



Monthly Update
Presidential Update November 28, 2008

Taanshi kiya'wow / Bonjour
Ta'wow / Bienvenue

Dear MNBC Leadership, Métis Chartered Community Leaders, Métis Citizens, and various partners:

Please accept the following update from Métis Nation BC President Bruce Dumont. As noted in the last update MNBC will now be providing Presidential Monthly Updates twice a month. Ministerial Updates are divided between the two updates each month; this will decrease redundancy while providing that information in a timelier manner.

Important Dates and Reminders:

- Métis National Council Board of Governors Meeting, Vancouver - December 1-2, 2008
- Métis Rights Panel Meeting, Vancouver - December 3-4, 2008
- Release of the next edition of the Kiwetin - December 2008
- Closing date for the MNBC Executive Director Job Posting - December 12, 2008
- Resolutions Submission Deadline for MNGA - December 17, 2008
- Métis Nation BC Board of Directors Meeting, Vancouver - December 17-19, 2008
- Métis Nation BC Holiday Office Closure - December 22, 2008 – January 2, 2009
- Métis Nation Governing Assembly, Richmond - January 23 – 25, 2009

Administrative Update:

Métis Nation BC has experienced organizational change and growth this past year. As we continue to evolve and grow the MNBC Board of Directors are committed to making transitions as smooth as possible and putting forward a consistent effort to lessen the impact that delayed government funding has on our organization and our communities. Métis Nation BC Board of Directors has appointed Lyle Oliver as the Executive Director for the interim. As noted above the closing date for the posting of Executive Director Position is December 12, 2008. Métis Nation BC will make an official announcement in the New Year of the newly hired Métis Nation BC Executive Director. The Métis Nation BC Victoria office will close at the end of December as our lease comes to an end. Arrangements have been made for the MNBC Victoria staff positions to continue in a home office space or relocate to the Vancouver office. We thank the staff and the community for their hard work and partnership over the years.

1. Ministry for Métis Children and Family Services

Minister Responsible for Child and Family Services: Gerry Legare
Director of Child and Family Services: Jennifer Daigneault



MNBC continues to work towards the seven recommendations put forward by the Métis citizens at the Child and Family Services forum through positive communications with the Ministry for Child and Family Development (MCFD).

There have been ongoing meetings with Honorable Tom Christensen, MCFD and MNBC leadership, as well a meeting with Honorable Gordon Campbell, the Premier of BC.

Moving forward...

MNBC and MCFD have started a working group called “**Kamamawapyak**”.

Kamamawapyak is a Cree/Michif word that captures our desire to “sit down together in council” to talk, to discuss issues of mutual importance, to share stories, to teach, to learn from one another, and to come to agreement and create solutions. These collaborative meetings between the Métis Nation British Columbia and the Ministry of Children and Families represent the action of Kamamawapyak with good intent.

This group consists of 3 MCFD Officials and 3 MNBC staff:

- MNBC Executive Director, Lyle Oliver
- MNBC Director for Children and Family Services, Jennifer Daigneault
- MNBC Director of Women and Elders, Victoria Pruden
- MCFD Director, Operations, Rob Parenteau
- MCFD Acting Manager of Delegation, Negotiations and Implementation, Michael Kennedy, and
- MCFD Acting Manager, Aboriginal Policy and Legislation, Dawn Wrightman

There is also a Steering Committee which provides direction to the Kamamawapyak. The Steering Committee is comprised of MNBC Minister Responsible for Children and Family Services Gerry Legare and Assistant Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Policy and Service Support, Deb Foxcroft.

The Kamamawapyak group has just completed the Terms of Reference which has been approved by the MNBC Board of Directors. The purpose for this group will be to:

7. The Kamamawapyak will have a recommended action plan with respect to each of Minister Christensen’s responses for the Steering Committee’s consideration by March 31, 2009.
8. To implement the responses provided by Minister Christensen to the seven recommendations presented to MCFD by the MNBC in June of 2008. This work will be done collaboratively and in the spirit and intent of Minister Christensen’s response letter of September 22, 2008.

The working group will meet bi-weekly to address the practical applications necessary for MNBC to be “Designated” within the Child, Family and Community Service Regulations as a Métis Community. Our future is an exciting one as we continue to:



- Build strong, professional and positive relationships with the provincial and federal officials which is essential to our overall success
- Keep lines of communication open between MNBC and the Métis Chartered Communities in order to maintain positive results and optimism
- Follow the roles and responsibilities put forth in our official document <.li>

There is a lot of work to still be done. The MNBC Ministry of Child and Family Services and MNBC leadership are working hard to secure a positive future for all of our Métis children and families in BC.

2. **Ministry of Women/Métis Women of BC** **Ministry of Elders**

Minister Responsible for Women and Elders: Rose Bortolon
Director of Women and Elders: Victoria Pruden

Governance and Program Overview

Women's Election

The Metis Nation BC will be proceeding with an election to fill the vacant women's and youth positions with the call for nominations by the Chief Electoral Officer to be announced no later than March 13, 2008. We anticipate that this election will be held in the spring of 2009 following the official nomination call. Please watch for more information on our MNBC Website. There will be a call for nominations for Regional Women's Representatives in Regions: Vancouver Island, Kootenay, and North East British Columbia.

Governance Representation

Our Regional Women's Representatives are working on supporting our Chartered Communities to appoint a women's representative. In regions with vacancies, representatives from other regions will be assisting with this process.

Women's Act Now

The Metis Women of BC are still accepting funding applications for Women-specific Act Now grants. Please contact your Regional Representative or our Director of Women for a copy of the application form. Our Director of Women can be reached at: vpruden@mNBC.ca or 1-866-293-1504.

Metis Women of BC Publications

The MWBC are in the process of compiling two books: A Women's Wellness Workbook and guide to starting a women's group in your community and, a Metis Family Guide to Violence Prevention. We anticipate going to print with these books in December 2008, with distribution to Women's Representatives and communities in January 2009.



Sihtoskatowin Violence Prevention

The Métis family guide to Violence Prevention is our second deliverable in this project, we anticipate that this guide will assist in raising awareness and assisting individuals and families to better understand how important issues of violence are in our families and communities, and suggestions for accessing resources for those who may be experiencing violence. In January 2009 we will be announcing a small grant offering for communities who wish to promote violence prevention in their communities with activities or events for their members.

Métis Elders Program

The MNBC is supporting the development of a BC Metis Elders Engagement program, which began with a meeting of 20 elders at this year's AGM. A group of elder volunteers are assisting with the planning of our first MNBC Elders Conference to be held in the Lower Mainland, February 20, 21, and 22, 2009. We will be launching our announcement and registration details in January 2009. Communities without an Elders representative can assist by ensuring that they appoint or enlist an elder to represent their community. Contact information for elders can be submitted to Victoria Pruden, at vpruden@mNBC.ca or by calling 1-866-293-1504.

3. Ministry of Natural Resources

Minister Responsible for Natural Resources: Bob Trumbley

Director of Natural Resources: Gary Ducommun

BC Métis Assembly of Natural Resources Captains Assembly Chair: Rob Humpherville

The Director has been working closely with the Minister, BCMANR Captains Assembly, University of British Columbia – Okanagan (UBC-O) and the MNBC Strategic Development Coordinator, Dean Trumbley; to develop the MNBC Harvesting Card process. This includes the Harvesting Card application process, Harvesting Cards format and MNBC Migratory Bird hunting regulations. Delegates at the MNBC Annual General Meeting passed the MNBC Natural Resource Act into MNBC Legislation. As the first order of business under the Act, the BCMANR Captains Assembly presented a motion to the delegates asking for authority to issue MNBC Harvesting Cards for the purpose of replacing the Canadian Migratory Bird license. This motion was passed unanimously.

The Ministry has worked with UBC-O to develop the Harvester Database and the online application site to be used by MNBC Citizens who wish to apply for a Harvesting Card. This site allows applicants to complete most of the application online, and supply their support documents by mail. This will speed up the approval process. The online application can be accessed through a link on the MNBC Website, <http://www.bcmets.ca/public/>. For those who do not have computers, the application is also available in paper and can be sent directly to MNBC. The Application can be downloaded from the site or is available upon request from MNBC or from your Regional Captain of BCMANR.

The Harvesting Card format has been finalized and the first cards are on order for a number of the earliest applicants.



Processing time, assuming applicants provide all their information with the first application, is expected to be a few weeks.

Ministry staff and BCMANR have developed the regulations for this year's season (ending March 31, 2009). It is important for citizens to understand that the MNBC AGM delegates **authorized use** of the Harvesting Card for **“replacing the Federal Migratory Bird License”**. The AGM also adopted the BCMANR recommendation that the Migratory Bird Regulations of the government be adopted by MNBC to insure conservation, public safety and public health are assured. The Ministry will meet with the Canadian Wildlife Service in the coming months and will develop regulations for the 2009/2010 harvesting season that can be expected to create additional Migratory Bird harvesting opportunities for MNBC Harvesting Card holders.

The Harvesting Card **Does Not allow** any other harvesting activities at this time. Director Gary Ducommun met with the Alaska Pipeline Project Team from ConocoPhillips and British Petroleum in Whitehorse, Yukon in October. The meeting was a first opportunity for MNBC and the two corporations planning this mega project to explore issues and concerns. This meeting focused on environmental issues, the need to consult with Métis in northern BC and labor market needs during the construction of this underground pipeline. MNBC informed the Project Team, that consultation with our land users, involvement in environmental monitoring work, training and labor opportunities are all important areas we need to work on together. MNBC expects to have additional meetings with the pipeline team in the New Year.

The BCMANR Policy Committee has been working with senior staff and the Minister to re-write the BCMANR Policies and Procedures in order to make them consistent with the MNBC Natural Resource Act. This process has included an open workshop at the AGM where good community input was received. The new Policies and Procedures are required to allow the transition of the BCMANR Captains Assembly from a MNBC committee to a Legislated Body of the Métis Nation BC. The Natural Resource Act has created many new authorities, responsibilities and powers for BCMANR and the new Policies and Procedures will reflect these.

The Minister and Ministry staff met with the UBC–O Research Team in October. This was an opportunity for the new Minister to be informed on the direction that the research is headed and on the

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tools that the team has developed. For example, there are now more than 9000 documents in the Historic Document Database.

Director Ducommun and several members of the Métis Research Team are currently working on a **“Métis in British Columbia Timeline”**. This Timeline will be available on the MNBC Website by Christmas. The Timeline is a chronological depiction of Métis events and people in this province and is sure to have important new information for everyone. The project will have an interactive component where people can send new information for consideration to be placed on the Timeline. The Timeline is a BC150 project.

Conclusion:

I extend my personal thanks and appreciation to all of our Métis Chartered Community Leaders and the many people who volunteer in our communities around the Province. I hope that many of you have had the opportunity to celebrate with your families in each of the communities for Louis Riel Day, or will attend a holiday event in the coming weeks. Many of these community events throughout the province have been made possible through funding provided by BC150.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office, 1-800-940-1150 or send us an email with any of your questions, comments or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank You

Bruce Dumont
President

Kishchee tey mo'yawn aen li Michif wi'yawn
(Proud to be Métis)