



# Métis Nation



October 2018

## Canada and MNC announce \$450 million investment in Métis Nation Early Learning/Child Care Framework



On September 17, Métis National Council (MNC) Vice-President and Minister of Social Development, David Chartrand, joined the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Canada's Minister of Families,

Children and Social Development, and leaders from the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in the release of a co-developed Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Framework

to improve early learning and child care for Indigenous children in Canada.

In support of the Indigenous ELCC Framework, the Government of Canada is

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committing up to \$1.7 billion over 10 years to strengthen early learning and child care programs and services for Indigenous children and families starting in 2018-19. Up to \$450 million will support a Métis Nation ELCC Framework and will be managed in partnership with the Métis Nation.

“The Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Framework will bring unprecedented change to our families’ futures,” stated MNC Vice President David Chartrand. “This is a major investment in the lives of our Nation providing solid foundations for building strong and healthy children and families. Today’s announcement marks another practical milestone along the path of reconciliation negotiated by the Métis Nation and Prime

Minister Trudeau’s government.”

Minister Duclos stated: “Métis Nation partners have identified a vision for early learning and child care in which Métis children and families throughout the Homeland are provided with culturally relevant, self-empowering early learning and child care programming and services. The joint release of the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework with Vice President David Chartrand honours our continued work together to achieve this vision.”

The Métis Nation Framework will create new culturally relevant and supportive ELCC spaces for young Métis Nation children and their families supported by predictable, flexible, long-term and sustainable funding approaches.

This will be achieved by establishing and staffing Métis Nation ELCC facilities with specific mandates to deliver Métis culture-based ELCC programming for Métis Nation children and families.

MNC President Clément Chartier also applauded this major new federal investment in the Métis Nation. He stated: “The Métis Nation ELCC Framework demonstrates again that the Canada-Métis Nation Accord that we signed with the Prime Minister in 2017 is working well. We are co-developing and negotiating new policies and programs for the Métis people that will truly be transformative and positive for our social and economic development.”

Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/indigenous-early-learning/2018-framework.html>





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## Message from the President

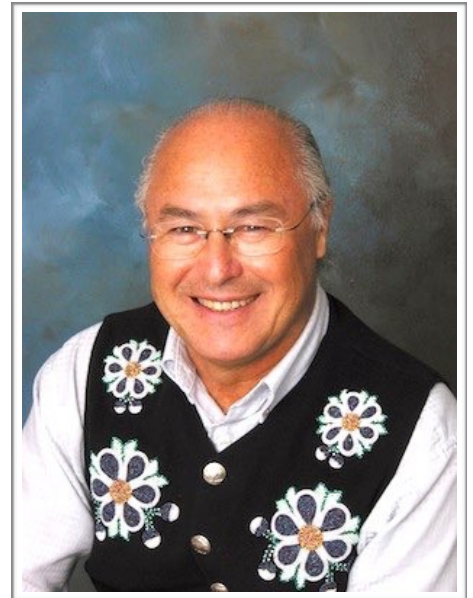
We do indeed live in interesting times. For the Métis Nation, these are not only interesting times, we are in the midst of great progress. We have a new relationship with the Liberal government that is nation-to-nation, government-to-government. We have experienced unprecedented recognition, accommodation and growth. We are in a place where only years ago we thought we would never be.

We did come close in 2005 with The Right Honourable Paul Martin and the then Liberal government. After almost two years of hard work at all levels of government, we arrived at a Federal/Provincial governments' and Indigenous Leaders' agreement at Kelowna in the Fall of 2005. For the Métis Nation, this was a significant step forward as there were a number of Métis Nation-specific commitments with substantial budgetary allocations. Alas, it was not to be! Instead, we faced a decade of lost opportunity.

With the 2015 election of the Trudeau Liberals, the tide again changed, and changed for the

better. With the adoption of the distinctions-based approach, a new relationship has been forged between the federal government and the three National Representatives of Indigenous Nations and Peoples. For the Métis Nation, we have had two successful Summits with the Prime Minister and did conclude a Canada-Métis Nation Accord in 2017, which subsequently led to the process and negotiations captured in Budget 2018 wherein for the first time in its history, the Métis Nation was included in a federal budget in a major way with substantial allocations for housing, early learning and childcare and employment and training.

While our benefits from the earlier federal budgets in 2016 and 2017 had not been what was expected, this did not stop us from continuing to accept the Trudeau government's word that they would continue working with us to make things better. We did not, like MP Saganash curse the Prime Minister. On the contrary, we continued to work with the Trudeau government in the belief, confirmed in time, that it had



positive and sincere intentions to move forward on making life better in this country for all Indigenous peoples, and in our case, for the Métis Nation. As leaders, the Presidents of the Métis Nation governments embrace both the proposed Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework legislation as well as the Trans-Mountain Pipeline, as one will guarantee us a continued process for programs, services and rights recognition and the other, much needed employment and economic growth for our communities in western Canada.





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## Manitoba Metis Federation Annual General Assembly Huge Success



On September 22-23, 2018 over 3,000 Manitoba Métis citizens gathered in Winnipeg for their annual meeting with a heightened anticipation of hearing from their President the pending good news in connection to their negotiations with the federal government in follow-up to the 2013 Supreme Court of Canada in MMF v. Canada case where the court held that the promised 1.4 million acres promised to the Métis was not met.

In this connection, President Chartrand, along with Minister Bennett announced to the Assembly that an initial payment of 154 million was being made in anticipation of a final agreement to follow. This announcement was met enthusiastically and President Chartrand received a standing ovation for his achievements.

In his address to the General Assembly President Chartier thanked the Métis citizens,

their Cabinet and their President for the steadfast support which the Manitoba Metis Community have provided to the Métis Nation which has ensured that the Nation was moving ahead positively over the past decade, culminating in the distinctions-based, nation to nation, government to government relationship with the Trudeau government.





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## MNBC AGA held on September 15-16, 2018

The MNBC held a successful Annual General Assembly in Richmond, BC with a significant turnout of registered citizens. President Clara Morin Dal Col gave a comprehensive overview of the progress made by the MNBC itself, as well as the progress made through the Permanent Bilateral Process (PBM) at the national level.

Also addressing the Assembly were Presidents Clément Chartier and David Chartrand. In his comments, President Chartier commended President Morin Dal Col for her committed work and leadership in the Ministries of Health and Culture, Heritage and Families. He further stated that through the dedicated services of the Governing Member Presidents, their Cabinets and Senior Officials, substantial progress has been made in accessing federal programs and services through Budget 2018, a first in the history of the Métis Nation.



President Chartrand provided an overview of the progress nationally as well as the substantial headway being made by the Manitoba Métis government, particularly as it relates to providing services to their seniors through a new innovative program established directly by the MMF. He also

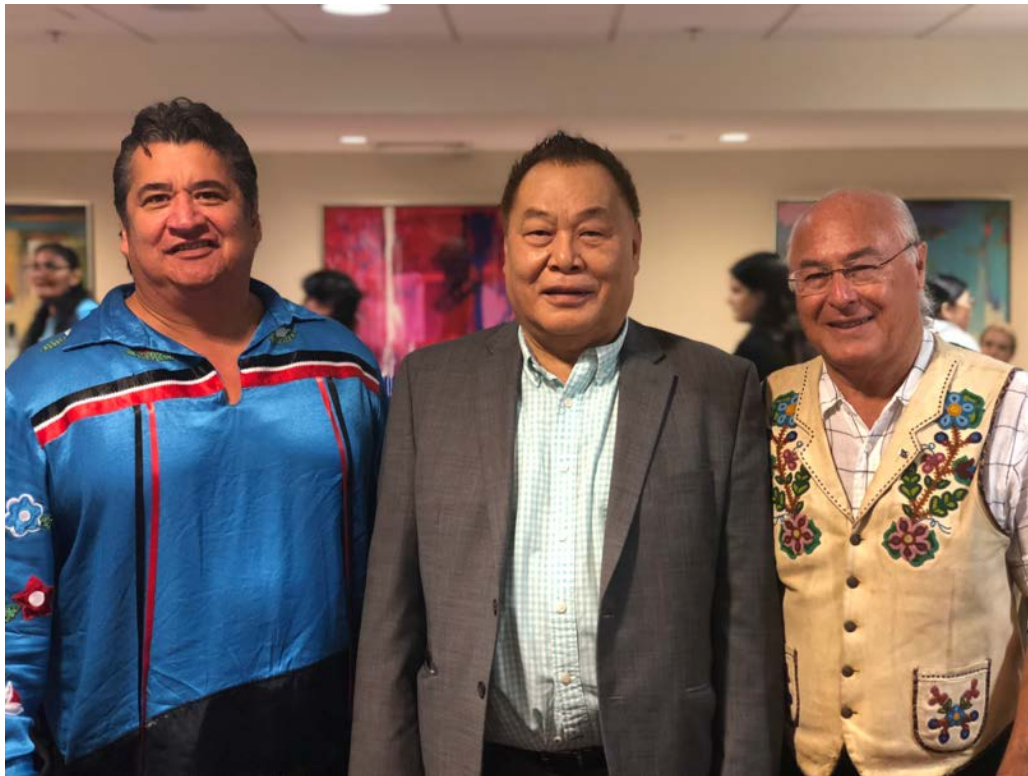
updated the Assembly on the progress they are making in follow-up to the 2013 Supreme Court of Canada decision which stated that Canada breached the honour of the Crown in fulfilling the s.31 Manitoba Act 1870 land commitments.





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## President Chartier Speaks at the CAAN Conference



On September 19, 2018 President Chartier provided an opening statement to the annual meeting of the Canadian Aboriginal Aids Network thanking the Board, staff, volunteers and participants who have continued pressing forward with the issues and challenges faced by persons who have

contracted the AIDS and other viruses.

President Chartier also spoke to the challenges facing Métis Nation citizens who have contracted the AIDS virus and the need for better services for them, which he hopes will be at least partially answered by

Budget 2019 through a potential Health allocation to the Métis Nation.

President Chartier re-affirmed his support to the Organization and said he looked forward to continuing the relationship.





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## Koushkoupayh Days 2018

President Chartier attended the first day of the September 1-2, 2018 Koushkoupayh Days in a picturesque valley a few kilometers south of Brandon, Manitoba.

President Chartier was one of several dignitaries who brought words of welcome to the many Métis participants, along with members of the general public. President Chartier also took the opportunity to outline some of the progress made by the Métis Nation since he was last here last year, as well as the plans the Métis Nation has for 2020 which marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Métis Nation's joining Canadian Confederation through the creation of the Province of Manitoba.

Following the opening ceremony, participants were treated to traditional Métis music to which many participants joined in dance.





## Marty Klyne Named to Senate

A self-made successful entrepreneur, Klyne was born and raised in Regina and graduated with distinction from the University of Regina with a degree in business administration and finance. He worked as an account manager with The Mercantile Bank of Canada and then in retail banking and fiduciary services with the Royal Trust Corporation of Canada.


He then served as president and CEO of the Sasknative Economic Development Corporation, a commercial lender and business advisory group serving Saskatchewan's Métis entrepreneurs. Along with his wife, Charlene, he established Regina's Maaco Collision Repair & Auto Painting. He was publisher of the Regina Leader-Post and The StarPhoenix from 2008 to 2013. He also served as CEO of the RCMP Heritage Centre, the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation and the Queen City Sports Entertainment Group, which owns the Regina Pats.

In addition to his leadership of the Métis capital corporation in Saskatchewan, Klyne has served on numerous committees and boards, including the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board. According to Prime Minister's Office press release announcing his appointment, Klyne "has spent much of his time advancing Aboriginal economic development and speaking up for Aboriginal interests to accelerate their participation in the mainstream economy."

MNC President Chartier welcomed the appointment and praised Mr. Klyne for his service to the Métis Nation. "When we were developing the Métis Nation economic development strategy, Marty Klyne enthusiastically took up



the task of chairing a series of regional economic development conferences and then chaired the third Métis Nation Economic Symposium in 2015 where we concluded a Canada-Métis Nation Economic Development Accord. I have no doubt the Senate will also benefit from his experience and commitment."







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## NATIONAL SENIORS DAY: Celebrating and Honouring Métis Nation Seniors

Statement from President Chartier on today's National Seniors Day on October 1, 2018.

National Seniors Day is an occasion to publicly honour and celebrate the profound contributions of Métis Nation seniors in Canada. Métis senior citizens hold a prominent and highly respected role in Métis life. They are our traditional teachers and carry the knowledge of our Métis history, culture, language and our relationships—knowledge and values that define who we are as a Nation and as a people. They are our vital connection to our past and their wisdom continues to inspire and guide younger generations and our Nation as a whole. As such, we hold our Métis Elders and senior citizens in utmost high regard.

The contributions of Métis Nation seniors, including the invaluable contributions of Métis Veterans during WWII,


are many and reach across generations. Indeed, Métis Nation seniors, those with us and those who have passed, have been instrumental in shaping this country. They continue to impact all aspects of Canadian society, through their public service including the Canadian Forces, the legal and other professions, in business, the arts, and in society at large.

Despite these contributions, Métis Nation seniors often face a great deal of unnecessary hardship and discrimination. National Seniors Day is therefore also a day to shine a spotlight on the plight of our more vulnerable seniors. Too many elderly Métis community members are suffering physical, emotional and financial hardship, living in poverty, experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, and struggling with ill-health, social and geographic isolation and inadequate housing. The

historic exclusion of the Métis Nation from access to federal Indigenous programming and services such as coverage for prescription drugs, medical transportation and other non-insured health services, has exacerbated problems that Métis seniors are facing. We see the results in the statistics and through the stories we hear on a daily basis from Métis citizens across the Homeland. It is heartbreaking to hear, repeatedly, that many Métis seniors are going without their prescription medications because they simply cannot afford to buy them, or rationing their medications in order to buy food.

The Canada-Métis Nation Accord signed on April 13, 2017 commits all Parties to a process of reconciliation and a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship and identifies a number of priorities for more immediate action

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including housing, homelessness, poverty reduction and health, among others – all critical focus areas for improving the lives of vulnerable Métis Nation seniors. The subsequent signing of a Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord on July 20, 2018, the associated federal investment of \$500 million over 10 years in Métis Nation housing, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on a Canada-Métis Nation Health and Wellness Accord on

August 21, 2018, are all positive developments for Métis Nation seniors. We look forward to continuing these discussions and to putting in place tangible strategies that will improve the lives of our Métis senior citizens in the immediate future.

It is in this context that today, on National Seniors Day, we invite all Canadians to celebrate the significant achievements and contributions of Métis Nation seniors, including our Métis Veterans, and to join with

us in advancing the ideals of inclusiveness, recognition and equality in the treatment of the Métis senior citizens in Canada.



**2018: Rights of the Métis Nation Child**





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## Métis Nation Veterans Minister David Chartrand appears before Parliamentary Committee to seek justice for Métis veterans of the Second World War



*President Chartrand (left) and Neil Ellis, Chair of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs*

*Opening remarks on Métis Nation Veterans by MNC Minister of Veterans Affairs David Chartrand to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs on September 20, 2018 in Ottawa, ON.*


Thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before your committee today.

In my capacity as the Métis National Council's Minister of Veterans Affairs and as President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, I do so with mixed feelings.

With a sense of optimism that a settlement for our Second World War Veterans may soon be at hand, one that acknowledges the disadvantages and discrimination they faced on their return to Canada and denied their chances of demobilizing as successfully as other Second World War Veterans.

And with a heavy heart that this settlement has taken so long to take shape that the vast majority of our Second World War heroes are no longer with us today.

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And that time is running out for the few who are still with us.

To understand the scope of the Métis Nation's involvement in Canada's war effort, I encourage you to visit the National Métis Veterans' Memorial Monument at Batoche, Saskatchewan.

First unveiled in July, 2014 the Monument honours and commemorates the wartime service of our Métis Nation patriots, starting with those who fought under the leadership of Louis Riel and military command of Gabriel Dumont at Batoche, the last battle of our Northwest Resistance in 1885.

These patriots fought for the rights and dignity of the Métis Nation and out of a thirst for justice.

Despite our defeat at Batoche, the execution of our leader, our dispossession and dispersion, and our marginalization on the fringes of society, the Métis response when Canada came under threat was immediate and profound.

The initial engraving on the Monument has the names of more than 5,000 Métis Nation veterans, most from the Second World War.

Recruitment was so high in Métis communities it had to be suspended when it threatened local economies.

Why did so many join the defence of our country during the Second World War?

Of course, for some there was an element of intrigue and adventure that played into the decision to serve overseas.

And perhaps an opportunity for meaningful employment at a time when job prospects for Métis on the prairies were bleak.

But knowing these men and women like I do, I know that what principally drove them was an intense desire to combat the scourge of fascism and help create a better world and a better Canada.


A Canada where they would no longer be targets of incessant discrimination and racism and where they would have equal opportunity to pursue the gaining of a livelihood and build better lives for themselves, their families and communities.

And were their hopes and expectations met when they were released from service?

Tragically, they were not.

The new Canada they had fought for was not to be.

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In 1995, one of our veterans told the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples that when he was discharged in 1945 he wanted to work for the post office because he liked the uniform and the way the employees were treated.

He stated: "The most important thing I wanted to do was join the post office and be a letter carrier. The one thing that blocked me was that I was a half-breed and they would not take me."

Accessing veterans benefits would prove particularly problematic for Métis.

Another of our veterans told the Senate Committee: "All the benefits were advertised on radio and in the newspapers, but I never saw a newspaper where I lived, nor did we have a radio. We were remote. The first gravel road we had there was in 1959."

Most Métis veterans were not informed of education and land benefits or of low interest loans that were available for housing and business start-ups.

Many Métis veterans could not read English but the department did not make applications available in Michif, Cree or French.

The Royal Canadian Legion was another source of potential information but our veterans told the committee they lived far from the nearest branch and did not join or became members many years after their war service.

Those Métis veterans who did learn about benefits sometimes were denied the full use of the benefits.

Such as in Alberta and Saskatchewan where Métis wanting to take up Veteran Land grants were instead told to move onto collectively held Métis Settlements or Métis Farms and were not able to access the \$6,000 loan made available to veterans settling on private property.


How did our veterans respond to this treatment?

Some took up or resumed the roles they had played before the war in organizing our communities and leading our political associations that were working for rights recognition and improving the social and economic conditions of our people.

Others, amidst poor housing and living conditions in cities and remote areas, succumbed to despair and alcohol.

When Canada finally took action to redress the issue of Indigenous peoples' access to and just receipt of veterans benefits, our veterans were denied justice once again.

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In 2002, Canada set aside \$39 million for the First Nations Veterans Package in response to claims of differential treatment under the Veterans Charter.

For the Métis, it provided some funding to research grievances concerning Métis access to post-discharge benefits, then cited privacy issues to deny us access to the information we needed to support the claims.

When Canada took steps to honour the role of Indigenous peoples in the war effort, it again snubbed our heroes.

I can remember vividly the expression of pain and disappointment on the faces of some of our heroes who had visited the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy and found not a trace of our culture and contributions in the exhibitions portraying the role of Indigenous soldiers in the D-Day landing.

The first ray of hope for recognition came on Remembrance Day, 2009 when Indigenous Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl and I led a delegation of Métis Nation D-Day veterans back to the beaches of Normandy and the Juno Beach Centre.

Here, at a Métis Nation Veterans Memorial at the Juno Beach Centre, our heroes were honoured by the Government of Canada represented by Minister Strahl and the citizens of France.

The memorial features a Red River Cart, one of the most recognized symbols of the Métis Nation, artifacts from Métis culture and history, and exhibits highlighting the contributions of Métis soldiers, sailors and aircrew during the World Wars and in the Canadian landing in Juno Beach in 1944.

The veterans who spoke to the Senate Committee more than twenty years ago were then part of a group numbering in the thousands.

Today, I speak to you on behalf of the few hundred still alive.

As Métis Nation Minister of Veterans Affairs, I and Minister O'Regan have been working on a package for our veterans that we can hopefully conclude in the near future.

I cannot emphasize enough that time is truly of the essence.

I encourage this committee to support the completion and delivery of this package to bring justice and respect to those who have sacrificed so much for our great country.

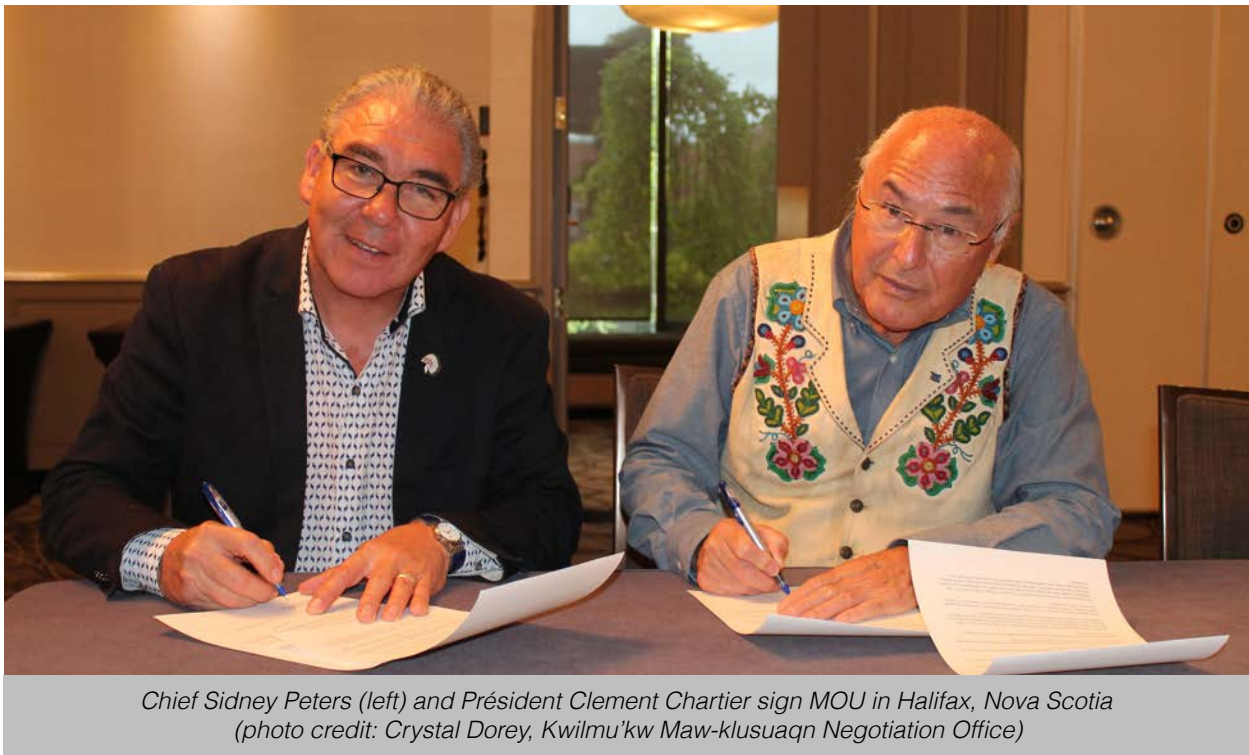
Thank you.





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## Mi'kmaq & Métis Nation Leaders Come Together to Discuss Nationhood



Chief Sidney Peters (left) and Président Clement Chartier sign MOU in Halifax, Nova Scotia  
(photo credit: Crystal Dorey, Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office)

On September 27, 2018, The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs (Assembly) and the Métis National Council (MNC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Halifax, NS, in respecting each other's Nationhood, agreeing to work collaboratively on the issue of individuals claiming Métis ancestry in Nova Scotia,


and establishing cultural awareness initiatives to educate the public.

There is a growing trend across Canada of people self-identifying as Métis and research shows that the highest increase has been in Nova Scotia. Both the Assembly and the MNC have concerns about

these individuals claiming Métis ancestry, declaring the presence of a Métis Nation in Nova Scotia, and using these claims to try to access Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

“The only rights holders in Nova Scotia are the Mi'kmaq,” said Chief Terrance Paul, Co-Chair for the Assembly. “We are

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the original peoples of these lands, and we have spent decades establishing our Treaty and Aboriginal Rights and then working on the implementation of these rights.”

In this time of reconciliation, the Assembly and the MNC feel that it is important for the public and governments to be educated on Rights and Nationhood.

The MNC and its Governing Members across western Canada have a clear process of

identifying and registering citizens of the Métis Nation who are s.35 rights holders under the Constitution Act, 1982.

“The right to determine our own identity and citizenship is at the heart of our self-determination and self-government in our historical homeland,” said MNC President Clément Chartier. “It took decades of struggle for this right to be recognized by the federal government and Supreme Court of Canada and we defend it vigilantly.”

The MNC and the Assembly see this MOU as a positive step forward in Nation building and to best represent their respective Nation.

“While the Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia continue to share our lands with others, both the Mi’kmaq and the Métis Nation have territorial homelands and their Rights are recognized within the confines of their respective territories,” said Chief Paul.







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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |  |           |                      |
|--|-----------|----------------------|
| • World Indigenous Business Forum  | Oct 9-11  | Rotorua, New Zealand |
| • Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak General Assembly                                | Oct 13-14 | Toronto, ON          |
| • FPT Tourism Ministers' Meeting on Indigenous Tourism                           | Oct 15    | Calgary, AB          |
| • Indigenous Protected & Conserved Area Gathering                                | Oct 15-18 | Canmore, AB          |
| • FPT Ministers Meeting on Status of Women                                       | Oct 17-19 | Whitehorse, YK       |
| • Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Symposium   | Oct 19-21 | Winnipeg, MB         |
| • MNC Board of Governors Preparatory meeting                                     | Oct 24    | Ottawa, ON           |
| • Crown-Métis Nation Ministers/Leaders Meeting<br>(Canada - Métis Nation Accord) | Oct 25    | Ottawa, ON           |





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