



Ref. 28023

SEP 08 2011

Keith Henry
President
BC Métis Federation
300 - 3665 Kingsway
Vancouver BC V5R 5W2

Dear Keith Henry:

Thank you for your emails and letters of June 13, 2011, June 27, 2011, July 26, 2011, August 3, 2011, August 9, 2011, and August 15, 2011. I also appreciated our meeting on June 13, 2011 concerning internal governance at Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), which included your colleagues Daryl Piper, Michael Morgan, and Russ Roy. Finally, thank you for your invitation to attend the Métis Days on July 9 and 10, 2011, at Klahowya Village in Stanley Park. I regret that my schedule did not permit me to attend the event.

In our June 13 meeting you outlined a number of concerns that your group has identified regarding MNBC. These concerns, which were voiced previously by the Coalition of Concerned Métis Citizens, are now being brought forward by the BC Métis Federation (BCMF).

As stated in our meeting, I am concerned about the financial situation at MNBC. Ministry staff are continuing to monitor MNBC's efforts to eliminate their annual deficit in the current fiscal year and begin to reduce the accumulated debt in future years, if not in the current fiscal year.

British Columbia recognizes MNBC as the politically representative organization for Métis people in the province. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) will continue to maintain its bilateral relationship with MNBC and work with

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Ministry of
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and Reconciliation

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MNBC in the tripartite process with the Office of the Federal Interlocutor. At this time, MARR is not able to support a separate bilateral or trilateral process with BCMF and does not have any program resources available to assist BCMF with its infrastructure development.

At the end of our meeting, I asked whether you would continue to seek change through the existing MNBC governance structure. You and your colleagues stated that you have now rejected that approach. Nevertheless, that structure has been developed to provide Métis citizens and community leaders with electoral processes through which to express their discontent with the existing MNBC leadership, up to and including removing that leadership, if that is the wish of the majority of Métis citizens. To date, there is no evidence through these governance processes to suggest that the majority of Métis people in the province are demanding that change.

Again, thank you for the meeting and your follow up correspondence. I appreciated the opportunity to hear about your concerns first hand and be assured that government will continue to monitor this situation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Mary Polak
Minister

pc: The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Arlene Paton
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Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

✓ Bruce Dumont
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