

RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES

MÉTIS

NATIONAL COUNCIL



**Federal Budget Submission
for 2025**

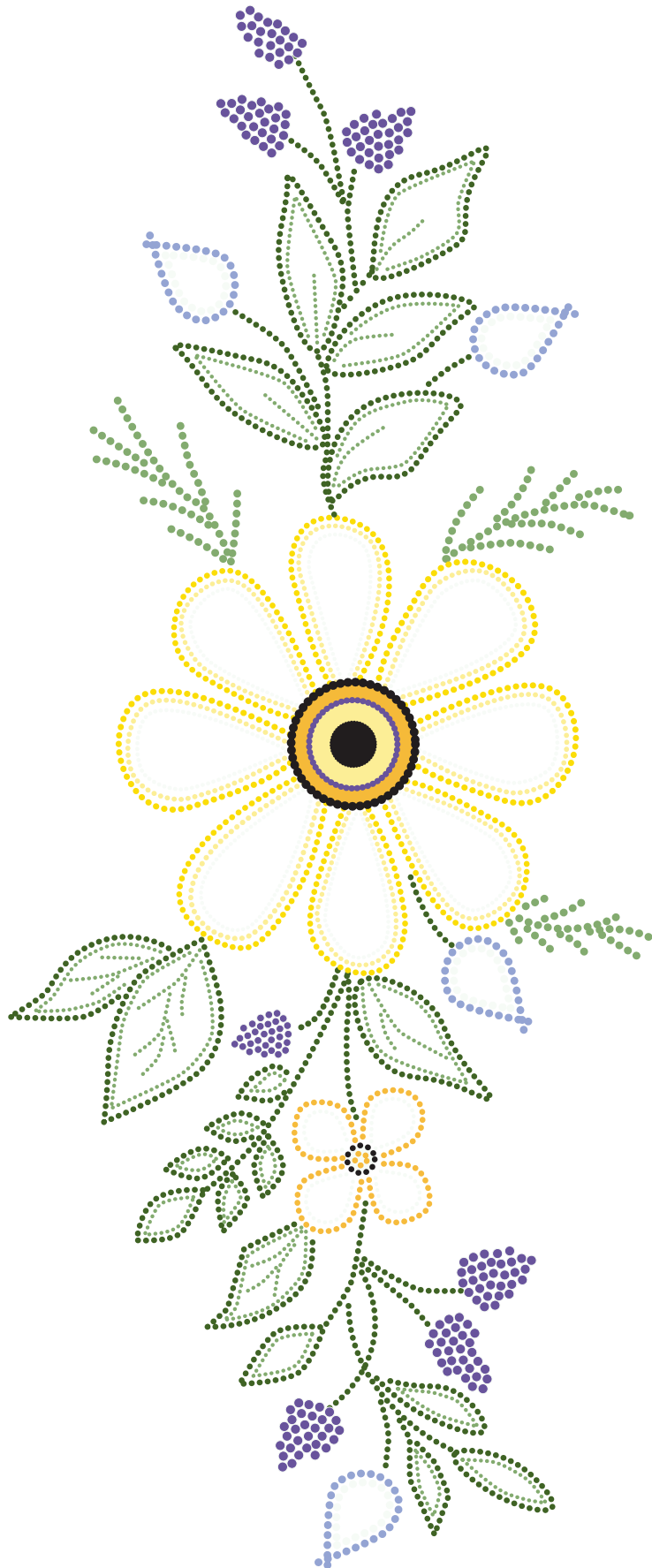




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ABOUT THE MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

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 its Governing Members. 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 proud to be an ethical organization that is transparent to its Governing Members, 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-developed, 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 PBM priority areas for 2024/25 include Métis health and wellness, economic development, and emergency management.

CURRENT STATUS

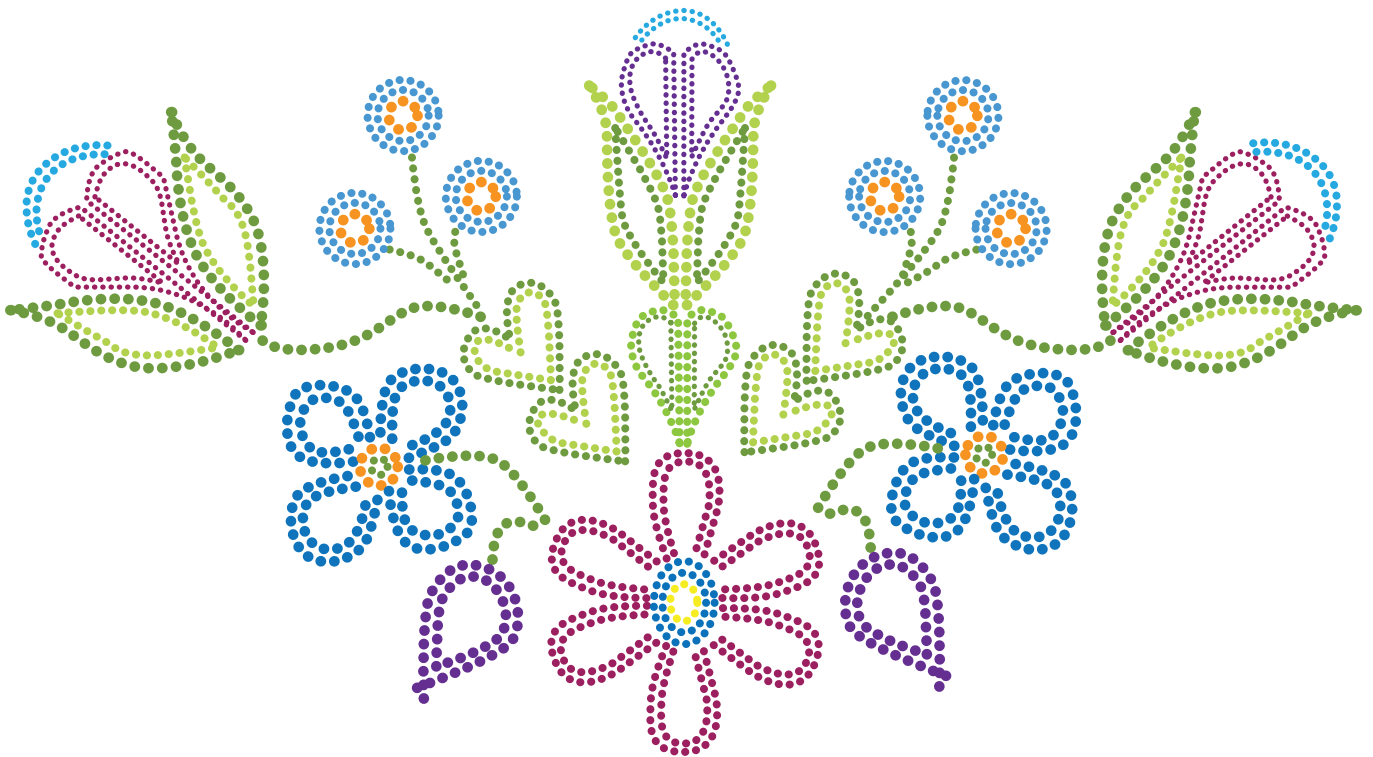
Together, Canada and the Métis Nation have proven that the process under the PBM can be an effective avenue to advance the needs, priorities, and interests of the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada. Between 2017 and 2019, the Government of Canada and the Métis Nation as represented by the MNC and Governing Members entered into seven sub-accords 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-accords 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, Governing Members, 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; 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 2025 budget submission recommends specific, high-priority funding investments in the Métis Nation in the following policy areas:

- Economic development;
- Housing;
- Health and wellness;
- Emergency management;
- Women and gender;
- Justice;
- Education;
- Métis Languages;
- Data Sovereignty;
- Child, youth, and family services; and
- Self-Determination.

This 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 Governing Members and Métis citizens across the Homeland. Meaningful investments across these policy areas 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. Governing Members 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 Governing Members in realizing their vision of self-determination in the areas of economic development; housing; health and wellness; emergency management; women and gender initiatives; justice; education; Métis languages; data sovereignty; child, youth, and family services; and self-determination.

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: That the Government of Canada create a separate section for the Métis Nation in the Government of Canada's federal budget document.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada pursue legislation to institutionalize the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* and Permanent Bilateral Mechanism.

BUDGETARY RECOMMENDATIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening the Métis economy and supporting Métis entrepreneurs across the Homeland

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$34.4 million dollars over 10 years to support the creation of Métis Business Directories and a Métis Procurement Institute (MPI).

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada establish a *Canada-Métis Nation Economic Reconciliation and Prosperity Steering Committee* by investing \$7.12 million over 10 years.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$1.18 million over 3 years in the development of comprehensive Métis tourism strategies to create economic development opportunities, promote Métis culture and generate own-source revenues.

HOUSING

Addressing the critical housing needs of the Métis Nation

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada re-allocate the Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing funding through a distinctions-based approach and investing \$1 billion dollars over 7 years to address the housing needs of the Métis Nation.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$1.384 billion over 6 years to support capacity and governance of Governing Members as necessary to protect and strengthen Métis culture and community.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Improving health outcomes of Métis citizens through self-determination

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$13.43 billion over 10 years to support Métis health and wellness priorities.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$10.8 million over 10 years for a Métis-specific “Anti-Indigenous Racism in Health Care” funding allocation.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$82.2 million over 10 years to support the capacity of the Métis National Council and Governing Members to contribute to, co-develop, and implement policies and programs that reflect the health priorities of Métis citizens.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$417 million over 10 years to support capacity building for emergency management.

WOMEN AND GENDER

Advancing Métis women and gender equality through Métis Nation governance

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$60 million dollars over 10 years into capacity-building and core funding for Métis women and gender equality initiatives.

JUSTICE

Advancing the implementation of the United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA) and the UNDA Action Plan

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$24.9 million to support Governing Members and the Métis National Council to implement the Action Plan and ensure the laws of Canada are consistent with the *United Nations Declaration Act*.



Recommendation: That the Government of Canada uphold its commitment to co-develop a funded Justice and Policing Sub-Accord with the Métis National Council and Governing Members, to end over-representation, reduce recidivism rates, ensure preventative and Métis culturally responsive restorative justice, achieve equity within Canada's justice system(s) for Métis citizens and advance Métis inherent rights to self-determination and self-government, by June 2025.

EDUCATION

Addressing the needs of Métis students across the Homeland

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$5.7 billion dollars over 10 years to support the development of a Métis elementary and secondary education program.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada pursue an increased investment into the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy of \$181 million over 5 years and an increase of \$20 million per year of ongoing funding.

MÉTIS LANGUAGES

Supporting the revitalization of Métis languages

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$518 million over 10 years to support the revitalization of Métis languages.

DATA SOVEREIGNTY

Building the Métis Nation's capacity and jurisdiction over data.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada support Métis data sovereignty through an investment of \$15.03 million over 5 years to support incremental implementation of the Métis Nation Data Strategy.

CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Supporting the Implementation of An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada restructure and advance funding under an *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* to prevent Métis children, youth, and families from becoming involved with child and family service systems through an investment of \$12.109 billion dollars over 10 years.



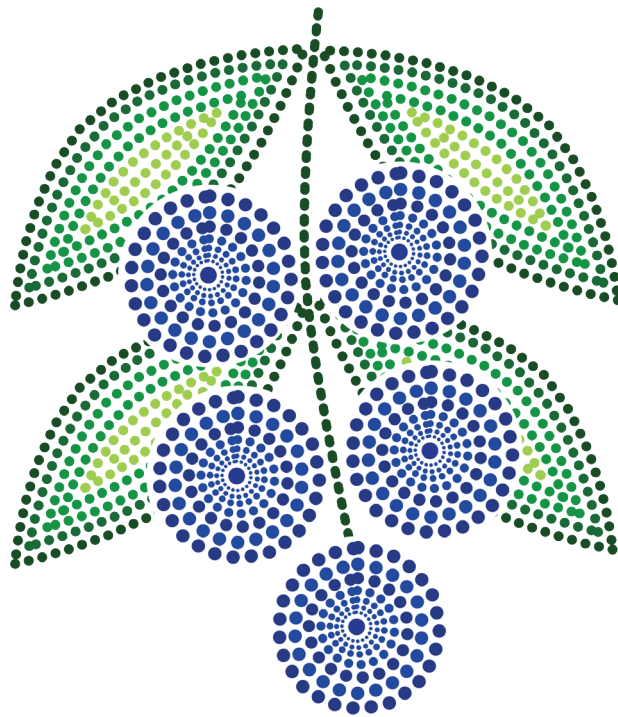
Recommendation: That the Government of Canada support the development of a Métis-specific Child First Initiative aimed at enhancing family support and community resources to realize greater social, educational and health outcomes \$4.1 billion dollars over 10 years.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$3 million dollars to create a distinctions-based strategy to support the design and implementation of Métis child, youth and family services.

SELF-DETERMINATION

Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples Representatives and Institutions in Meetings of Relevant United Nations Bodies on Issues Affecting Them

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$10 million over 10 years to support the participation of the Métis in international fora.





POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

BUDGET 2025 ALLOCATIONS FOR THE MÉTIS NATION

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

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada create a separate section for the Métis Nation in the Government of Canada’s federal budget document.

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, Governing Members, and Métis citizens across the 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: That the Government of Canada pursue legislation to institutionalize the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* and 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.



BUDGETARY RECOMMENDATIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening the Métis economy and supporting Métis entrepreneurs across the Homeland

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$34.4 million dollars over ten years to support the creation of Métis Business Directories (\$20.16 million over 10 years) and a Métis Procurement Institute (\$14.75 million 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 Governing Members 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 Governing Members need to develop effective programs to support their growth and sustainability and, thus, increase the ability of Governing Members to best serve their citizens.

A federal investment of \$20.16 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 publicly accessible databases.

With well-established Métis business directories, Governing Members 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. Governing Members 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.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada establish a *Canada-Métis Nation Economic Reconciliation and Prosperity Steering Committee* by investing \$7.12 million over 10 years.



Federal Indigenous Economic Development programming does not take a distinctions-based approach and explicitly excludes the Métis Nation from funding eligibility. Economic Development programming is essential for Governing Members to provide economic development opportunities and services to their citizens.

Therefore, the Métis Nation proposes that Canada invest \$7.12 million over 10 years to establish and fund a *Canada – Métis Nation Economic Reconciliation and Prosperity Steering Committee* to oversee and review government Economic Development programming to ensure it benefits Métis citizens and supports Economic Reconciliation with the Métis Nation.

This committee would meet at the technical, senior official and political level to review federal economic development programs and propose changes that better support the prosperity and economic well-being of the Métis Nation. Governing Members and the MNC understand the priorities of the Métis Nation and are well-positioned to provide the support that they need. Funding is required for the Métis Nation to invest adequate resources in meaningful, sustained Métis Nation engagement and organizational capacity to participate as meaningful partners in a *Canada – Métis Nation Economic Reconciliation and Prosperity Steering Committee*.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$1.18 million over 3 years in the development of comprehensive Métis tourism strategies to create economic development opportunities, promote Métis culture and generate own-source revenues.

Culturally appropriate tourism presents an opportunity for Governing Members to generate own-source revenue and meaningful employment for Métis citizens. Enhancing Métis tourism assets will empower Governing Members to generate sustained revenue streams and potentially leverage these physical assets as collateral to secure credit for future development projects. An investment of \$1.18 million over 3 years will support the Métis Nation in developing economic assets to advance Métis cultural tourism. Immediate investments will be allocated to the development of a business plan through stakeholder engagement, detailed planning, and the design of buildings and physical attractions, accompanied by the creation of a comprehensive tourism marketing strategy. Upon the completion of the initial planning phase, Governing Members will proceed with implementing their business plans to build and enhance tourism assets within their respective regions. Funding the Métis Nation to take the necessary steps toward preserving and celebrating Métis culture through culture and tourism sites will support Economic Reconciliation, self-determination and the well-being of the Métis Nation.



HOUSING

Addressing the critical housing needs of the Métis Nation

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada re-allocate the Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing funding through a distinctions-based approach and investing \$1 billion dollars over seven years to address the housing needs of the Métis Nation.

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-accord commits 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.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$1.384 billion over six years to support capacity and governance of Governing Members as necessary to protect and strengthen Métis culture and community.

Democratic, transparent and accountable institutions are key for Métis Nation self-determination and the participation of Métis citizens in the decision-making of their Governments. Federal investments to support infrastructure for the Métis Nation must also respect existing Métis governance structures, self-determination and be accountable to section 35 rights-bearing Métis citizens.

The Métis Nation proposes an investment of \$1.384 billion over six years to facilitate the governance of Governing Members and enable the building of physical spaces for Métis citizens to share and reinforce their culture in advocacy for the recognition of their rights.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Improving health outcomes of Métis citizens through self-determination

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$13.43 billion over 10 years to support Métis health and wellness priorities.

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 ongoing barriers when attempting to access mainstream health services. Métis people are excluded from the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program, despite being section 35 rights-holders. Consequently, many Métis people struggle with the financial burden of healthcare. Additionally, ongoing and historical colonialization has caused intergenerational trauma that has resulted in 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 continued 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 Métis 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 Governing Members to design, manage, and deliver regionally tailored healthcare programs and services, ultimately improving the health and well-being of Métis people.

The Métis National Council and Governing Members are seeking \$13.43 billion over 10 years to support the following Métis Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

1. Extended health benefits for Métis citizens:

The Métis National Council and its Governing Members call for a federal investment of \$4.6 billion over 10 years to develop and implement a self-determined extended health benefits model for Métis citizens. The models will be developed, implemented and delivered by Governing Members to reflect the needs of their citizens. Extended health benefits are the top health and well-



being priority for Métis citizens across each jurisdiction, aimed at providing Métis citizens with access to services not covered through social programs, private plans, or provincial and territorial health insurance through Métis self-determined healthcare systems.

2. Mental health and well-being of Métis citizens:

Supporting the mental health and well-being of Métis citizens is a priority for the Métis National Council and its Governing Members. Mental health supports for Métis citizens must support families and communities, be available and accessible, Métis-specific and culturally relevant, and trauma-informed.

The Métis National Council and its Governing Members call for a federal investment of \$3 billion over 10 years for outpatient and inpatient mental health services for Métis citizens in need.

3. Long-term care, homecare, and palliative care programs:

The Métis National Council and its Governing Members are working to support Métis citizens living with disabilities and/or chronic conditions or otherwise requiring care because of age, disability, injury, or illness. A federal investment of \$4.2 billion over 10 years would ensure that Métis Governments can provide access to community-based long-term care, home care and palliative care. Supports and services would assist Métis individuals and families to maintain the highest quality of life because they will be embedded in Métis culture and traditions.

4. Community Health and Wellbeing:

Addressing Métis healthcare needs requires access to in-community services and supports that align with Métis values and lived experiences. Governing Members are seeking investment to build Métis Community Health Centres that will act as comprehensive healthcare hubs and locations for primary medical care delivery for Métis citizens. Investments will also support the development and delivery of programs on traditional wellbeing practices that strengthen cultural supports. A total investment of \$660 million of 10 years is required to improve the community health and wellbeing of Métis citizens across the Homeland.

5. Existing Health Care System Changes:

The systemic, colonial structures of the existing provincial healthcare systems do not reflect the lived experiences and distinct needs of Métis citizens. Ensuring Métis citizens feel safe to enter the healthcare field and seek medical attention is integral for the health and wellbeing of the Métis Nation. Through reforms



to current provincial systems to ensure culturally safe healthcare and ensuring healthcare research aligns with Métis values and priorities, the Government of Canada can support efforts of the Métis Nation. The MNC and Governing Members are seeking an investment of \$820 million dollars over 10 years to effectively implement these changes to healthcare systems.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$10.8 million over 10 years for a Métis-specific “Anti-Indigenous Racism in Health Care” funding allocation.

Funding for the Anti-Indigenous Racism (AIR) program was renewed for Budget 2024, which provides \$167.6 million over five years to continue combatting anti-Indigenous racism in healthcare. Over the past three years (2021-22 to 2023-24), approximately \$4.2 million was allocated for the Métis Nation. This funding has supported Métis-specific projects focused on improving cultural safety, including hiring health system navigators and patient advocates, and expanding Métis midwifery and doula services. Governing Members have used funding effectively to improve safe patient navigation and health data capacity across the Homeland.

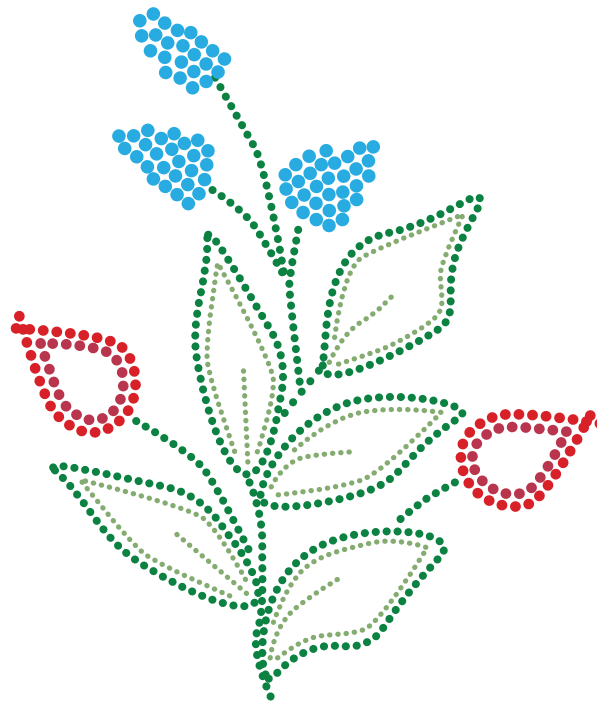
Despite the positive outcomes stemming from programs and services delivered by Governing Members through these federal investments, the AIR funding in Budget 2024 was renewed through a pan-Indigenous approach. Budget 2024 allocations for Métis Nation are yet to be confirmed, leaving Governing Members in limbo. The Métis National Council and Governing Members call for a Métis-specific federal investment of \$10.8 million over 10 years to both maintain current initiatives through the AIR program and pursue new initiatives to improve cultural safety within the healthcare system, including through research on the effects of Métis trauma and anti-Métis racism on wellness, supports for Métis practitioners, ongoing community engagement, and expanding training and education for healthcare providers. Renewing AIR investments through a distinctions-based approach (i.e. stand-alone allocations for Métis, Inuit, and First Nations) would bring greater efficiency and transparency to the post-budgetary process, thereby serving the Government of Canada and all Canadians.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$82.2 million over 10 years to support the capacity of the Métis National Council and Governing Members to contribute to, co-develop, and implement policies and programs that reflect the health priorities of Métis citizens.

The Métis National Council and Governing Members require on-going, adequate core funding to engage in sector-specific policy co-development. The Métis National Council and Governing Members call on the Government of Canada to invest \$82.2 million over 10 years to support Governing Members’



ability to contribute to, co-develop, and implement policies and programs that reflect the health priorities of Métis citizens. Governing Members, due to historical underfunding, often lack the necessary resources to engage in the co-development and implementation of health policies and programs. Governing Members and the Métis National Council are best positioned to advocate for the distinct health priorities of the Métis Nation and through an investment in core capacity will more effectively address longstanding health inequities and improve health outcomes for the Métis Nation. The investment will improve the health outcomes of the Métis Nation by ensuring effective participation of those that are mandated by section 35 rights-holders within health policy co-development with federal and provincial and municipal jurisdictional partners.





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$417 million over 10 years to support 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 and provincial funding available to Governing Members to advance the four pillars of emergency management 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—the need for federal investments in emergency management for the Métis Nation has become more urgent.

The Métis National Council and Governing Members call for a federal investment of \$417 million over 10 years to develop a self-determined, resilient, and whole-of-society emergency management strategy aimed toward responding to emergencies and building long-term emergency management capacity for all Governing Members. Funding the Métis Nation will not only advance the needs and priorities of the Métis Nation but aligns with the Government of Canada's shared vision for strong and resilient communities through the reduction of adverse impacts from climate-related disasters. Such investments would support the long-term outcome where Métis citizens and communities are prepared and resilient to the short- and long-term effects of climate change.

The Indigenous Climate Leadership (ICL) agenda aims to provide direct, sustainable & long-term funding to support activities needed to advance this priority:

- Increase coordination and capacity across the Métis Nation to prepare and respond to climate emergencies.
- Build relationships with regional and provincial partners to mitigate against climate hazards; ensure Métis' right of self-government with respect to emergency management is respected and upheld; and Métis voices are included at emergency management decision-making and planning tables.
- Increase support for emergency mitigation and preparedness planning for the Métis Nation, Governing Members, communities, and citizens.
- Provide education and training for Governing Members, organizations, and citizens to increase Métis capacity to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from climate emergencies.
- Develop reciprocal Emergency Management relationships with the federal, provincial, municipal, and Indigenous governments to bolster "whole of society" Emergency Management resiliency.



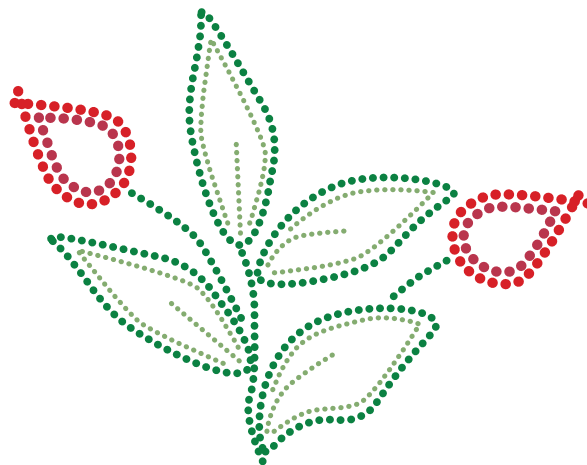
WOMEN AND GENDER

Advancing Métis women and gender equality through Métis Nation governance

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$60 million dollars over 10 years into capacity-building and core funding for Métis women and gender equality initiatives.

Despite their strategic position to deliver programs and services to Métis citizens within their jurisdictions, Governing Members— 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.





JUSTICE

Advancing the implementation of the United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA) and the UNDA Action Plan

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$24.9 million to support Governing Members and the Métis National Council to implement the Action Plan and ensure the laws of Canada are consistent with the *United Nations Declaration Act*.

The federal government's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Act* represents a critical step in Canada's efforts to establish a framework of standards for the survival, dignity and wellbeing of Métis Nation citizens and all Indigenous peoples. The Act has multiple ongoing features including the implementation of the Action Plan, the co-development and operation of accountability mechanisms, annual reporting requirements, and a broad legislative obligation to ensure all laws of Canada are consistent with UNDRIP. This last obligation is expansive and encompasses the development of new laws, review of existing laws, and operation of current federal laws.

The duties required to be performed by Governing Members and the MNC to support the implementation of UNDRIP will continue to grow as the Act is understood and implemented across the federal government; however, there is limited internal capacity and resources available to the Métis National Council and Governing Members to conduct this work. An investment of \$24.9 million would allow the Governing Members and the Métis National Council to carry out the implementation of the Action Plan and to conduct the legislative review as obligated by the UNDRIP Act. This additional funding will be essential in ensuring Governing Members that are mandated to represent section 35 rights-holders can effectively work alongside the federal government to implement the measures in the Action Plan and to review and update legislation in accordance with the UNDRIP Act. Without these investments, the government of Canada will struggle to implement the Act in a way that truly respects and upholds the rights of the Métis Nation.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada uphold its commitment to co-develop a funded Justice and Policing Sub-Accord with the Métis National Council and Governing Members, to end over-representation, reduce recidivism rates, ensure preventative and Métis culturally responsive restorative justice, achieve equity within Canada's justice system(s) for Métis citizens and advance Métis inherent rights to self-determination and self-government, by June 2025.

Canada's history of colonialism including colonial laws, policies and practices continues to contribute to negative outcomes for the Métis Nation within the justice system, including the over-incarceration of Métis citizens. To address these outcomes and recognize that Métis people hold specific and intersectional



identities and as a result, experience distinct and compounding colonial violence, it is critical for the Government of Canada to uphold its commitments through the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan* (the Action Plan) and the Canada-Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism to co-develop a funded Canada-Métis Nation Justice and Policing Sub-Accord for signature by June 2025.

Canada and the Métis Nation cooperated in the development of the Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (The UN Declaration), including by co-developing measures to address Métis-specific concerns.

The Action Plan commits Canada to increase access to justice for Indigenous Peoples, strengthen communities and advance self-determination. At the heart of Métis priorities within the Action Plan to achieve these efforts is the commitment under Action Plan Measure 9:

Conclude a Justice and Policing Sub-Accord through the Canada-Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism to end over-representation, reduce recidivism rates, ensure preventative and Métis culturally responsive restorative justice, achieve equity within Canada's justice system(s) for Métis citizens and advance Métis inherent rights to self-determination and self-government, including, but not limited to:

- *Federal data sharing agreements;*
- *Sustainable funding and capacity for Governing Members to support their citizens incarcerated, interacting with, and having lived experience in the justice system, through initiatives including but not limited to Métis specific restorative justice, comprehensive victims, family, and community services and supports, Gladue services, and other programs and services;*
- *Métis law and legal systems;*
- *Policing;*
- *Other undertakings in relation to advancing the role of Governing Members.*

In addition to continued work on the Justice and Policing Sub-Accord, the Métis Nation has been working on and co-developing the Indigenous Justice Strategy alongside Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Assembly of First Nations, and federal officials. Long-term, predictable, and sustained funding is necessary to ensure the co-development of the Indigenous Justice Strategy as well as its successful implementation. The Strategy shall prioritize the conclusion and implementation of the Canada-Métis Nation Justice and Policing Sub-Accord as the primary vehicle to realize the Métis Nation's self-determined justice and policing needs and priorities.



EDUCATION

Addressing the needs of Métis students across the Homeland.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$5.7 billion dollars over ten years to support the development of a Métis elementary and secondary education program.

The Métis Nation is seeking an investment from the Government of Canada of \$5.7 billion dollars over 10 years to advance Métis Nation interests and imperatives in enhancing the elementary and secondary education systems by complementing existing provincial processes and structures with authentic Métis education resources, as well as Métis-specific programs and supports developed and delivered by the Métis Nation, through its Governing Members. This funding is critical for supporting Métis students across the lifelong learning spectrum, and as part of a true distinctions-based approach that recognizes no hierarchy of rights among the First Nations, Inuit and Métis in elementary and secondary education. It will support capacity-building, policy development, and culturally relevant curriculum and programs that serve Métis Elementary and Secondary students and their families, and that will be encapsulated within a Canada-Métis Nation Elementary and Secondary Education Sub-Accord. The investment requested reflects what is necessary to close the gaps between Métis and non-Indigenous Canadian students concerning student support services, academic achievement, student well-being, curriculum and teacher resources, and school board-level governance.

The MNC and its Governing Members are committed to working with ISC and CIRNAC to create systemic change that pulls Métis elementary and secondary students out of a space of jurisdictional limbo. The development of a Métis Elementary and Secondary education program is based on the fundamental principles of the inherent Métis right to self-government, and Métis control of Métis education is at the heart of the Government of Canada's UNDA Action Plan Measure 13.

The Métis Nation has the right to establish authority over its participation in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education. It seeks the Government of Canada to invest in this cultural imperative and inherent right. The federal government's investment in the Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care and Post-Secondary Education programs recognizes the value of Métis exercising jurisdiction over the lifelong learning spectrum for Métis students and their families. Work currently underway in early learning and post-secondary systems demonstrates the capacity and commitment of the MNC and its Governing Members to work effectively with provincial partners.

The Government of Canada has already acknowledged the inherent right of the Métis Nation over its education system and this recognition is not merely

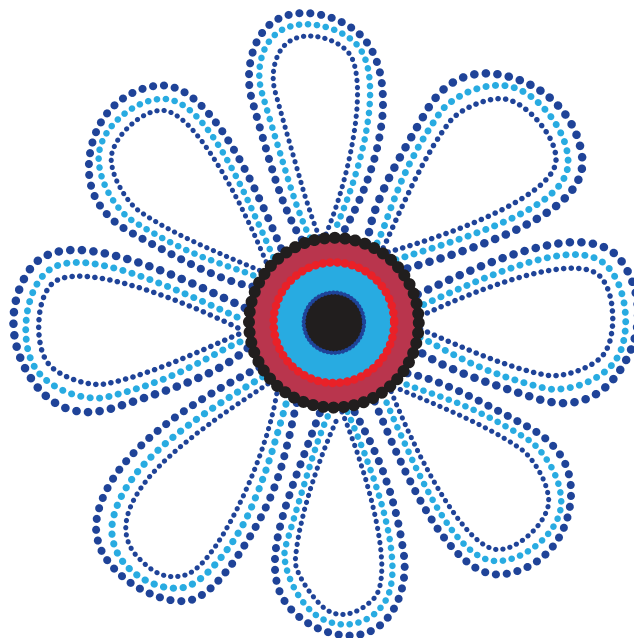


symbolic - it is fundamental to Métis Nation to self-determination.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada pursue an increased investment into the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy of \$181 million over 5 years and an increase of \$20 million per year of ongoing funding.

In June 2019, Government of Canada and Métis Nation officials signed the Canada-Métis Nation Post-Secondary Sub-Accord which sought to close educational attainment gaps between Métis Nation students and non-Indigenous Canadian students within a flexible, predictable and sustainable funding transfer mechanism. The Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy was the first effort by the Métis Nation to design and deliver programming that provides Métis learners access to services with varying levels of financial assistance. As data indicates, each of these programs have been highly successful across the Métis Homeland. However, due to this success and increasing citizenship numbers from a young and growing population, the program is greatly oversubscribed, and Governing Members are facing a student funding crisis. At midterm, the program has surpassed initial expectations in the number of funded students by more than 100%.

As a result, the Métis Nation is proposing the Government of Canada increases investment in the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Program by \$181 million over five years and that after investments increase from \$40 million to \$60 million and include an escalator of 4%. A funding increase to the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Program will ensure that current and future generations of Métis students continue to receive adequate supports that meet the fiscal realities of post-secondary education, and that Governing Members are able to meet the educational aspirations of citizens across the Métis Homeland. In short, investments in Métis education are investments in Canadian economic now and into the future.





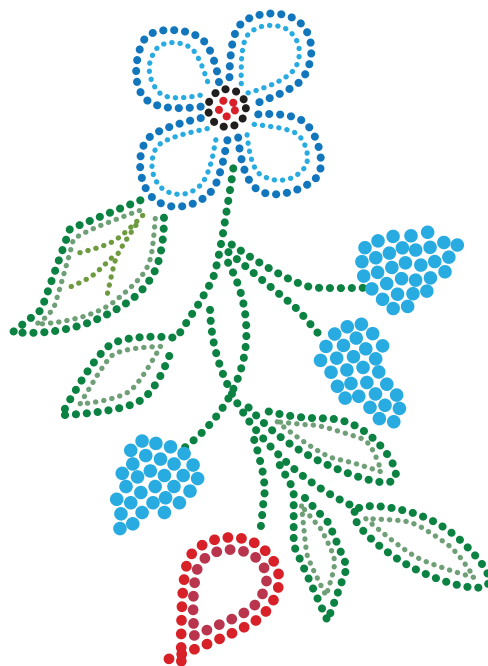
MÉTIS LANGUAGES

Supporting the revitalization of Métis languages

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$518 million over 10 years to support the revitalization of Métis languages.

The Métis have been known by many names, including the Flower Beadwork People, Michif, Otipemisiwak, Apeetogosan, Bois-Brulés, and Wesahkotewenowak. With our Governing Members on the verge of realizing the aspirations of our ancestors, and the announcement of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, Canada can support the Métis Nation as we exercise our inherent right to self-government, revitalize our languages and reclaim our history.

Métis languages are an important part of Métis identity, and the revitalization of our languages is an important exercise in the realization of Métis rights. This goes to the heart of article 13 of the UN Declaration. That is why the MNC is





proposing the following \$518 million over 10 years for the Métis National Council and Governing Members to revitalize Métis languages.

DATA SOVEREIGNTY

Building the Métis Nation's capacity and jurisdiction over data

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada support Métis data sovereignty through an investment of \$15.03 million over 5 years to support incremental implementation of the Métis Nation Data Strategy.

The Métis Nation Data Strategy represents an opportunity to reclaim jurisdiction over Métis data, support self-determination and good governance, and drive improved outcomes for Métis Citizens across the Métis Homeland. The strategy is under development by the Métis National Council and Governing Members to address the unique data needs and aspirations of the Métis Nation. Through an investment of \$15.03 million over 5 years, the Government of Canada will support the Métis Nation's continued work under Phase 2 of the "Transformational Approach to Indigenous Data" (TAID) initiative and build on the progress achieved under Phase 1 to realize the Métis Nation's vision for data sovereignty.

Plans for Phase 2 include the creation of data units within each Governing Member intended to build foundational capacity, develop essential IT infrastructure, and address regionally specific needs, the formal establishment of a Métis Nation Data Network intended to formalize practices of collaboration around shared priorities, standards, and governance where appropriate, as well as creating a space for sharing lessons learned and best practices among Governing Members. These activities are complemented by demonstration projects, which provide opportunities to test approaches while advancing data priorities and generating valuable tools and infrastructure to support data governance and capacity in the long term. These investments will enable practical, interim progress to be made in advancing Métis data capacity and in testing long term approaches to meeting the data related needs of the Métis Nation, which have been inequitably funded relative to First Nations. Investment into the Métis Nation Data Strategy provides a transformative opportunity to advance Métis data sovereignty and self-determination.



CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Supporting the Implementation of An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada restructure and advance funding under an *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* to prevent Métis children, youth, and families from becoming involved with child and family service systems through an investment of \$12.109 billion dollars over 10 years.

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 *An 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 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA). 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 prevention services and build the necessary infrastructure to manage the responsibilities of prevention services 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 enhanced funding model is necessary to ensure Métis Governments have access to adequate funding for capacity-building (\$551.2M over 10 years) and prevention services (\$11.56B over 10 years) in advance of drawing jurisdiction under the Act. A detailed costing assessment for capacity-building and prevention services funding has been completed by the Métis National Council and Governing Members as of Fall 2024.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada support 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 through an investment of \$4.1 billion dollars over 10 years.



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 provide sufficient, predictable, and long-term funding to support the establishment, development, and implementation of a Métis-specific Child First Initiative. 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 has been completed by the Métis National Council and Governing Members as of Fall 2024.

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$3 million dollars to create a distinctions-based strategy to support the design and implementation of Métis child, youth and family services.

The Métis National Council and Métis Governments are working to design and implement Métis child, youth, and family services under the Act. The Métis Nation does not have comprehensive access to data and estimates of children in care, impeding progress on the implementation of the Act. A federal investment of \$3 million dollars would advance an understanding of the current context of existing child and family service systems, developing a measurement framework for needs-based funding and identifying fiscal requirements and funding approaches that would support Métis Governments exercising jurisdiction in ways that best suit the needs of their citizens.



SELF-DETERMINATION

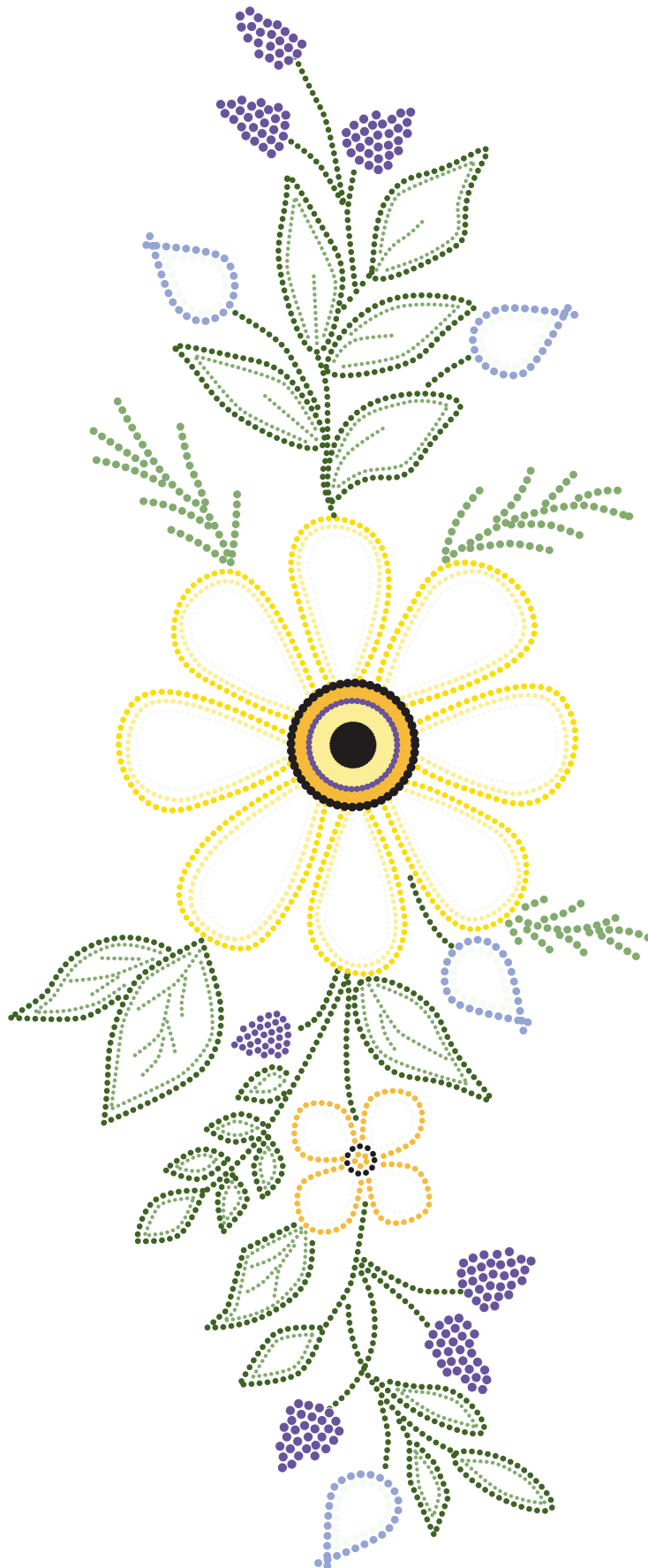
Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples Representatives and Institutions in Meetings of Relevant United Nations Bodies on Issues Affecting Them

Recommendation: That the Government of Canada invest \$10 million over 10 years to support the participation of the Métis in international fora.

Self-determination, self-government, and recognition of treaties (UNDRIP Articles 3, 4, 37) was identified as the top Métis priority in Canada's *United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan*. Specifically, the Action Plan commits that "Canada will recognize, support and advance the exercise of Métis rights to self-determination, and the inherent right to self-government, recognized and affirmed by section 35 and protected by section 25 of the Constitution Act, 1982, in a manner that is consistent with the UN Declaration through constructive, forward-looking, and reconciliation-based approaches and negotiations premised on rights recognition and implementation."

Self-determination is not only exercised domestically within Canada. Decision-making processes at the international level have a direct impact on the rights and prosperity of Métis citizens. Recent examples include implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) domestically in Canada; and the negotiations of the Indigenous Peoples Economic Trade and Co-operation Agreement (IPETCA) between Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Chinese Taipei; and the ongoing negotiations on enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations.

To be a strong, constructive and clear voice for the Métis Nation, and to protect and promote the rights and prosperity of Métis citizens, MNC is asking the Government of Canada for funding to support Métis Nation self-determination and participation in international decision-making.





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