

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARON

Tansi everyone,

The last two months have been filled with ongoing progress at the Métis National Council as we continue to serve our Métis Governments both nationally and internationally. March 8 marked the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Métis National Council. For 40 years the Métis National Council has played a critical role in promoting and advancing the rights and interests of the Métis people, and our collective efforts have been instrumental in achieving significant gains for the Métis Nation.

The MNC formed back in 1983 as a national representative organization for the Métis Nation, with a mandate to promote and protect the rights and interests of the Métis Nation. At the time, the Métis people were largely unrecognized and unrepresented at the national level, and the formation of the MNC marked a significant moment in the history of the Métis Nation.

Over the past 40 years, the MNC has been at the forefront of the Métis Nation's struggle for recognition and rights. Métis leaders, past and present, have played a key role in several significant advocacy and legal victories for the Métis Nation continuously moving us forward to achieving the dreams of our ancestors.

Today the MNC continues to be a driving force behind the development and implementation of Métis-specific policies and programs in Canada. However, there is still much work to be done. Work that we are prepared to do.

Throughout this year, we will be hosting several commemorative and celebratory events to mark the Métis National Council's 40th anniversary. At the end of March, one such event was the grand opening of our new office in Ottawa where we celebrated with delegations from each of our Métis Governments as well as Government of Canada

LATEST NEWS IN THIS ISSUE:

- ∞ MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
- ∞ NEW HIRES
- ∞ ONE NATION. MANY STORIES.

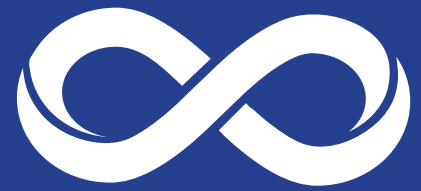
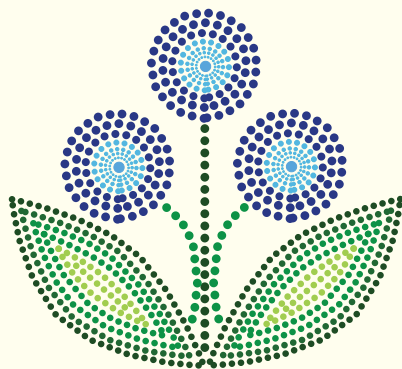


officials and other partners we collaborate with. We look forward to inviting and having many more people come and visit.

In the last few weeks, we have continued our work on critical files including Justice at the MNC Justice Forum. Joined by Métis government representatives, technicians, and experts in the field, issues such as community safety and policing, justice and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples were discussed. It was an incredible opportunity to learn about the work being done by each of our Governing Members in justice spaces, as well as discuss upcoming UNDRIP work.

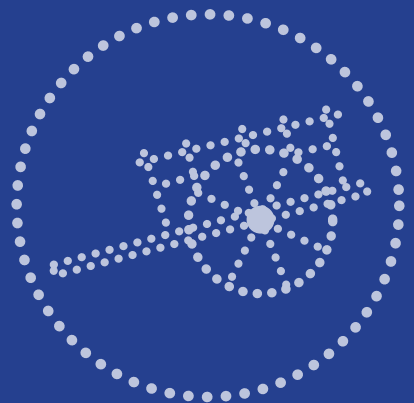
Finally, and most recently, we have arrived home from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. With a significant Métis delegation in attendance the Métis Nation was well represented to ensure the Métis perspective was included at this international forum. For the past four decades, the Métis National Council has been the international representative of the Métis, and by participating in events such as this, we can create international relationships that will help move the Nation forward.

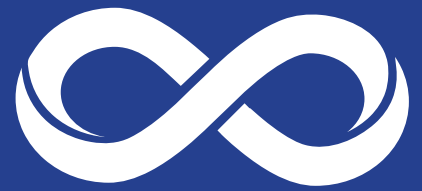
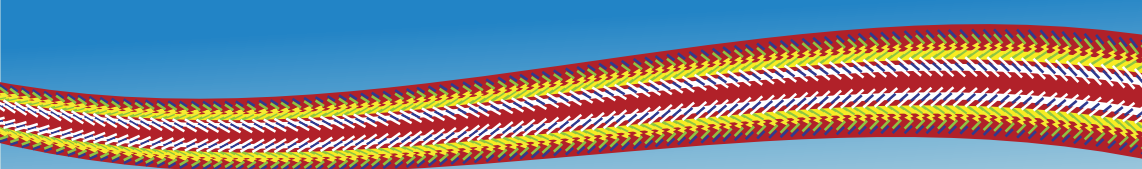
Be kind, be safe, and always be proud to be Métis!



MOMENTS IN HISTORY

Did you know that the 1885 North-West Resistance began on March 26 west of the settlement of Duck Lake on the old Carlton Trail, north of modern Rosthern, Saskatchewan? Duck Lake was at the junction of the Carlton and Prince Albert trails, midway between Métis headquarters at Batoche and the North-West Mounted Police at Fort Carlton. The Battle of Duck Lake, led by Gabriel Dumont, was considered a successful battle for the Métis. A cairn marks the eastern edge of the battlefield on Highway 212.





ONE NATION, MANY STORIES

Monthly updates from the Governing Members

MN-S

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

We're ready to go Back to Batoche!!! Planning is underway for what has become Canada's premiere Métis Cultural Festival. Mark the dates on your calendar, Thursday, July 20 – Sunday, July 23, 2023. Watch <https://metisgathering.ca/back-to-batoche/> for more information. See you at Batoche! #backtobatoche



CITIZEN HIGHLIGHT

Do you know a Métis citizen or group doing good in their communities? Nominate them to be highlighted in future editions of the Pemmican Post! We want to take the opportunity to show all of the good work that is being done by Métis citizens across the motherland. If you have a nomination, please send their name, contact information, and share why you are nominating them to newsletter@metisnation.ca

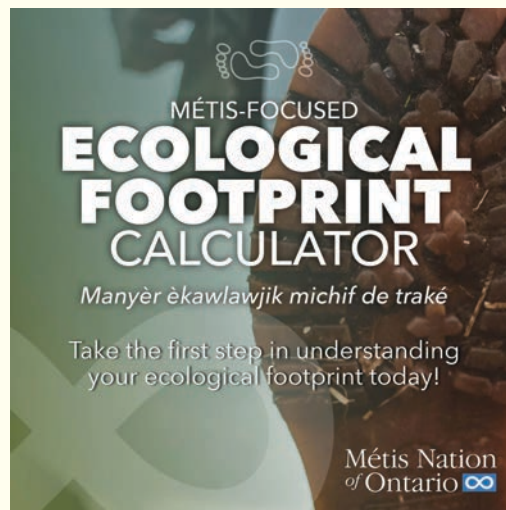
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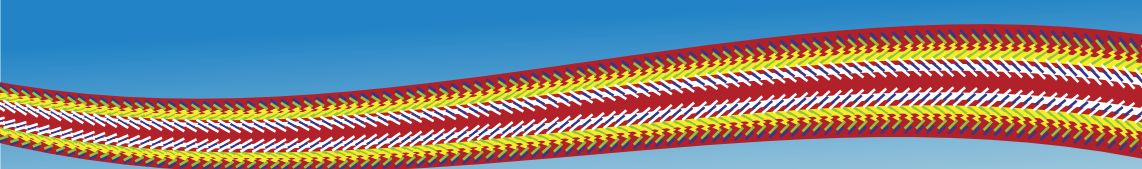
Métis Nation of Ontario

Métis-Focused Ecological Footprint Calculator

Try out the first-of-its-kind Métis-Focused Ecological Footprint Calculator! This calculator incorporates Métis knowledge and way-of-life into its questions and calculations, giving tailor-made suggestions to reduce your eco-impact. Learn tips like introducing locally harvested foods, minimizing your transportation footprint, and making your home energy efficient!

Read about the calculator and try it out here: <https://bit.ly/3nuFFXS>





KOKUM'S KITCHEN RECIPES

Is there a recipe that has been passed down from your kokum that you want to share with the rest of the Métis Nation? Send us your name, where you are from, your recipe, and a picture of your amazing creations and you could be highlighted here next! Send all recipes to newsletter@metisnation.ca.

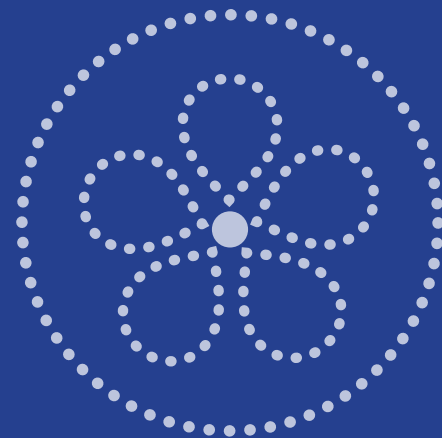
Métis National Council

Métis National Council Housing and Homelessness Forum, Ottawa, ON February 28th – March 1st

The Métis National Council was joined by representatives from each Métis Government as well as those from the Government of Canada as attendees and housing experts aimed to discuss and navigate the priorities of the Métis Nation regarding housing and homelessness. In sharing the experiences and existing programs across the Homeland, the Métis Nation was able to provide feedback on the Urban, Rural and Northern Housing Strategy. The event was an important moment in building cooperation amongst the Métis Governments as they combat homelessness across the Homeland.

67th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, New York, NY, March 5th - 11th

The Métis Nation participated in the 67th Session of the United Nations on the Status of Women. This year, priorities surrounded utilizing innovation and technological change to achieve gender equity and empowerment of all women and girls. Throughout key events surrounding the status of Indigenous women, the voice and priorities of the Métis Nation was heard. The MNC looks forward to continuing and increasing the voice of the Métis Nation at these important events and meetings!

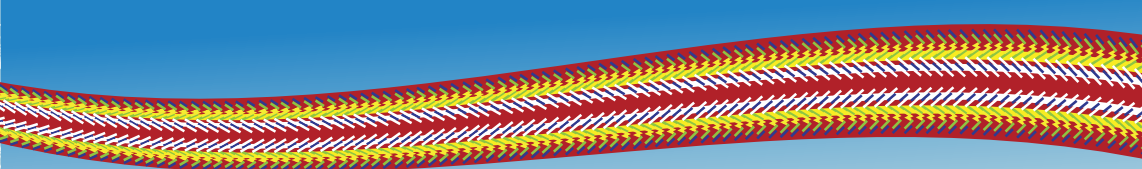


United Nations Water Conference, New York, NY, March 22nd- 24th

The United Nation's Water Conference 2023 held at the UN in New York city on March 22nd to the 24th, was highly anticipated and attended partly because the last UN conference



on water happened 47 years ago. Due to the importance of the conference and water being a pillar of life and sacred to Indigenous Peoples, there was also a two-day Indigenous water pre-conference before the UN Water conference. Jessus Karst, from the MNC Environment team, was able to attend both conferences.



TRADITIONAL PLANTS CORNER

Fireweed

Fireweed is a native plant found throughout the homeland. The young Fireweed shoots can be harvested in late spring and early summer as a vegetable or a substitute for asparagus. Harvest the young shoots when they are 5 to 15 inches tall and when the leaves are still rolled up. The sweetest shoots are those that are cut when the leaves are still reddish. Young shoots and leaves can be eaten raw, steamed or sauteed. Fireweed shoots are a good source of vitamins A and C.



The conference brought water to the forefront and the need for more regular conferences and action to protect water globally. There is a need for Indigenous voices to have equal weight in these international environments. Canada was one of the few countries who included Indigenous Peoples and rights in their statements. MNC met with Canada to promote all the good work the Métis Nation is doing regarding the protection of water, as well as the need for collaboration in stewarding healthy watersheds. MNC also participated in an event hosted by Ambassador Bob Rae by giving an opening statement.

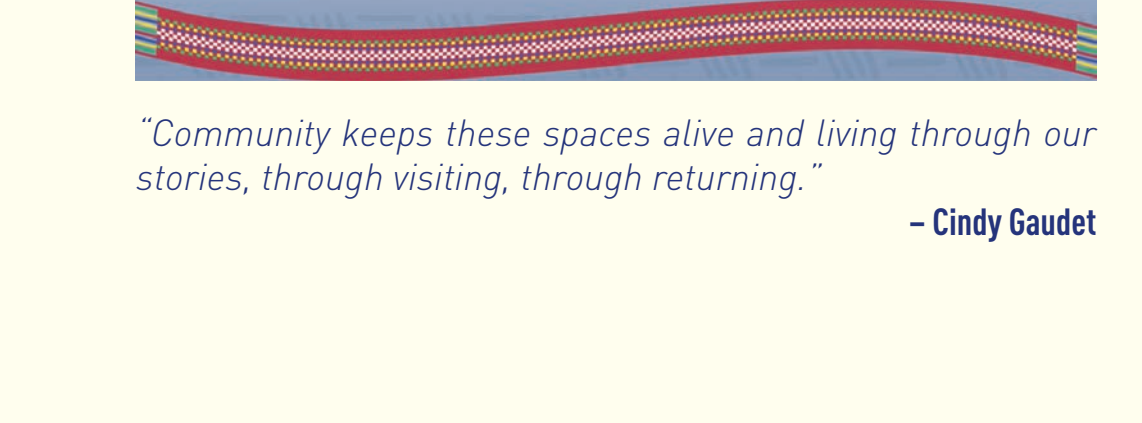
Parks Canada Virtual Kitchen Table Talk, March 16th

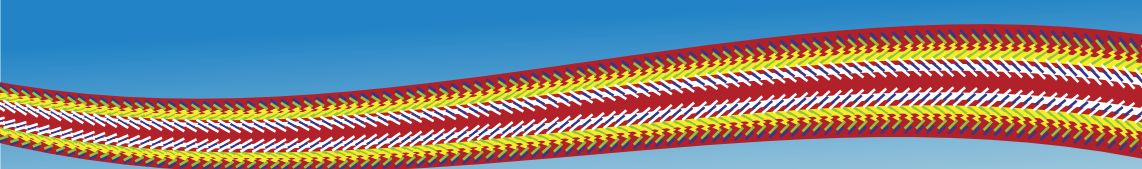
On Thursday March 16th, Métis National Council (MNC) in partnership with Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO), hosted a Kitchen Table Talk for Parks Canada staff following a recommendation from the 2022 Parks Gathering that MNC enhance interpreter training with learning opportunities about the Métis Nation. Knowledge Holders and Elders shared their stories and wisdom, as well as their connections with lands and waters that Parks Canada sites now intersect with. MNC was honoured to have Elder Reta Gordon, Elder Norma Spicer, Sharon Morin, Cindy Gaudet and Natalie Pepin around the table. The learning opportunity was received with excellent feedback and the video of the event will be a key resource for Parks Canada staff to deepen their understanding of Métis connections to the lands and waters of the Homeland.



“Community keeps these spaces alive and living through our stories, through visiting, through returning.”

– Cindy Gaudet





Goose Moon Table, Métis Crossing, Smoky Lake, AB, March 21st - 23rd

As March brings us into spring, returning geese herald a reminder that summer is en route, nature is being reborn, and there's work to be done. With this in mind, the Métis National Council's (MNC) Environment Team and the Government of Canada met at Métis Crossing in Alberta to renew the Joint Table on Clean Growth and Climate Change with its new name "The Goose Moon Table." Nineteen experts and representatives from Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE); Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC); Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN); Infrastructure Canada (INFC) and Public Safety Canada (PSC) met with sixteen representatives from each of the four Governing Members, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) and the MNC. The Goose Moon Table participants spent two and a half days at beautiful Métis Crossing developing the 2023-2024 work plan and giving new life to the collaborative effort via Terms of Reference and Orientation Package approval.

The MNC was successful in achieving their goal of rooting The Goose Moon Table in Métis culture and identity as it works towards



supporting and developing Métis climate leadership across the Motherland. Elder Lily Rose helped MNC and Canada to celebrate the new name for the Goose Moon Table in a tea ceremony and MNC representatives provided the teachings behind the naming.

The Goose Moon occurs in March and has signaled a time for rebirth, renewal, leadership, and the beginning of hard work under the long summer sun for our ancestors. The Goose Moon encapsulates the spirit of collaboration and cooperation between the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada as we work towards a brighter future for our communities and Mother Earth. Métis Nation and Federal representatives took part in cultural activities that highlighted the Métis connection to our lands that underpins this work. Table participants learned about trapping,





tracking, tanning, and traveling along the trapline; the importance of the stars and skies to Métis storytelling and navigation; and the deep connection between Métis culture and living in a good way in harmony with the land and waters.

As the skies across the Métis Motherland welcome flocks of geese in V formation, the MNC and the Government of Canada have taken note of their teachings. Sharing support and leadership on the long journey toward Métis led climate solutions that benefit goose and gander alike.

UK Policy Mission, London, England, March 29th – 30th

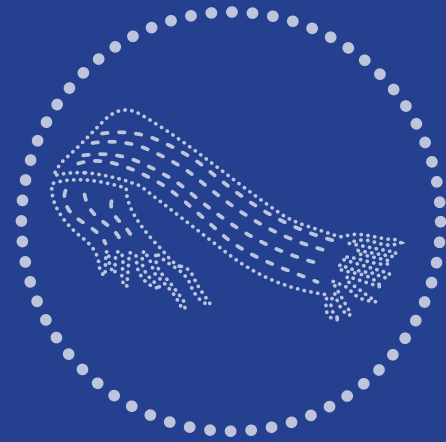
The Métis Nation was proud to send a Delegation to meet with UK Investment houses and UK businesses in London England. Focusing on Critical Minerals, the Métis Delegation was able to underline the Métis economic landscape and build relationships with international investors and drive investment to the Métis, First Nations, and Inuit economies. We look forward to continuing this work and building international relationships to foster the Métis economy.



Métis National Council Justice Forum, Calgary, AB, April 12th-13th

The Métis National Council (MNC) was joined with Métis Elders, Métis Leaders, Governing Members staff, government officials, police officers, lawyers, and others who have an interest in Métis justice. The forum created a space for attendees to explore justice and policing along with the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Throughout the forum, the MNC and attendees engaged in presentations and panel discussions that allowed for knowledge sharing, learning, and engagement. The MNC was not only able to share the status of UNDRIP implementation and the Indigenous Justice Strategy but learn from attendees on ways to better service the Métis Nation and further their priorities. Looking to the future, the MNC and its Justice Team looks forward to continuing to advance the Métis Nation’s priorities and to continue to foster engagement with citizens and Governing Members.





22nd United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, New York, NY April 17th-28th

Along with a delegation of Governing Members, the Métis National Council (MNC) was proud to represent the Métis Nation at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This year, the Forum focused on Indigenous peoples taking a rights-based approach human health, planetary and territorial health, and climate change.



In addition to representing the Métis Nation throughout the proceedings, the MNC co-hosted a side event with Canada and Denmark on Indigenous Peoples in Legislation. The panel discussion explored solutions to promote the participation of Indigenous peoples in legislative processes.



Métis National Council 40th Anniversary Celebrations

In March 1983, the Métis National Council (MNC) was formed to be a voice for the Métis peoples across the homeland. Since this time, the MNC has received its mandate and direction from the democratically elected leadership of the Métis Governments within Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. With the mandate and direction from the Governing Members, the MNC has continued to provide Métis-specific representation both in national and international spaces.





The week began the year-long commemoration of the 40 years that the MNC has been serving the Métis Nation. Throughout the year, the MNC will, in various ways, be celebrating this historic anniversary across the Homeland.

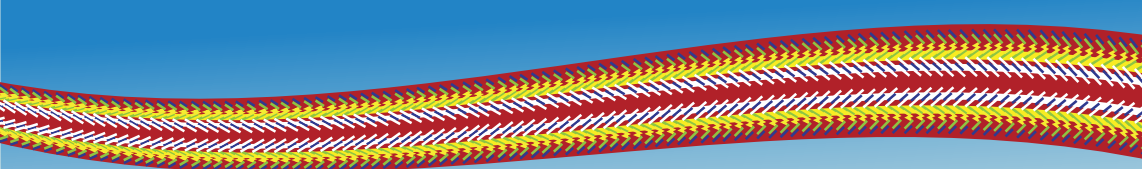


The first celebration was a hockey game between the MNC and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Tea & Bannock Cup held in Ottawa, ON at the Tom Brown Arena on March 28th. The matchup featured citizens of all ages across the Homeland playing together. The game was an excellent display of sportsmanship from both teams and was an amazing experience for all that attended!

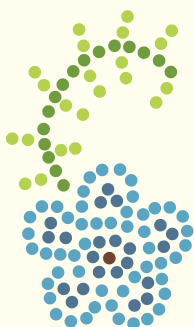
The hockey game marks significant progress and celebrates the work that has been done building positive relations between the MNC and ITK. Through celebrating the 40th anniversary of the MNC, it is important also to celebrate the cooperation and collaboration amongst National Indigenous Organizations in Canada.

The MNC was proud to host members of our Métis Governments, Métis citizens, friends, family, and Government partners at the grand opening of the new MNC office space. Bringing together those that are a part of and that support the Métis Nation in a space full of music and laughter was the perfect way to begin our time within the space. The MNC was honoured to celebrate the previous 40 years and symbolize a new space and beginning for the next 40 years in this way!





Throughout the coming months, the MNC looks forward to continuing to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Métis National Council. Sharing and celebrating this important milestone with our Métis Governments and continuing to advocate and advance the Métis Nation will proceed throughout the year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Métis National Council is excited to share that the upcoming **Métis Nation Mental Health and Cannabis Workshop** on **May 16 – 17, 2023** will be live-streamed. If you are interested in participating virtually in this workshop, please send an email to events@metisnation.ca.



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Send newsletter enquiries to:
newsletter@metisnation.ca