeland. Most importantly, all funding allocations for Métis, First Nations, and Inuit must be distinctions-based. To this end, the Métis National Council recommends [a Métis-specific section in Budget 2025](#). This brings greater efficiency and transparency to the post-budgetary process (i.e. avoids a lengthy post-budget process to determine Métis Nation carve-outs of pan-Indigenous budget announcements).



**Recommendation 2:** Pursuing legislation to institutionalize the Canada-Métis Nation Accord and the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism

As mandated by the December 2023 MNC Annual General Assembly “Permanent Bilateral Mechanism” resolution, the MNC calls on the Government of Canada to commit through Budget 2025 to legislate the Accord and the PBM as a means to honour the Crown’s commitments to the Métis Nation under the Accord. As Section 35 rights-holders and partners in Confederation, the nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship between Canada and the Métis Nation transcends partisan politics. Legislating the Accord, and, by extension, the PBM, will ensure that progress towards the stated objectives of the Accord continues to advance over the long-term to bring sustained, meaningful change to Métis citizens across the Homeland.

## **BUDGET 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **HOUSING – \$1B over 7 years**

*Addressing the critical housing needs of the Métis Nation*

**Recommendation 3:** Re-allocating Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing (URN) funding through a distinctions-based approach

In 2017, the Métis Nation and Canada signed the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord to advance Métis Nation self-determination by supporting the development, management, and delivery of housing programs through Métis Nation institutions. Article 7.2 of the sub-agreement commit both parties to establish a joint oversight table with all Governing Members to assess progress at the three-year mark and determine future allocations based on a co-developed needs assessment. \_

Through Budget 2023 and Budget 2024, the Government of Canada committed \$4 billion over seven years, starting in 2023-2024, to implement a co-developed Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy (URN). The Métis National Council and Governing Members call on the Government of Canada to re-allocate \$1 billion over 7 years from the total Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing funding to the Métis National Council’s Governing Members. Allocations must be co-developed, transparent and respect Métis decision-making processes.

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### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS – \$13.43B over 10 years**

*Improving health outcomes of Métis citizens through self-determination*

**Recommendation 4:** Investing in the in Métis Nation Health and Wellness Sub-Accord

Métis citizens face significant healthcare challenges due to past and ongoing colonization and discriminatory federal policies and practices which has resulted in poor health outcomes and

barriers to accessing health services. Excluded from the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program, many Métis people struggle with the financial burden of healthcare. Additionally, intergenerational trauma has created urgent mental health needs that are not adequately addressed. Métis seniors and those nearing the end of life lack culturally appropriate care, exacerbating their vulnerability. The systemic, colonial structures of the provincial healthcare systems do not reflect Métis lived experiences, leading to exclusion and discrimination. Moreover, there is a critical need for in-community services and supports that align with Métis values and lived experiences.

The Métis National Council and its Governing Members call for a federal investment of \$13.43 billion over 10 years to develop and implement a Metis Nation Health Accord. It aims to provide culturally appropriate healthcare, community-based supports and services, address intergenerational trauma through targeted community-based programs and services in areas like mental health and addictions, and improve homecare, long-term care, and palliative care for Métis seniors. The accord seeks to reform provincial healthcare systems to better reflect Métis needs, reduce discrimination, and invest in training Métis healthcare professionals. By promoting Métis self-determination and securing sustainable and predictable federal funding, the Accord will enable the Métis Nation to design, manage, and deliver tailored healthcare programs and services, ultimately improving the health and well-being of Métis people.

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## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT — \$34.4M over 10 years**

*Strengthening the Métis economy and supporting Métis entrepreneurs across the Métis Homeland*

**Recommendation 5:** Build Métis Business Directories (\$19.64M over 10 years) and a Métis Procurement Institute (\$14.75M over 10 years)

Business directories are critical economic infrastructure that can support Métis self-determination and have a positive economic impact on Métis businesses and the Métis economy.

Businesses Directories managed by Métis Governments can increase the visibility of Métis-owned businesses and lead to greater sales opportunities. Additionally, providing access to certified Métis businesses through these directories will facilitate corporate and government (federal, provincial, territorial, local, and Indigenous) procurement, increasing the commercial viability of Métis businesses. Finally, these directories will provide the necessary data assets that Métis Governments need to develop effective programs to support their growth and sustainability and, thus, increase the ability of Métis Governments to best serve their citizens.

A federal investment of \$19.64 million over 10 years will support MNC's Governing Members in developing their regional Métis Business Directories, including the creation and implementation of a business certification process and public trademarks; an up-to-date business list; and maintenance of a publicly accessible databases.

With well-established Métis business directories, Métis Governments can construct and operate a Métis Procurement Institute (MPI). The MPI would also support Métis businesses to become procurement ready and navigate the corporate and government procurement process. In doing so, the MPI would address the unique needs and challenges of Métis entrepreneurs and businesses across the Homeland. Métis Governments requires a federal



investment of \$14.75 million over 10 years to build and maintain the MPI.

Together, Métis business directories and an MPI would support Economic Reconciliation and the prosperity of the Métis Nation across the Homeland.

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## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – \$363.9M over 10 years**

*Building the Métis Nation's capacity to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from emergencies*

### **Recommendation 6:** Capacity-building for emergency management

Métis citizens across the Homeland are being adversely, disproportionately, and inequitably impacted by extreme climate events and other emergencies. The lack of federal funding available to Métis Governments to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from emergencies exacerbates the risks that Métis citizens face in emergent situations. As the extreme effects of climate change continue to intensify across the Homeland—including the increasing frequency and severity of fires and floods and extreme weather events—the need for federal investments in emergency management for the Métis Nation become more urgent.

The MNC and Governing Members call for a federal investment of \$369.9M over 10 years to develop a self-determined, resilient, and whole-of-society emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery strategy aimed toward responding to emergencies and building long-term emergency management capacity for all Métis Governments. Such investments would support the development of incident command centres and the recruitment and retention of emergency management staff for each Governing Member and better integrate Métis Government decision making for emergency services across the Métis Homeland.

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## **WOMEN AND GENDER— \$60M over 10 years**

*Advancing Métis women and gender equality through Métis Nation governance*

### **Recommendation 7:** Capacity-building and core funding for Métis women & Gender Equality initiatives

Despite their strategic position to deliver programs and services to Métis citizens within their jurisdictions, Métis Governments— democratically elected and mandated by Section 35 rights-bearing Métis citizens— currently do not receive any funding to support self-determined Métis women and gender initiatives. This funding is critical for supporting capacity-building, policy development, and program and service delivery aimed to serve Métis women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, including addressing gender-based violence and accelerating the implementation of the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

The MNC and its Governing Members are deeply committed to systemic change and actively promote the leadership of Métis women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, aligning with the priorities of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). The MNC and Governing Members call for a federal investment of \$60 million over 10 years to support capacity-building initiatives including access to employment; establishing advisory councils of Métis women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals and supporting existing representative councils and other governance institutions; ensuring Métis women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Elders' participation in policy development; and integrating GBA+ analysis across joint policy development to advance shared priorities through the Canada-Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism.

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## CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

*Supporting Métis Governments exercising jurisdiction in child, youth and family services.*

**Recommendation 8:** Re-structuring and advancing funding under an Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families to advance the reduction of the number of Métis children in care.

The Métis Nation and Canada have made a joint commitment to continue implementing the six points of action agreed upon at the Emergency Meeting on Child and Family Services in January 2018, as well as the Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families ("The Act"). This shared commitment underscores the collaborative effort required to address the challenges in Indigenous child, youth and family services.

Métis Governments are dedicated to moving forward with exercising jurisdiction over child, youth and family services to achieve the true intentions of the Act and the UN Declaration. The current funding model under the Act restricts the empowerment of Métis Governments' to build capacity. Métis Governments require adequate funding to build governance structures, develop service delivery, provide preventive services and building the necessary infrastructure to manage the responsibilities as they work toward exercising the inherent right to jurisdiction over child, youth, and family services. In the development of a Canada-Métis Nation Child and Family Services Sub-Accord, a re-structured and advanced funding model is necessary to ensure access necessary capacity funding for Métis Governments in advance of drawing down jurisdiction under the Act. A detailed costing assessment for capacity funding and funding for prevention efforts will be completed by the Métis National Council and Governing Members by Fall 2024.

**Recommendation 9:** Supporting the development of a Métis-specific Child First Initiative aimed at enhancing family support and community resources to realize greater social, educational and health outcomes.

Child First Initiatives have proven transformative for First Nations and Inuit in enhancing the well-being of First Nation and Inuit children, youth, and families and facilitate access to essential health, social and education products, services, and supports. The Métis National Council and Métis Governments are seeking culturally-appropriate reform of current CYFS systems to keep Métis children and youth safe, healthy, and thriving within their families, communities, and culture. The Métis National Council and Governing Members call on the Government of Canada to establish a Métis-specific Child First Initiative with sufficient, predictable, and long-term funding to support its development and implementation. By supporting the development of a Métis-specific Child First Initiative, the Government of Canada will uphold its commitments under UNDA and help ensure that Métis children, youth and families as Section 35 rights-holders have equitable access and opportunities to meet their distinct education, health, and social needs across the Métis Homeland. A detailed costing assessment for this initiative will be completed by the Métis National Council and Governing Members by Fall 2024.