

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT CARON

On April 1, I sat beside three Métis Residential School Survivors as they heard the words, “I am very sorry,” spoken by Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church. To see and to feel their reactions to those words was one of the most moving moments of my life; one I will surely never forget. This moment was for them and I know it changed their lives.

The Pope’s historic apology was the culmination of a decades-long journey. For years, Métis Residential School Survivors have been bravely raising their voices and sharing their truths.

Seeking acknowledgment, justice, and healing not just for themselves, but for all of the children who never came home. Their strength, courage and resiliency is why we are still here today.

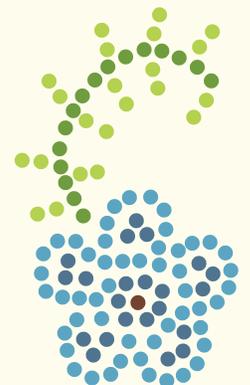
The Pope’s apology will help to guarantee that the voices of Métis Residential School Survivors are never again forgotten. However, it is now our collective responsibility—as the Métis Nation—to ensure that the Pope’s words are followed by real accountability and action. Each of us must now raise our own voices in our communities and parishes, to ensure that the Church and indeed all Canadians understand what is needed most for lasting truth, justice, and healing.

Closer to home, the 2022 Federal Budget was released last week. It was the culmination of months of collective advocacy and partnership between the MNC and our Métis Governments, working together to ensure our Métis Governments have the resources they need to deliver world-class distinctions-based programs and services that meet our citizens unique needs, when and where the Canadian system falls short.

Key Budget language, like distinctions-based, co-development, and sometimes even Métis as a standalone term, demonstrates that our collective advocacy is working; that Canada recognizes and accepts its moral and legal responsibilities to work and partner with the Métis Nation on a nation-to-nation basis.

LATEST NEWS IN THIS ISSUE:

- ∞ MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
- ∞ POLICY
- ∞ STORIES FROM ACROSS THE HOMELAND



It's no surprise that this year's budget is more restrained and targeted than those in recent years, following unprecedented spending in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite that restraint, we welcome the range of investments focused on combatting the everyday challenges that many of our Métis citizens and families face.

This included an additional \$190 million over the next seven years announced for distinctions-based Métis housing initiatives, on top of the \$500 million over ten years that was announced in 2018, a doubling of the First Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit, introduction of a new Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit, and the creation of a new Tax-Free First Home Savings Account.

A new federal dental care plan was also announced. With the investment of \$5.3 billion over 5 years, all children under the age of 12 will have access to dental care by the end of 2022, expanding to under 18 years-olds, seniors and persons living with a disability in 2023. Full implementation of the program will be achieved by the end of 2025.

The Budget also provides \$227.6 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to maintain trauma-informed, culturally-appropriate, Indigenous led services to improve mental wellness and co-develop distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategies.

Finally, to further support Indigenous small and medium-size enterprises, Budget 2022 proposes to forgive up to 50 per cent of the COVID-Indigenous Business Initiative loans that supported businesses in need during the pandemic. Building on the incredible supports provided by our Métis Economic Development Corporations, this action will help ensure that our Métis-owned

businesses are strongly positioned for long-term success.

Of course, there is always more than can be done. The MNC and our Métis Governments will continue to advocate for distinctions-based Métis budget allocations and work with the federal government through our permanent bilateral mechanism to ensure that Métis voices and priorities are not just heard, but meaningfully acted upon.

We encourage you to keep raising your voices with your local Members of Parliament and within your communities, to support our ongoing collective call for distinctions-based Métis programs, services, and funding. Each of our voices have power. By raising them together, we can continue to build a bright and prosperous future for the entire Métis Nation.

Be kind. Be safe. And always be proud to be Métis!



Alex Kusturok and Brianna Lizotte

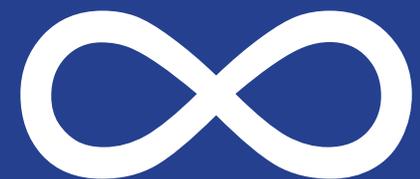


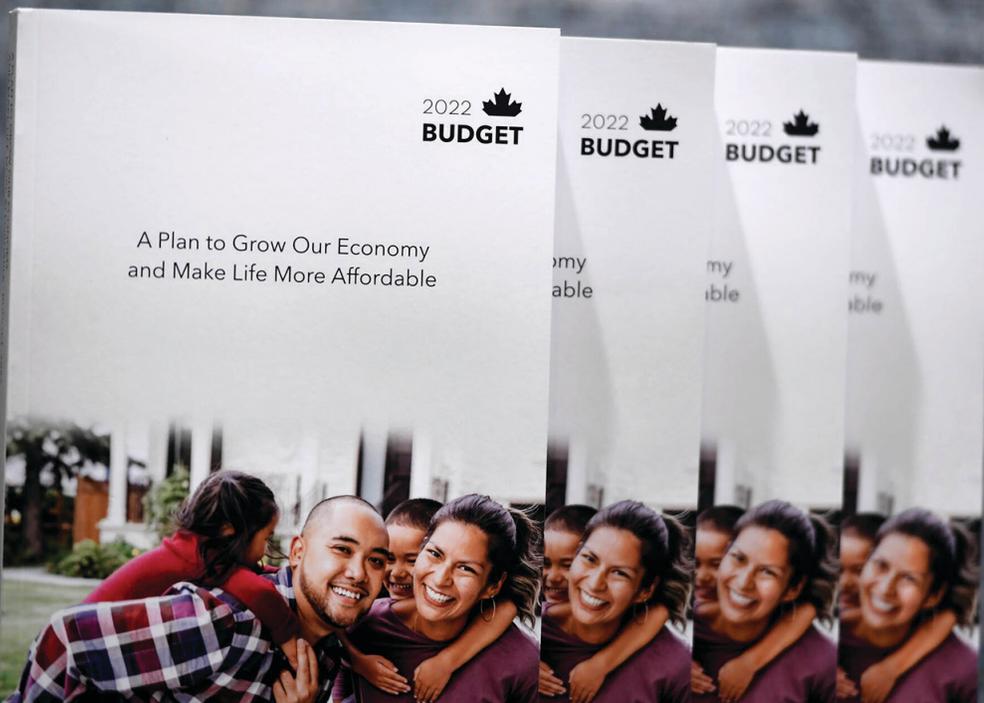
Moments in History

On April 13, 2017, Canada and the Métis Nation signed the Canada-Métis Nation Accord which marked a significant step towards a government-to-government relationship. It outlines how the Government of Canada and the Métis National Council and its Governing Members work together to set priorities and develop policy in areas of shared interest.

Citizen Spotlight

Fiddlers Alex Kusturok and Brianna Lizotte. Brianna and Alex cared for each of the delegates during the week in Rome on days where difficult conversations were being had. They cared for our spirits by playing traditional Métis fiddle tunes in the dinner hall where we gathered each night, outside in public spaces, immediately following our private audience in St. Peter's Square, and of course directly following the apology by Pope Francis.





Policy

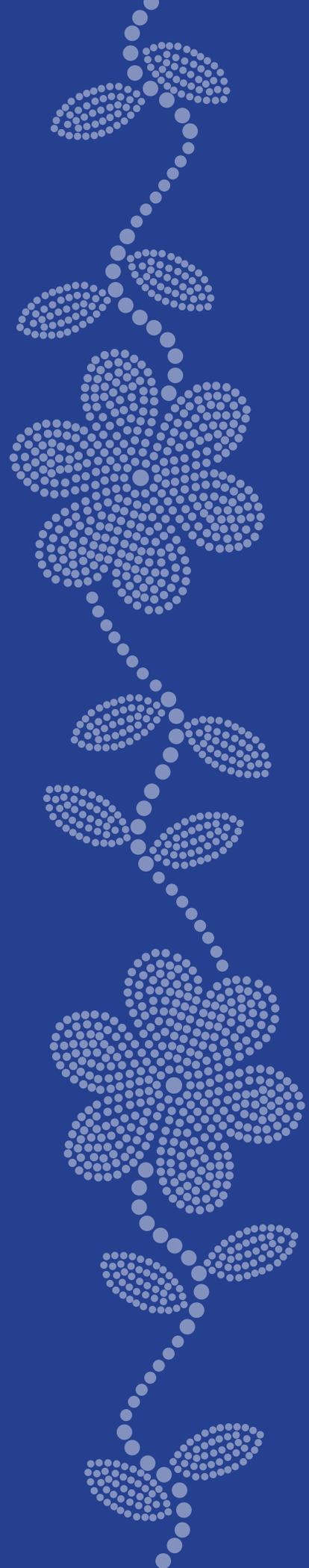
It's no surprise that Budget 2022 is more targeted than recent years, following unprecedented spending in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. This budget looks to make life more affordable for not only Métis, but all Canadians. The Métis National Council welcomes many of these announcements.

Budget 2022 provides support of \$29.6 million over 3 years for the co-development of an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda to support self-determined action in addressing climate priorities as determined by Indigenous communities.

The announcement of an additional \$190 million over the next seven years for Métis housing priorities on top of the already existing \$500 million over ten years announced in 2018 will ensure that citizens have access to safe, affordable, quality housing for their families.

The budget also announced \$190.5 million in 2022-23 for the Indigenous Community Support Fund to help Indigenous communities and organizations mitigate the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. They also announced loan forgiveness of up to 50 percent of the COVID-Indigenous Business Initiative loans that supported businesses in need during the pandemic. The initiatives will ensure that our communities come through the Covid-19 pandemic thriving.

The Métis National Council will continue to review Budget 2022 and ensure that Métis governments, communities, and citizens have their needs met from this budget, while continuing to work through our permanent bilateral mechanism with the Federal government to ensure that Métis priorities are met in the future.





ONE NATION. MANY STORIES.

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNING MEMBERS

MNO

Join our workshop for Métis teens to discuss, in a safe space, different ways to practice healthy self-love and self-care. In this session, host Jenna Campbell will introduce mindfulness tools for building better self-awareness. bit.ly/3NBJ2Fn

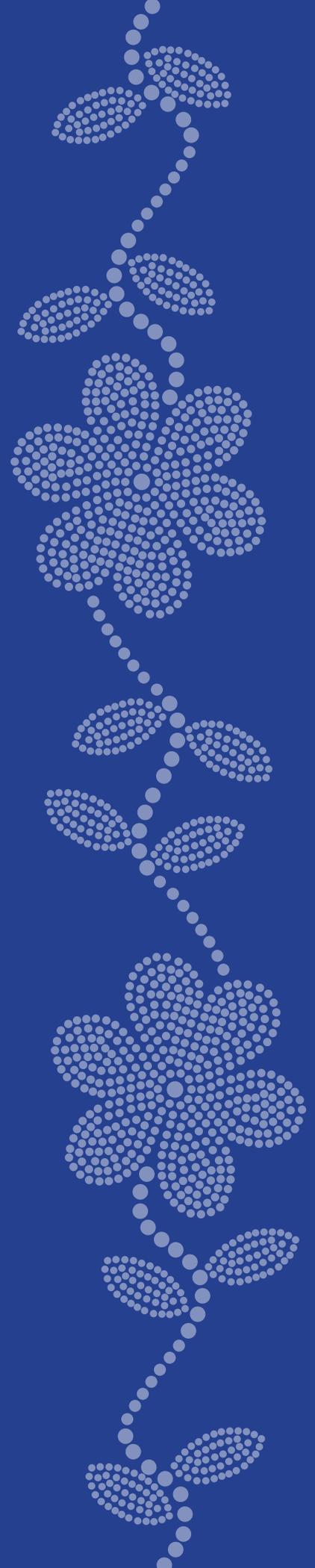
There are Métis children within the child welfare system that would benefit from the stability of a loving and compassionate household. MNO citizens interested in opening their homes and learning more about becoming foster parents are encouraged to attend a virtual information session. More information at the MNO website.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh and MNO Chair Hank Rowlinson were pleased to be invited by Premier Doug Ford to meet with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, as she made her first official visit to Ontario on March 31 in Toronto.

The meeting was an opportunity to foster the government-to-government, nation-to-nation relationships between the MNO, Ontario, and Canada and to discuss important issues of shared interest.



Province of Ontario





MNBC

MNBC recently wrapped up season one of the Métis Speaker Series. This initiative is funded through the Indigenous Healing and Rebuilding funding stream of the Civil Forfeiture Office. The Kishkayhta (Learn), Kiikew (Heal), Kiihtwaam ooshtaahk (Rebuild) Métis Speaker Series is organized around the theme of Métis Cultural Healing and Rebuilding. This project was created to assist Métis Youth, Métis Chartered Communities, and the general public to create more visibility of Métis People and educate about Métis culture and heritage. The speaker series was facilitated virtually and networked to the over 90,000 Métis people residing in BC.

Listen to all 8 episodes here: <https://www.metispodcastseries.ca/>

KOKUM'S KITCHEN RECIPES

Bannock

Ingredients

- 3 cups All Purpose Flour
- 2 tsbp Baking Powder
- 1 tsbp Granulated Sugar
- 1/2 cup Butter or Shortening
- 3/4 cup Milk or Water

Instructions

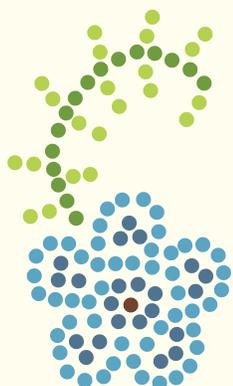
1. Mix flour, baking powder, sugar and salt together.
2. Work in the margarine using your hands until you make a nice crumble.
3. Gradually mix in the liquid so dough is soft but not sticky. Knead.
4. Shape into a ball and place on a greased baking sheet. Flatten into a circle about 1 inch thick.
5. Bake at 425°F for 25 minutes or until golden brown.



MÉTIS SPEAKER SERIES

LISTEN ON

OR WHEREVER YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS



Send newsletter enquiries to: newsletter@metisnation.ca