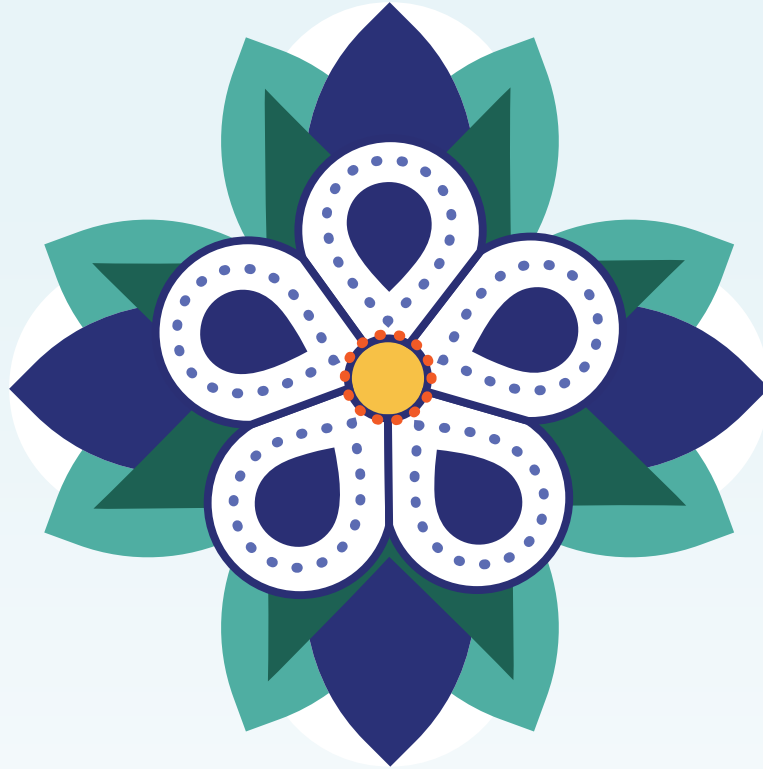




RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES  
**MÉTIS**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL



# 2022-23 **ANNUAL REPORT**

*40 Years of MNC: Moving Forward Together*







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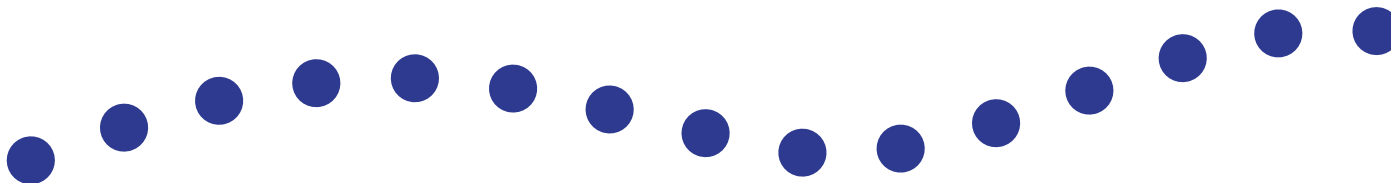


RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES  
**MÉTIS**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL

Since 1983, the Métis National Council has been the national and international voice of the Métis Nation within Canada. Through the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, the MNC advocates on behalf of Métis people across the Motherland and its Governing Members- the democratically elected Métis Governments of Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia- to advance Métis rights and interests within their respective jurisdictions, including the implementation of the Métis Nation's inherent right to self-determination and self-government.

In fulfilling its mission and mandate, the MNC undertakes three core functions: convening, strategic policy development and coordination, and advocating. In its function of convening, the MNC creates spaces and opportunities for the Governing Members as the Métis Nation to come together and discuss issues and priorities. Through researching and coordinating policy, the MNC ensures national positions are adequately articulated and are informed by Métis rights and interests. In centering policy within Métis knowledge, data, and evidence, the MNC coordinates policy positions that are reflective of the priorities of Governing Members and their citizens as the Métis Nation. In fulfilling its third function of advocating, the MNC provides a proud, confident, single unified voice to defend and promote the rights and interests of the Métis Nation. As the national and international voice, the MNC is committed to fulfilling its mission in enhancing and promoting the cultural, social, economic, and political interests of the Métis Nation.

This 2022/2023 annual report outlines the work done by the Métis National Council from November 1, 2022, to October 31, 2023.





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Cassidy Caron*

Over the past year, we have gathered on numerous occasions to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Métis National Council and to celebrate 40 years of advocacy for the rights and interests of the Métis Nation both nationally and internationally.

Over the past four decades, the MNC 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.

When the MNC was formed in 1983 as a national representative organization for the Métis Nation, the Métis people were largely unrecognized and unrepresented at the national level. 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 rights recognition. Métis leaders, past and present, as well as our Métis Governments, have played a key role in several significant advocacy and legal victories for the Métis Nation continuously moving us forward in achieving the dreams of our ancestors. Today, the MNC, through collaboration with our Métis Governments, continues to be a driving force behind the development and implementation of Métis-specific policies and programs in Canada.

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the Métis National Council, it is important to recognize the significant progress the Métis Nation has made. Our collective advocacy work has helped to raise awareness of the unique history, culture, and traditions of the Métis, and has played a crucial role in achieving recognition and rights for Métis people across Canada.



There is still much work to be done but it is work that we are prepared to do. The MNC will continue to be an organization that works with Métis Governments, for the Métis Nation, tirelessly promoting the rights and interests of Métis people across Canada.

BECAUSE, AS LOUIS  
RIEL SAID, **“DEEDS ARE  
NOT ACCOMPLISHED  
IN A FEW DAYS, OR IN A  
FEW HOURS.”**

Of utmost import to the work that we do is unity. It has been and continues to be critical in moving the Métis Nation forward. Throughout history, Métis leaders have emphasized the importance of unity and speaking with one collective voice. This has been a crucial factor in the ongoing struggle for recognition and reconciliation for the Métis Nation in

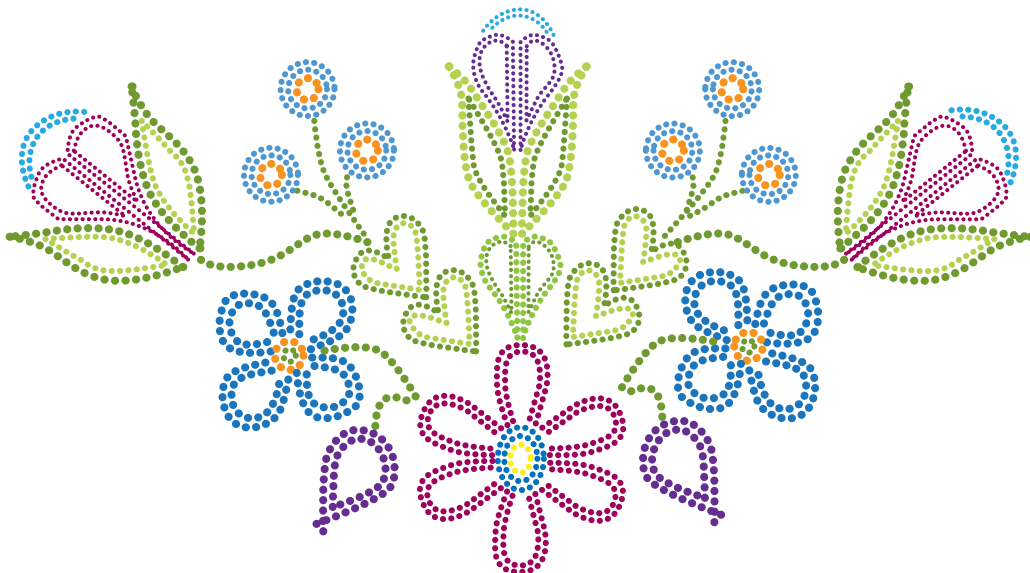
AS MÉTIS LEADER JIM  
BRADY ONCE SAID,  
**“THE MÉTIS HAVE NO  
OTHER WEAPON EXCEPT  
ORGANIZATION.”**

Canada. This sentiment has been echoed by many other Métis leaders over the years. This emphasis on unity has been particularly important in the Métis Nation's fight for recognition and rights which binds us together as one Métis Nation today.

The Métis National Council's 40 years of advocacy for the rights and interests of the Métis Nation in Canada is a significant collective milestone, and we must take this opportunity to celebrate the organization's achievements. Our collective achievements.

Thank you all for all that you have done and will continue to do for the future of the Métis Nation. We can do anything, so long as we do it together.

*Cassidy Caron*





# THE MNC'S CORE FUNCTIONS

At its core, the purpose of the MNC is to convene, research and coordinate policy, and advocate on behalf of the Métis Nation at a national level. The last year's work reflects this commitment to do so all the while upholding good governance and transparency.

## CONVENING

In convening and creating spaces for the Governing Members to come together on national priorities, the MNC ensures there are spaces for Governing Members to collaborate and share priorities with one another.

In ensuring the MNC can adequately convene the Governing Members and create positive working relationships, the MNC has engaged in multiple events hosted by the Governing Members throughout the past year. Notably, the MNC was present at each Annual General Assembly and Legislative Assembly and remains committed to supporting Governing Member events and gatherings.

## STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

Through its convening function, the MNC has ensured that advocacy at the national level is effectively articulated and informed by Métis rights and interests. Rooted in Métis knowledge, and the best available data, and evidence, the MNC works with Governing Members to coordinate policy positions.

## ADVOCATING

With national positions articulated through collaboration with Governing Members, the MNC can effectively advocate for the priorities and needs of the Métis Nation. In building positive working relationships with federal, provincial, and international partners, the MNC has worked throughout the year to ensure that no conversations about the Métis Nation take place without a strong, unified Métis voice.









# GENERAL OPERATIONS

Over the past year, the positive momentum that kicked off following the election of President Caron has continued. The MNC has continued to foster positive relationships with the Government of Canada and other Indigenous organizations and worked to convene with Governing Members to discuss policy priorities and objectives.

MNC has continued work to support the needs of Governing Members and fulfill the administrative needs to ensure the organization remains transparent, sustainable, and accountable.

In November 2022, the MNC has also made a transition to a new IT backbone, Microsoft 365, that has allowed staff members to work collaboratively and more effectively with one another and the Governing Members.

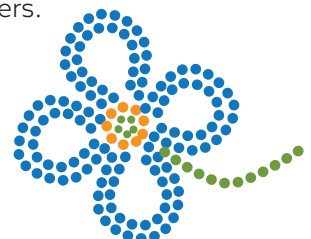
In January 2023, the MNC made changes to better support its staff through the transition to a new human resources management software, Humi. The software has allowed for the production of better human resource management tools, more effective communication with staff, and more manageable hiring and staff trainings.

In March 2023, the MNC moved into a new office space it shares with Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak. This move marked an important moment in the growth and development of the MNC. The space welcomes all representatives

from the Governing Members while they are conducting business in Ottawa.

MNC, as an organization, is also trying to do our part to be good stewards and show climate leadership. In the fall of 2023, MNC hired a Métis consultant to help us understand our carbon footprint, and to support us to develop a sustainable path forward to offset our emissions. We are aiming to become a carbon neutral or carbon negative national organization.

The MNC has also continued to review its Employee Handbook and implement internal policies and procedures to best support its staff. Through implementing policies and developing plans related to hiring, salaries and job descriptions, the MNC is proving to be a more effective organization and a workplace that is increasingly supportive of its staff. Furthermore, in remaining committed to its core functions of convening, coordinating, and researching policy, and advocating, the organization has seen increased engagement from the Government of Canada, as well as other partners, resulting in continued growth over the past year. By hiring skilled staff, with a focus on Métis staff, the organization is in a better position to support and serve Governing Members.



The MNC has produced financial statements and budgets that are transparent. Through the implementation of a new accounting software and the work of the Finance Committee, the MNC has remained committed to being transparent and accountable.

Crucially, the MNC continues to hold regular Board of Governors' meetings throughout the reporting period and has remained committed to meeting regularly throughout the year. These meetings continue to inform and guide the work of the MNC Secretariat.

The positive momentum for the Métis National Council continues and as we look forward to the future and identify the opportunities to best serve Métis Citizens and the Governing Members. As an organization, the MNC will continue to grow and develop as we work to enhance and promote the cultural, social, economic, and political interests of the Métis Nation

## ORGANIZATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

### New Employees and Departments

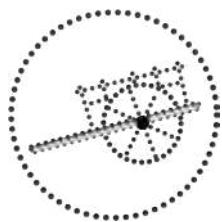
Policy teams have continued to grow to ensure the voice of the Governing Members across the Homeland are heard and each of their policy files are supported. The MNC has continued to work closely with Governing Members on files such as: Environment and Climate Change; Child, Youth and Family Services; Social Policy and Education; Justice and Legislative Affairs; Economic Development and Trade; Intergovernmental and International Relations; Health; Veterans; and Languages. Many of these departments have expanded to meet the needs of Governing Members, hiring skilled analysts and directors. The MNC has also brought on new staff to

support its administrative and human resource needs. Throughout the year, the MNC's finance and administration experts have developed the internal procedures necessary to ensure the MNC meets its core mandate in an effective and constructive manner. This has led to the development of many new employee policies including the right to disconnect, relocation expenses and procurement and purchasing. Additionally, the administrative and human resources team manages many governance activities, including Board of Governors meetings, the Finance Committee, the Expert Panel and Youth Council.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The MNC intends to continue to build on its collaborative approach and to be a strong, unified voice for the Métis Nation. Upcoming work includes:

- Hosting multiple policy forums and conferences throughout 2024 including the National Métis Health Forum, the Global Summit, the Economic Reconciliation Forum and more;
- Organizing meetings of the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism with the Crown-Métis Nation Summit with the Prime Minister tentatively scheduled for Spring 2024;
- Building relationships with our Indigenous partners in Canada through activities such as the Second Annual Tea and Bannock Cup; and
- Effectively representing the Métis Nation with Governing Members internationally at meetings such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



# POLICY AND ADVOCACY

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department works on various projects and methods to build trust and increase transparency with Governing Members and Métis citizens. The Department communicates the MNC's work and shares the history and culture of the Métis Nation with Canadians. The Department brings the Nation together by organizing and supporting large events, conferences, and meetings.

### Activities and Deliverables

The Communications Department has worked throughout the year to bring the Nation together and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Métis National Council. Through hosting and sponsoring multiple events and using a multi-faceted media strategy, the Communications



**MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL**

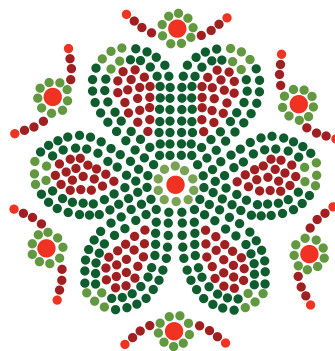
∞ *40th Anniversary* ∞

team at the MNC has worked to inform Métis citizens and the broader Canadian public about the Métis Nation, the MNC and the Governing Members.

The Communications team has collaborated with multiple policy departments, Governing Members, through bi-weekly working meetings, and the Government of Canada on the release of various press releases and statements following key events and moments throughout the year. Additionally, the Department has supported each policy team and the Governing Members in the planning and attendance of various forums and conferences that have created spaces to advance and discuss Métis priorities and to educate partners and stakeholders.

In March 2023, the MNC celebrated the grand opening of its new office space with Governing Members, Government of Canada officials and other partners. Additionally, the MNC organized celebration at the National Arts Centre to celebrate the MNC's 40th Anniversary.

Also in March, the Communications Department coordinated the first annual Tea and Bannock Cup, a hockey match between the Métis National Council and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. The game brought together hockey players from across the Homeland and contributed to a positive relationship between Indigenous peoples in Canada.

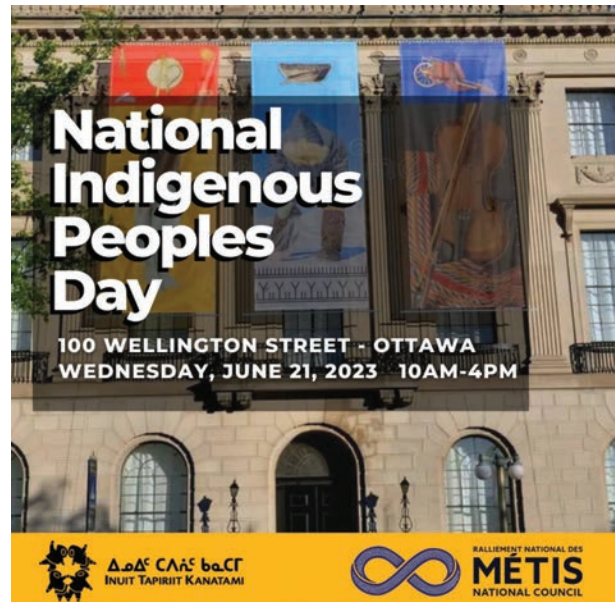




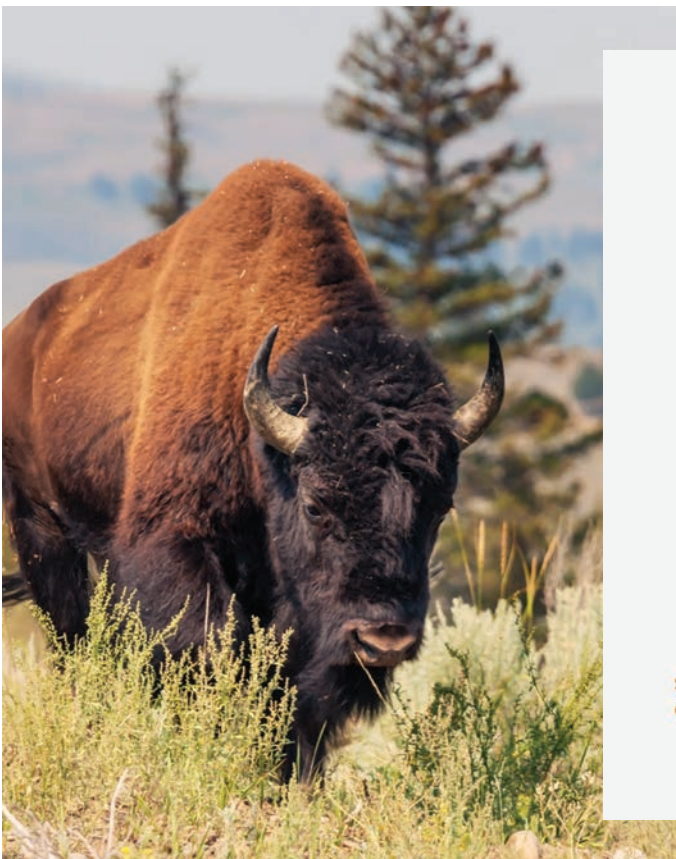


In June 2023, the Communications Department ensured the MNC was promoting and participating in National Indigenous History Month. Throughout the month, the MNC sponsored both the Indigenous Music Awards and the Summer Solstice celebration in Ottawa, ON. Both celebrations brought together Indigenous peoples and celebrated culture, music, and unity. Additionally, an event was held in partnership with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami on June 21st at the National Indigenous Peoples Space that welcomed all to learn about the Métis Nation and see the space ahead of the renovations to take place.

In September 2023, the Communications Department launched the much anticipated "One Nation Many Stories" podcast. The podcast has released several episodes and will continue to highlight the Métis Nations deep and vibrant histories and stories from across the Homeland.



The Communications team will continue to work with various partners and utilize events and the media to build relationships and ensure that the voice of the Métis Nation and Métis National Council is heard.



ONE NATION MANY STORIES  
PODCAST

“

"We are one Métis Nation and we need one strong voice at the international level."

- PRESIDENT CASSIDY CARON

SEASON 1 - EPISODE 2:  
ONE NATION MANY LEADERS



## CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

MNC's Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) Department has expertise in social policy relating to child, youth, and family wellbeing, in particular, child welfare legislation, policy, and service delivery. The Department works to foster collaborative working relationships with various organizations and governments to promote effective Métis-specific social policy and practices to improve the wellbeing of children, youth, families, and communities across the Homeland. The CYFS Department consults and collaborates with Governing Members to work towards drawing jurisdiction over child, youth, and family services.

### Activities and Deliverables

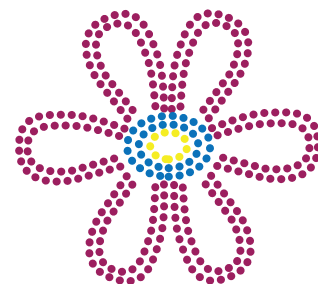
The CYFS Department has worked with Governing Members and the Government of Canada to advance jurisdiction over child, youth, and family services across the Homeland. The Department has coordinated both in-person and virtual meetings with the CYFS Technical Committee and has facilitated strategic planning and priority coordination with the Governing Members. This work supports the collective Métis Nation mission to enhance systems for children, youth, families, and communities through research and policy, data management, engagement, partnerships, communication, and cultural development. MNC assisted with Governing Members accessing federal funding for engagements and negotiated an increase to the CYFS 2023-2025 budget to include more resources to complete work outlined in our technical committee strategic plan.

The Department has engaged with the Government of Canada regarding Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nation, Inuit and Métis children, youth, and families*, and has supported Governing Member participation and engagement with the

process of achieving Indigenous Governing Body status. Also relating to Bill C-92, the Department was granted intervenor status in the Supreme Court of Canada case regarding the bill in November 2022. The decision regarding the case is expected to be released in the coming months and the Department will continue to support Governing Members following the decision.

Beginning in 2022 and continuing throughout the reporting period, our CYFS Department has been diligently engaged in negotiations with the Government of Canada to establish a Memorandum of Understanding that aims to foster collaborative efforts in the development and implementation of a Métis Nation Child and Family Services Sub-Accord. The Sub-Accord is poised to strengthen Governing Members efforts drawing jurisdiction over child and family services within their respective jurisdictions, and across Canada.

The Department will continue to engage with Governing Members and the Government of Canada, maintain current and develop new partnerships, advance Métis jurisdiction over child and family services, and improve the well-being of Métis children, youth, families, and communities.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

The Economic Development and Trade Department works together with Governing Members and the Métis Capital Corporations to build economic institutions for the Métis Nation and grow relationships with various organizations and the Government of Canada. The Department engages with various sectors to fulfill the unique needs of each Governing Member as they work to engage with Métis businesses, foster federal procurement, develop infrastructure and more. Through collaborating with Governing Members, the Department works to improve the economic wellbeing of all Métis citizens and create an equitable future for all.

### Activities and Deliverables

Grounding discussions in the economic development priorities adopted by the Métis Nation General Assembly in October 2022, the Economic Development and Trade department have worked together with Governing Members and the Métis Capital Corporations to achieve priorities. In December 2022, the department held the first meeting of the Métis Nation Technical Committee on Economic Development. Meeting both virtually and in person with the Technical Committee and the Métis Capital Corporations, the Department has been able to effectively consult with and represent the Métis Nation on a national level.

The Department has engaged with several Government of Canada departments to articulate and advocate the economic development priorities of the Métis Nation. Working with the Governing Members to identify capacity needs to continue to be engaged with the Government

of Canada, the Department developed a Memorandum of Understanding which, if accepted, would provide baseline support for the priorities outlined in the Economic Development Sub-Accord.

Following the summer 2023 announcement of the Indigenous Services Canada's Economic Reconciliation Framework, the Department recognized the need for this to be supported by the Memorandum of Understanding. The Department advocated for both to be adopted to ground the work in a common understanding. Negotiations regarding the Indigenous Services Canada Economic Reconciliation Framework have continued throughout fall 2023 and the Department intends to continue to engage with Governing Members and the Government of Canada regarding next steps.

The Department also continued to engage with Natural Resources Canada regarding the National Benefits Sharing Framework. Natural Resource Canada has requested a second round of engagement sessions and in response, the Department held sessions with each of the Governing Members in October 2023. Through holding the in-person meetings across the Homeland, each Governing Member was able to share their priorities and perspectives regarding the framework. In alignment with the Framework, the Department intends to utilize the feedback from the engagement sessions in discussions with the Government of Canada.

The Department also worked throughout the reporting period to build relationships with new federal partners but has heavily considered



the capacity limits and priorities of Governing Members in building these partnerships. The Department has worked to begin building partnerships with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada, Canada Revenue Agency and Innovation Science and Economic Development among other federal departments. In building these relationships, the Department held various policy gatherings in February and May 2023. In recognizing the limitations faced by the Department and the Technical Committee, the Department has had to divert attention to other priorities but intends to continue to work, when possible, to ensure strong partnerships with federal partners.

The Department has also explored partnerships outside of the federal government to further economic reconciliation. In June 2023, the Department supported President Caron at the closing of the Toronto stock exchange alongside TMX Group. The Department looks forward to

continuing to build partnerships that further the priorities of the Governing Members and advance economic reconciliation for the Métis Nation.

The Department has also worked with the Technical Committee and the Research Steering Committee to launch several research projects throughout the reporting period to address data gaps. Projects have scoped access to capital, construction of Métis business procurement infrastructure and the readiness of the Métis economy for procurement. The research projects have been shared with Governing Members and federal partners to inform future areas of work.

The Department will continue to advocate for the priorities of the Métis Nation and looks forward to gathering representatives from across the Homeland, the Government of Canada and other key stakeholders at the Economic Reconciliation Forum planned in early 2024.



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

MNC's Environment and Climate Change Department works closely with Governing Members to advance identified priorities, enhance Métis stewardship, and demonstrate leadership in finding solutions to the current climate and biodiversity crises. The Department has vast areas of expertise as it works with the diverse needs across the Homeland to support the work and priorities of Governing Members in the areas of climate change (adaptation and mitigation), emergency management, conservation, biodiversity, water, fish and fish habitat and natural resources. To further support the Governing Members' priorities, the MNC's Environment Department: advocates for equitable access to funding mechanisms and programs; ensures Métis voices are heard and included in policy and program deliberations; seeks new partnerships; and advances nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationships.

### Activities and Deliverables

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

The Environment Department has prioritized working closely with Governing Members to address the most significant challenges to the Métis Nation, climate change and biodiversity loss. MNC hosted bi-weekly meetings, known as the National Environment Technical Committee (NETC), to discuss priorities, objectives, and challenges. These meetings have allowed the Department to successfully advocate for Governing Member priorities and programs nationally and internationally.

Notably, in March 2023, at Métis Crossing in Smoky Lake AB, the Department hosted the Goose Moon Table. The meeting brought together representatives from Governing Members, Les



Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO), the MNC and various Government of Canada departments to discuss how to further support and develop Métis climate leadership across the Homeland. The initial meeting marked a change in the direction and ownership of the MNC-Canada Joint Table on Climate Change; as the Joint Table was renamed to the Goose Moon Table via ceremony rooted in Métis culture, tradition, and teachings, writing a new chapter in the storied history of Métis environmental stewardship. Additionally, the Goose Moon table hosted its annual workshop in September 2023 in Ottawa ON. This second meeting continued the positive momentum and further developed the relationship between the Métis Nation and Federal representatives.

Furthermore, in May 2023, the Department hosted a two-day Métis National Climate Strategy writing workshop in Ottawa, ON. The workshop brought together technical representatives from

each of the Governing Members and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak and created a space for learning from and collaborating with one another in identifying joint climate priorities. As a result of this writing session, the Department is continuing to work with Governing Members to release the final Métis National Climate Strategy in spring 2024.

As climate change threatens our lands, waters and airways and presents a significant challenge to the Métis way of life, the fight across the Homeland remains integral to the Environment and Climate Change Department. Through continued work and supporting Governing Members, the Department hopes to create a cleaner future for all.

## CONSERVATION

The Department has worked closely with Governing Members to support technical work



and meets on a regular basis to discuss priorities, objectives, and challenges to conducting their work. Through meeting regularly with the National Environmental Technical Committee (NETC), the Department has been able to collaborate with Governing Members and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak and advocate for their priorities and support programs and services nationally.

The Department hosted a Gathering for Land and Water in January 2023 in Vancouver BC. The Gathering brought Governing Members and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak together to discuss species at risk, fish and fish habitat, and the Métis Guardians priorities. In addition to sharing their input and views on these important programs, Governing Members and the MNC also got to hear from experts on invasive species and identifying Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). MNC received Governing Members' feedback and ideas on where to focus our advocacy efforts in fundraising and provided strategic direction for our approach to establishing a Métis Nation – Canada Nature Table later in the year.



The Department also attended and supported Governing Members and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak participation in meetings held by the Government of Canada and other partners. In early 2023, the Department attended the Minister's Roundtable with Parks Canada, and the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference. Both presented an excellent opportunity to advocate for the priorities of the Métis Nation and to highlight the work of Governing Members.

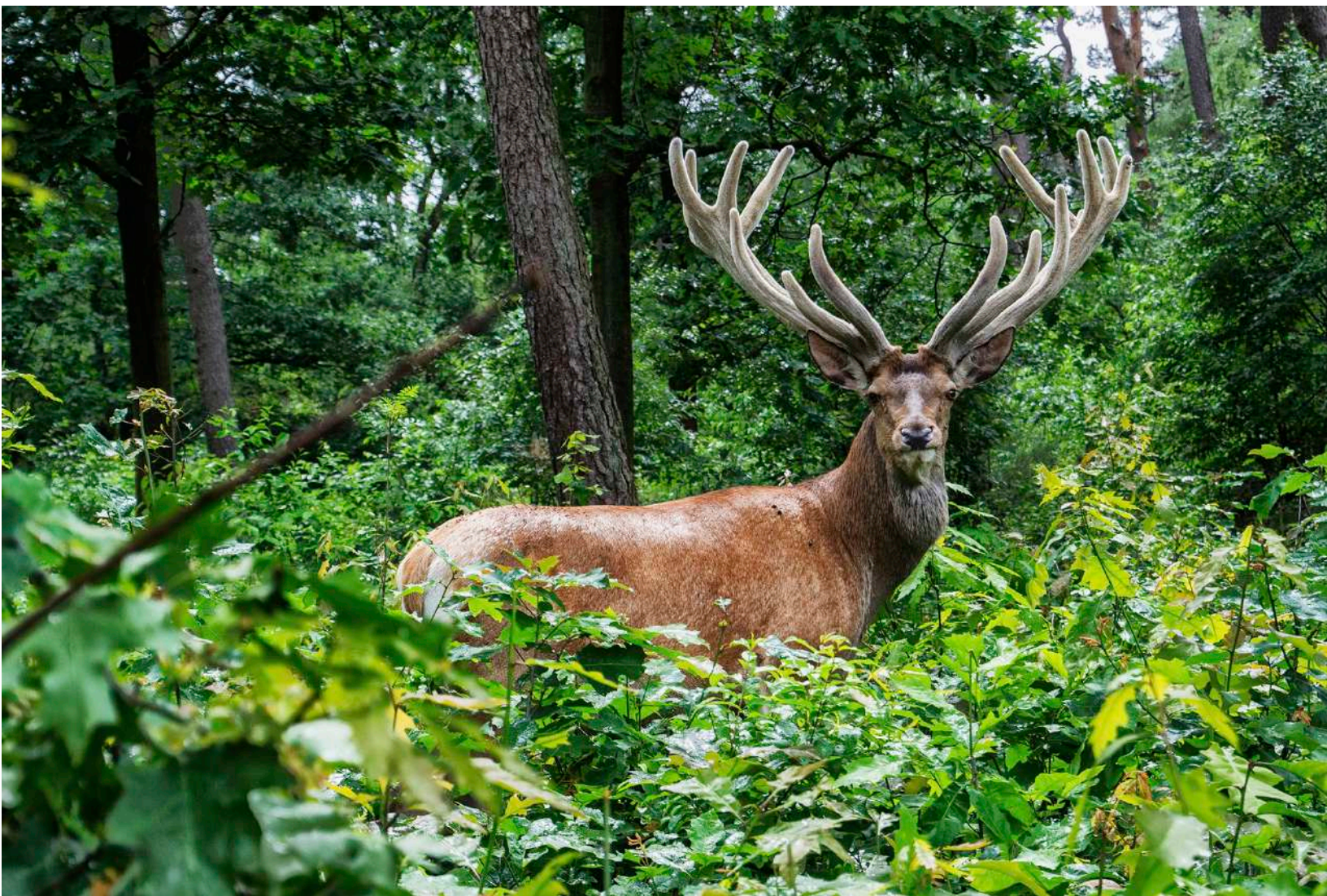


Additionally, in partnership with Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, the Department hosted a virtual Kitchen Table Talk with Parks Canada in March 2023, following a recommendation from the 2022 Parks Gathering. The meeting allowed Knowledge Holders and Elders to share stories and wisdom, as well as their connections with land and water, that intersect with Parks Canada sites. There were over 100 live connections to the event from Parks Canada staff and the [recording of the event on YouTube](#) continues to be used as a training asset for new Parks Canada staff to better understand the Métis Nation.

In May 2023, the Department organized a first-ever Governing Member environmental retreat in Killarney, Ontario. This was first identified as a need at the January Gathering for Land and Water and was organized to service the Governing Member's desire to share and learn from one another on the implementation of their unique climate and conservation programs. The retreat fostered strong relationships across the National Environmental Technical Committee and the pilot event was a strong success.

The Department also hosted the first ever Nature Table Technical Workshop in June 2023. The Nature Table, which will be renamed at its first inaugural meeting in January 2024, is comprised of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Parks Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Governing Members, LFMO and the MNC. This initial workshop served as a space to discuss the priorities, Terms of Reference for the Table, and a path forward with formulating the Métis-Canada Joint Table on Conservation and Biodiversity.

Additionally, the Department has supported participation at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Policy Gathering and the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Annual Ministers Meeting. Through continuing engagements with their federal colleagues, the Department has ensured the priorities and voice of the Métis Nation is heard.



Throughout the summer of 2023, the Department continued with the filming of Métis Guardians videos for each Governing Member. In collaboration with Indigenous Geographic, the Department visited the Métis Nation of Alberta to conduct filming at their Aisky Guardians Gathering in Pigeon Lake. The Department also visited the Métis Nation of British Columbia in Smithers to film with the B.C. Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR) Captains of the Hunt. We look forward to visiting the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan in the Winter or Spring of 2024 to complete the filming of the Métis Guardians videos.



In October 2023, the Department hosted the first-ever Gathering of Land Users in Wanuskewin south of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Participants came from across the Métis Homeland to discuss terrestrial and aquatic species that are important to the Métis Nation. Each Governing Member sent two Land Users, one youth and one member of their environment team. The discussion was led by the participants and included population observations, concerns about what is happening to species and their habitats and possible solutions by the Métis Nation. It was a great opportunity for citizens from across the Homeland to come together and learn about differences and similarities they share in their communities.

As part of the MNC's ongoing national relationship with the Parks Canada Agency, the Department attended several meetings of the Indigenous Stewardship Advisory Circle, including an in-person meeting in Sidney, BC in October 2023. Throughout the year, the Department continues to negotiate a national policy for Métis access to Parks Canada administered sites across provinces to expand on existing regional programs. This is a key priority, as identified by Governing Members, to our advocacy work with Parks Canada.



Supporting the preservation of biodiversity and conserving the lands and water remains integral to the Métis Nation, and through consistent engagement with federal and international partners, as well as other stakeholders, the Department will continue to support the work of Governing Members across the Homeland.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management has been an important priority for Governing Members as the frequency and severity of emergencies Métis communities and citizens are exposed to is increasing. The Métis Nation has been chronically underfunded for emergency management capacity leaving minimal means to prepare or respond to emergencies ranging from infectious disease to natural disasters to food security. Considering the challenges of conducting this work, emergency management is a major priority for both Governing Members and the MNC. The Department has continued to work to support and advocate for the priorities of Governing Members, engage in their programs and services and to negotiate funding for the Métis National Council and Governing Members to advance this important work.

In June 2023, Emergency Management was added to the agenda of the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism and utilizing the commitments made by Canada, the Department has continued to work in this area. By consensus, both representatives of the Métis Nation and Government of Canada agreed to explore the establishment of an Emergency Management, Preparedness and Response Sub-Accord.

In October 2023, the Department coordinated the inaugural meeting of the Emergency Management Technical Working Group. The Working Group, comprised of representatives from the MNC and Governing Members, will meet regularly both in person and virtually throughout the year to coordinate and advance Métis priorities. This will lead us to develop a National Emergency Management workplan and Strategy with the Government of Canada.

The Department will continue to advance this important work and strive to ensure that the Métis Nation is prepared to respond and protect its citizens from emergency situations. The Department is currently working on the preparation and implementation of the Métis National Council Ignite Project set to launch in February 2024. This project will be aimed towards the Governing Members providing emergency management training and capacity to their citizens while also demonstrating the many benefits of rekindling Métis traditional burns.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Recognizing Métis culture, values, spirituality, and languages as foundational to Métis health and wellbeing, the Department promotes a holistic and proactive approach to improve Métis health, wellbeing, and mental health. The MNC Health and Wellness Department works closely with Governing Members to forge positive relationships and to work meaningfully with the Government of Canada in a nation-to-nation manner that empowers the jurisdictions and governance of the Governing Members. The Department centres its priorities around the Métis Vision of Health ensures the priorities are recognized and discussed regionally and nationally.

### Activities and Deliverables

Utilizing the Métis Vision for Health as a guiding document, the MNC Health Department has worked to make progress in addressing Métis health outcomes. The Department has met consistently with the Métis Nation-Technical Health Committee and the Canada-Métis Nation Joint Health Committee to advance priorities.

The Department has focused on the priorities outlined in the Métis Vision for Health to strengthen communications and build respectful relationships and partnerships. This has been achieved by gathering the Métis Nation in various forums throughout the year and coordinating the participation of the MNC and Governing Members at gatherings held by key partners.

Throughout the year, the Department has made progress advancing key objectives and priorities included within the Métis Vision for Health and the health policy plan. Namely, the Department

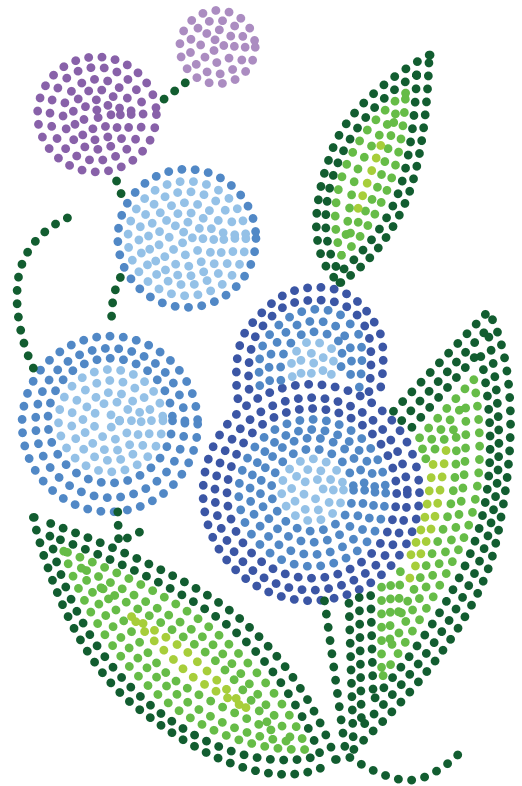
has secured funding for Governing Members to support trauma-informed activities aimed at system-level change free from racism and discrimination. Furthermore, the Department secured funding to promote health and wellbeing, and to advance priorities such as mental health, cancer control, tobacco control, substance use and addictions, as well as palliative and long-term continuing care. Finally, the Department secured funding for a Métis mental wellness data strategy. By advocating and securing funding for Governing Members, the Department has consistently focused on ensuring a strong foundation for future initiatives and increased core capacity for the Governing Members and the MNC.

In December 2022, the Department coordinated the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Canada and has since led the ongoing negotiations of a 10-year Métis Nation Health Sub-Accord. The Department looks forward to concluding the Sub-Accord by March 2024, and will ensure the Sub-Accord aligns with funding proposals submitted to increase investments in health policy and governance core capacity.





Additionally, through engaging with the Government of Canada on proposed Indigenous Health Legislation, the Department has worked to articulate the priorities of the Governing Members on this piece of legislation. The MNC, Governing Members, and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak engaged in discussions on legislative measures based on the following priorities: self-determination; improvements to existing health systems; extended health benefits; mental health and wellness; and health data. Furthermore, in spring 2023, the Department shared these priorities in a Memorandum to Cabinet and Costing Report on Indigenous Health Legislation with the Government of Canada. The Department advocated for Canada to provide distinctions-based, long-term, sustainable, predictable, and equitable program, and service delivery funding to Governing Members to empower Métis governments to design and deliver important services to Métis citizens. The Department hopes to see positive steps taken toward bridging the gap between Métis and non-Indigenous Canadians. In May 2023, the Department planned the Métis



Mental Health and Cannabis Forum in Vancouver, British Columbia, in partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. The forum created a space to explore substance use, mental health, and the Cannabis Act. The Department then produced a report on the Cannabis Act, as well as a report on The State of Métis Knowledge on Cannabis and Mental Health in Canada and Cannabis and the Métis Nation: Impacts, Perspectives and Recommendations for Action.

In June 2023, the MNC and Governing Members made a presentation to the Expert Panel reviewing the Cannabis Act and supported President Caron as she attended the Canadian Medical Association's virtual 'Fireside Chat' with past President Dr. Alika Lafontaine and other Indigenous leaders.





## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MNC's Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations is responsible for managing intergovernmental relations with the Government of Canada, as well as coordinating the Métis Nation's Permanent Bilateral Mechanism, the annual budget process, in addition to other priority files. In doing so, the Department works to foster positive relationships between the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada. Through this relationship, the Intergovernmental Relations team ensures a nation-to-nation, distinctions-based approach, and advocates for adequate, sustainable, and flexible funding. Coordinating across MNC departments, the International Relations team looks to build on previous successes and become an active and constructive voice in the international space by engaging in international decision-making processes and activities on issues affecting the Métis Nation and Métis citizens.

### Activities and Deliverables

The Intergovernmental and International Relations Department was formed in October 2022 and began its work re-institutionalizing the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism (PBM). This year, the Métis Nation PBM and Intergovernmental Working Group was formed. The Working Group gathers MNC and Governing Members and ensures the coordination of intergovernmental priorities.

Throughout the last year, the Department has collaborated with Crown-Indigenous Relations

and Northern Affairs Canada, and Governing Members, on PBM meetings. These meetings include two Senior Officials meetings, two Leaders Meetings with Métis Nation Presidents and federal Ministers, and one Crown-Métis Nation Summit with the Prime Minister. The meetings have allowed the Métis Nation to make progress on joint priorities, including through the endorsement of the PBM terms of reference and joint work plans on primary and secondary education and co-development principles.

Additionally, the Department coordinated the MNC's Budget 2023 and 2024 Proposals, working with MNC departments and Governing Members to identify priority investment areas, including economic development, housing, primary and secondary education, and health. The Department worked with MNC's executive to organize meetings and events to advocate for the Métis Nation's budget needs with federal officials and parliamentarians.

Furthermore, the Department coordinated Métis participation in multiple Federal, Provincial/Territorial, and Indigenous (FPTI) meetings. Through the meetings, the MNC has advocated for a nation-to-nation and distinctions-based approach for national-level conversations with provinces and the federal government. The meetings have varied in their focus, but the Department has ensured to provide advice on using a strategic and consistent approach throughout the MNC's work.





The Department also secured funding for Governing Members, including a Métis Nation Data Strategy. This project is meant to provide a national-level approach to the governance of data and the current capacity gaps for Governing Members. The strategy will feature demonstration projects and work will continue to take place until fiscal year 2024-25.

Finally, the department provides an important planning and reporting role, preparing multiple briefing products to Governing Members. These

products are meant to highlight the breadth and width of the MNC’s work to Governing Members, including the MNC’s Annual Report, and the coordination of resolutions for MNC’s Annual General Assembly.

The Intergovernmental and International Relations Department is continuing the work to foster a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with the Government and continues to ensure the Governing Members continue to inform MNC’s work.



## JUSTICE AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

MNC's Justice and Legislative Affairs Department is responsible for policy and legislative development, advocacy, coordination, and support for the Métis governments in the areas of criminal justice, policing, corrections, community safety, and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA). The Department works collaboratively in these areas to advance the priorities of MNC's Governing Members to advance self-determination, self-government, and the nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with Canada.

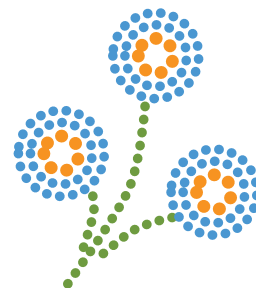
### Activities and Deliverables

The Justice and Legislative Affairs Department has worked to make progress on many files throughout the year. By meeting with Governing Members, the Department has engaged with senior officials and working level staff, on the following priorities:

- UNDA, including drafting measures for the UNDA Action Plan and initiating the implementation of those measures;
- a national forum on Métis justice held in Calgary in spring 2023;
- the Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS), convening a Justice and Policing working group through the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism to conclude a Justice and Policing Sub-Accord; and
- coordination with Governing Members of work on federal legislative initiatives including in the areas of border crossing, finance, health, and immigration.

The Justice and Legislative Affairs Department worked with Governing Members to coordinate and develop the Métis Nation's priorities for the UNDA Action Plan. This work resulted in 13 Métis-specific Action Plan Measures. The Department also worked closely with Governing Members and First Nations and Inuit representative institutions to develop shared priorities for the Action Plan, including measures relating to co-development, consistency of laws, and a recourse and remedy mechanism for rights violations. The Action Plan was tabled in Parliament in June 2023 and contains some 150 specific commitments by Canada to advance reconciliation and the rights, interests, and needs of the Métis Nations.

A priority of the Justice and Legislative Affairs Department is addressing the over-representation of Métis people within the criminal justice system. The Department and Governing Members have advocated for increased capacity and jurisdiction of Métis governments in criminal justice, and enhanced recognition and operation of Métis law and legal systems. To this end, the Department worked with Governing Members to support their engagement on the Indigenous Justice Strategy, planned to be released in March 2024, and their work on the Justice and Policing Sub-Accord.

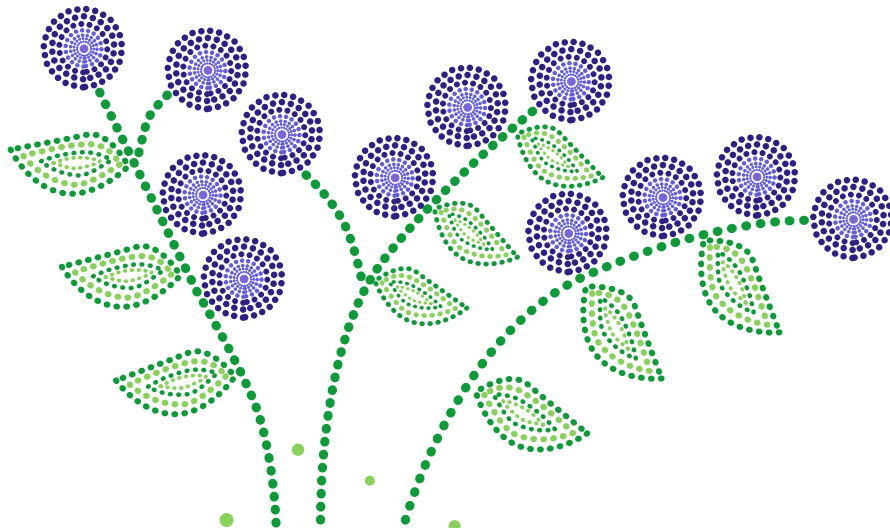
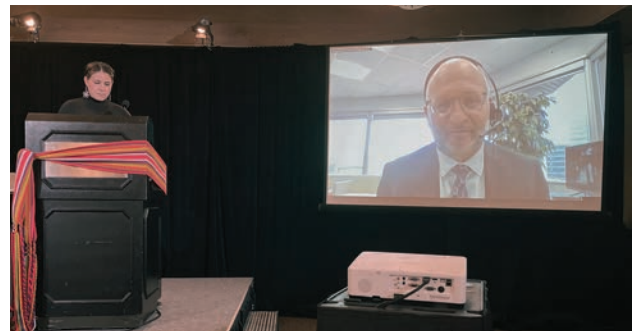


In April 2023 the Department held the first National Métis Justice Forum in Calgary. The forum brought together Métis government representatives from across the Homeland, Government of Canada officials, Métis justice and legal experts, and key stakeholders. The discussions at the Forum informed the Department's development of Métis Nation positions, in consultation with Governing Members, on several key topics pertaining to the UNDA and IJS.

Further, the Department has been diligently engaged in negotiations with the Government of Canada to conclude a Métis Nation Justice and Policing Sub-Accord. The Sub-Accord is poised to strengthen Governing Member efforts to address Métis over-representation within the colonial justice system, reduce recidivism of Métis offenders, and ensure preventative and Métis culturally responsive restorative justice. Importantly, this Sub-Accord will advance Métis

inherent rights to self-determination and self-government and facilitate greater capacity and jurisdiction for Governing Members within the colonial justice system. The work undertaken at the November in-person Working Group meeting has prepared the Department and Governing Members to conclude the Sub-Accord in 2024.

The Department will continue to engage with Governing Members and federal partners to advance the Métis Nations priorities relating to Justice and Legislative Affairs. Through conducting this important work, the Department will continue to build partnerships and support for the Métis governments in the areas of criminal justice, policing, corrections, community safety, and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA).





## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

MNC's Department of Indigenous Languages works to support the reclamation, preservation, and revitalization of Métis languages across the Homeland. Languages are an important part of Métis identity and are integral to the realization of Métis rights. The department works with both Governing Members and the Government of Canada to support the work that takes place to ensure Métis languages are heard across the Homeland.

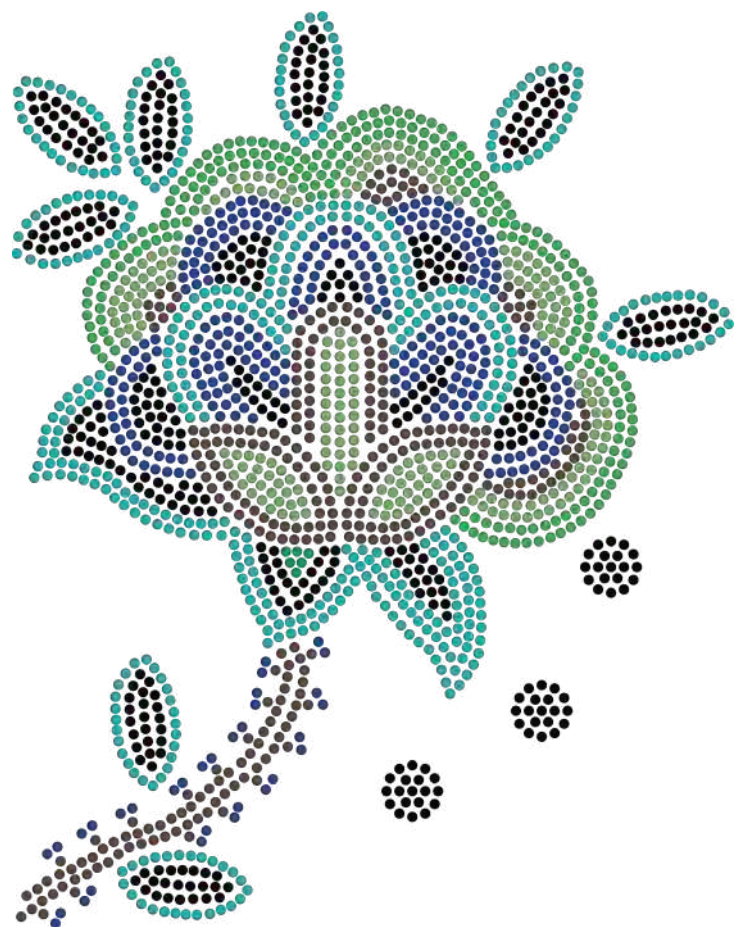
### Activities and Deliverables

The MNC Languages Department met regularly with the Métis Languages Technical Table that was formed this year. Additionally, meetings between the Michif Language Working table consisting of the MNC, Governing Members and Canadian Heritage have continued to take place on a regular basis. Through these meetings, the Department has been able to coordinate the priorities of Governing Members as they work to revitalize and preserve Métis languages across the Homeland.

The Department has worked to engage with Canadian Heritage on their newly established distinctions-based funding model and has supported the Governing Members in the development of 5-year workplans. These workplans, and other input from Governing Members, will lead development of a Métis National Council Michif Language Action Plan.

The Department also planned a Métis Language Revitalization Conference in October 2023 in Calgary, Alberta. The conference explored the revitalization and preservation of Métis Languages across the Homeland. As languages are integral elements to Métis culture, history and heritage, the Department is working towards a Métis Languages Sub-Accord.

Métis languages remain foundational to identity, culture, spirituality, and worldview. The Department plans to continue to efforts to encourage Métis language acquisition and awareness to meet the need for more learners and speakers across the Homeland.



## SOCIAL POLICY AND EDUCATION

The Social Policy and Education Department is responsible for, and brings expertise to, policy files that seek to improve the social development and wellbeing of the Métis Nation. The Department works with Governing Members to advance priorities that support their efforts in social issues of importance to the Métis Nation, including poverty alleviation, housing and homelessness, and veterans, among others. The Department's responsibilities also include education and labour market files, which are headed by the Métis Education and Training Standing Committee (METSC). METSC's work scope includes Early Learning and Childcare, Primary and Secondary Education, Post-Secondary Education, and Employment and Training. The Department's objectives include relationship building, policy development and coordination, and ensuring productive relationships between Governing Members, federal and provincial departments. Through these objectives, the Social Policy and Education Department supports the overall goal of improving the wellbeing of each Métis citizen in the Homeland.

### Activities and Deliverables

#### EARLY CHILDCARE AND LEARNING

Throughout this reporting year, the Social Policy and Education Department has maintained ongoing contact with Governing Members in all departmental policy files. Ongoing engagement and feedback through emails, virtual and in-person meetings, ensure that Governing Members perspectives and directives are considered and implemented.

In March 2023, following input from Governing Members, the Department completed and distributed an updated ELCC funding interim distribution model. The proposal decreased funding provided to the MNC and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak and maintains funding levels to Governing Members. As a result of this funding model approach, MNC secured support from the Métis Nation British Columbia, the Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Northwest Territories Métis Nation, and the Métis Settlements General Council, representing 82% of the Métis population.

In September 2023, the Department developed a formula for ELCC structural funding and submitted this for approval by Governing Members. The ELCC structure funding model recognizes that all funding must go to Métis citizens and does not allocate administrative funding to either MNC or Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

The Department and Governing Members are currently working in the development of a conceptual approach to Métis ELCC to be incorporated into the program's performance measurement framework. The Métis Nation is the first Indigenous distinction to start this work.

Additionally, the Department has engaged with federal officials in co-developing formative and summative ELCC evaluations. In doing so, the Department participated in interviews with the Evaluations Directorate that are a part of the formative evaluation process. These are projected to be completed ahead of the 2023-24 fiscal year and will include a report to the Treasury Board.

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Following the Annual General Assembly Resolution GA221027-14 mandating the MNC to work toward the development of a Primary and Secondary Education Sub-Accord, the MNC has hosted multiple virtual and in-person meetings with Governing Members, Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs. Employment and Social Development Canada and Heritage Canada have also been invited to the meetings as observers. The meetings have fostered positive discussions and led to the identification of Primary and Secondary Education priorities throughout the Métis Homeland.

As a part of the development of a Primary and Secondary Education Sub-Accord, a workplan and terms of reference were produced with Indigenous Services Canada to establish a working group and outlining stages to a sub-accord. The workplan was endorsed at the June 1, 2023, Crown-Métis Nation Summit. Since then, there have been multiple virtual and in-person working meetings attended by the MNC, Governing Members and Government of Canada representatives.

The Métis Education and Training Standing Committee intends to fulfill each step contained within the workplan and reach the establishment of a Primary and Secondary Education Sub-Accord and ensure the inalienable right to control Métis education is realized.

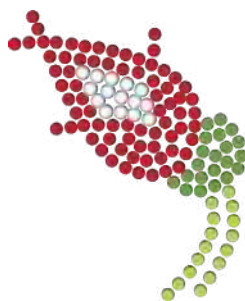
## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Supporting post-secondary students remains a high priority for the Governing Members and the Métis Education and Training Standing Committee (METSC) has taken significant steps to support these efforts. By convening with Governing Members throughout the reporting period, the Métis Nation has participated in multiple engagement sessions regarding post-secondary education.

Engagement with Indigenous Services Canada respecting post-secondary education programming has started, and activities are under coordination. Federal officials have been made aware of the Métis interest to address the issue of «institutional development», which should eventually lead to discussions on accreditation of Métis post-secondary institutions across the Homeland.

In preparation for upcoming discussions, Governing Members are preparing presentations on their respective post-secondary education programs and challenges. In coordination with Governing Members, METSC is planning a “Night of Métis Reconciliation Gala” to be held in Ottawa in March 2024. The goal is to honour the accomplishments of Métis students in the post-secondary education area.

Furthermore, engagements have taken place with federal officials to review and begin a primary and secondary performance measurements strategy and the co-



development of an accountability framework. The Committee negotiated reporting methodology for performance measurements that respects horizontal management and lessens the administrative reporting burden on Governing Members. Additionally, the Department has coordinated in-person meetings in March 2023 in Ottawa ON to coordinate Governing Member opinions regarding the accountability framework.

The METSC will continue to coordinate the unique needs of each Governing Member and advocate for the support of Métis post-secondary students.

## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Métis Education and Training Standing Committee (METSC) has worked throughout the year to convene the work of Governing Members and advance the supports necessary to further Métis employment and training services across the Homeland.

In doing so, the Department has worked closely with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and the Evaluations Directorate in completing the performance measures framework for Indigenous Skills Enhancement Training Program. Substantive issues must be clarified before the Department is able to complete this exercise and report to Treasury Board in the second quarter of the next fiscal year.

As requested by Governing Members and in partnership with ESDC, the Department organized an Employment Insurance training workshop and an in-person meeting to set the agenda for upcoming engagements. Through this work we identified an issue of data sovereignty, which is under discussion at this time. Governing

Members authorized METSC to receive data to do a proper analysis and provide adequate policy advice. Despite significant obstacles, MNC is continuing to work with ESDC for Governing Members to access their data. Despite significant obstacles, MNC is continuing to work with ESDC for Governing Members to access their data.

In short, a lot has been done in this reporting year. By continuing to meet and consult with the Governing Members, the Department will ensure that programs and projects that support social wellbeing continue to receive the attention they deserve at the national level.

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

To discuss and navigate the Métis Nation's priorities on housing and homelessness, the MNC held the Housing and Homelessness Forum in Ottawa ON, on February 28th-March 1st, 2023. The Forum allowed Governing Members to come together, share information on existing programs across the Homeland, and provide information and feedback on Canada's Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.

As a result of the forum, in April 2023, the MNC was able to produce a "What We Heard" Report in response to the Urban Rural and Northern Housing Strategy. The report compiles the feedback from each Governing Member and overviews each of their priorities as it relates to the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy. Since the production of the report, the MNC has continued to engage with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, using its contents to advocate for the priorities of the Métis Nation.



## POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The MNC Social Policy and Education Department has worked with Employment and Social Development Canada to propose a plan for the development of Métis Poverty Indicators. The indicators will be co-developed between the Métis Nation and Canada, and the Department will continue to engage in this process throughout the next year.

## VETERANS

Throughout 2022, the MNC has conducted work toward the establishment of a National Métis Veterans Council. Multiple virtual meetings were hosted by MNC throughout 2022-23 to facilitate the developments that were necessary to finalize the establishment of the Council.

As a part of this work, the MNC held the first Veterans Council Meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on July 19th, 2023. The meeting was attended by Veterans Affairs Canada and the developing Métis Veterans Council and created a space to build a positive relationship and discuss important topics relating to Métis Veterans.

Maintaining the positive momentum, the National Métis Veterans Council was officially established on September 28th, 2023, following a unanimous vote by the Board of Governors. The MNC intends to continue to support the work of the National Métis Veterans Council and build positive relationships to support Métis Veterans across the Homeland. ∞



## INTERNATIONAL VOICE

As the international voice of the Métis Nation, the MNC is responsible for working with Governing Members, acting on their priorities and aspirations, and representing Métis citizens internationally to advance Métis priorities.

With a goal of achieving sustainable and systemic change, the MNC's international work has the following objectives:

- Build capacity, capability, and international opportunity within the Métis Nation.
- Ensure inclusion of the Métis Nation in international decision-making processes.
- Strengthen cohesion across MNC departments to be in service to Métis Governments and Citizens in their international work.
- Foster relationships with other Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, United Nations Member States, and entities to advance the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples globally.

Decision-making processes at the international level have a direct impact on the rights, prosperity, and well-being of Métis Citizens. Through strategic engagement in international fora, the international team works to advocate for and affirm the Métis right to self-government and self-determination.

Spanning across MNC departments, international engagement in 2023 encompassed a wide range of events focussed on Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change, and Economic Development. International work is undertaken across MNC departments, and the following section highlights some of this important work.

## Activities and Deliverables

### HUMAN RIGHTS

The International Relations team was formed in October 2022 as part of the larger Intergovernmental and International Relations Department and has worked to ensure meaningful and effective participation of the Métis Nation within international fora. Working in collaboration with Governing Members through the Métis Nation PBM/Intergovernmental Working Group, the team has developed a coordinated strategy that ensures the MNC's international engagement aligns with the priorities of Métis Governments and Citizens.

In March 2023, the Intergovernmental and International Relations Department coordinated Métis Nation participation in the 67th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The priority theme for the session was: innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Supporting the Vice-President of New Dawn Métis Women's Society, participation in the forum ensured that the voices and perspectives of Métis women are included within international dialogues.

In April 2023, MNC coordinated a delegation of Governing Member representatives from across the Homeland to attend the 22nd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Delegates engaged in discussions under the priority theme of "Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach."







On the sidelines of the Forum, MNC co-hosted a side event with Canada and Denmark on Indigenous Peoples and Legislation. Additionally, MNC supported Métis Nation-Saskatchewan in hosting their side event titled “The Métis Inherent Rights,” which brought international attention to the Île-à-La-Crosse Residential School. Attendance at the Forum created a space to advocate for the priorities of the Métis Nation, engage and build relationships with international partners, and grow Métis international presence.

In July 2023, Métis National Council attended the 16th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). Hosted at the United Nations Human Rights Council, EMRIP is an essential forum for Indigenous Peoples worldwide, providing a platform to discuss challenges, and explore potential solutions in protecting and promoting Indigenous rights. The Session featured important dialogues on the topic of Enhanced Participation, which ensures that Indigenous Peoples are actively involved in decision-making processes that affect the rights of their communities

## **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

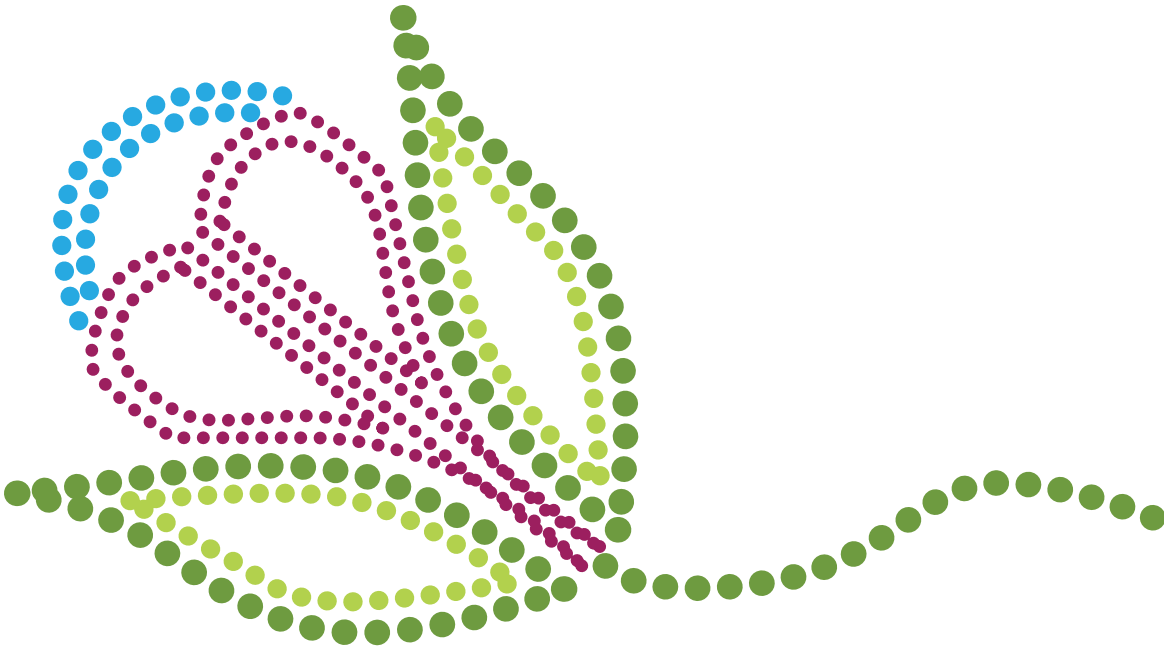
### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

In preparation for the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP28), the MNC Environment and Climate Change Department attended the UN preparatory Climate Conference in Bonn, Germany in June 2023. The conference created a space to build on the mandates that took place at COP27 and discussed issues including global goals

on adaptation, the Global stock take, Loss and Damage, and Climate Finance. The discussions in Bonn have supported the Department as it looks forward to coordinating the second Métis delegation to COP28 in December 2023 which is made up of representatives from all Governing Members.

In October 2023 the MNC sent its first ever delegation to Adaptation Futures in Montreal QC. The delegation featured representatives from each Governing Members Environment Teams as well as Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak; with backgrounds of expertise ranging from community engagement to Métis knowledge and science to emergency management. Delegates brought their voices to several panels focused on elevating Métis voices and highlighting the climate adaptation solutions that our citizens are taking part in across the Homeland. Adaptation Futures brought together climate and adaptation experts from across the globe to discuss how we will adapt to and prepare for the uncertainties and impacts of a changing climate. Métis culture and heritage are deeply rooted in stewardship of the land and the adaptation that our history has required; the Métis Nation delegates at Adaptation Futures were successful in sharing our culture, identity, and the climate adaptation solutions they contain with the world.





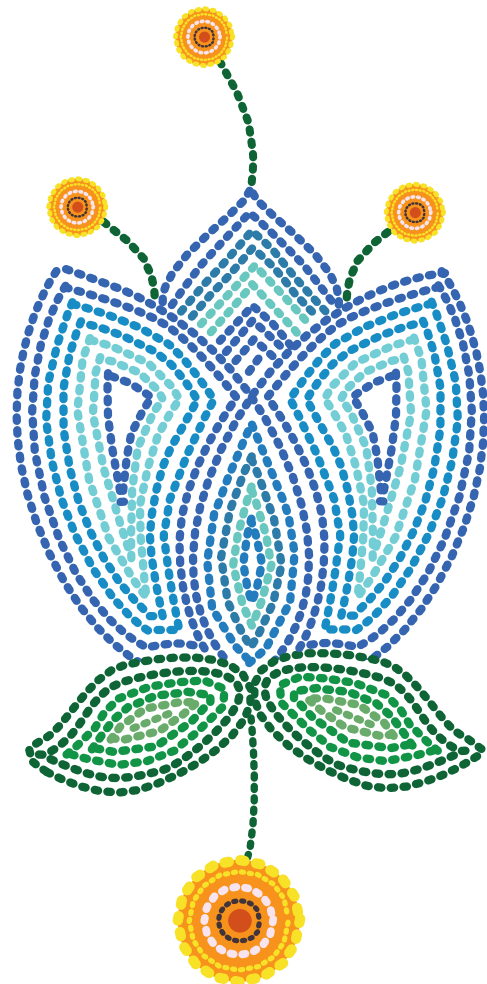
## CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Beginning in December 2022, the Environment and Climate Change team supported Governing Members and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak at the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity Conference of Parties 15 in Montreal QC. The MNC hosted events and had Métis representatives speak at panels throughout the Conference. This was the first time that the MNC sent a delegation that represented each Governing Member which was mostly made up of youth and women.

In March 2023, the Department attended and advocated for the importance of water preservation to the Métis Nation, and Indigenous Peoples more broadly, at the United Nations Water Conference in New York, NY. Water is a part of the Métis Nation's culture and its stewardship in Canada is a priority. In MNC's bilateral with Canada, MNC discussed the need for a more meaningful engagement with Governing Members regarding water governance, the need to co-develop the Canada Water Agency and changes to the Water Act. The Department strongly advocates for the need for long term sustainable funding to support capacity for all the work mentioned above. The Canada Water Agency is in its infancy, and this is an important time to engage with Canada. It is important to work at the national and international levels to make sure there is clean, healthy water and as an essential element, remains available to everyone.

Additionally, in June 2023, the Department coordinated the attendance of the MNC, and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan at the UNEP Global Petlands Initiative held in Québec City,

Québec. Petlands are an incredibly important and culturally significant ecosystem as they support diverse plants and animals which are intrinsically tied to the Métis Nation. The Department successfully articulated this through its participation in the workshop and presentation on a panel. Also in June, the Department attended the Target 3 Partnership meeting in London, England to explore a partnership on implementing the new target to protect 30% of land and water by 2030. As part of panel discussions, the Department shared the incredible work by Governing Members happening across the Métis Homeland to protect lands and waters.



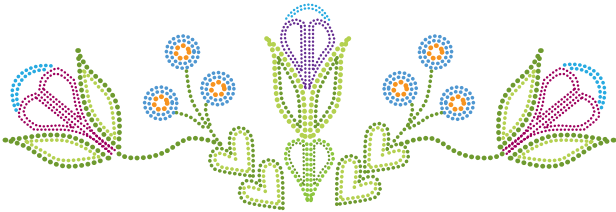


## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

In January 2023, the MNC Economic Development Department facilitated attendance at the Indigenous Business Delegation Mission in Tokyo, Japan. The delegation engaged with Senior Canadian and Japanese Government Officials, Canadian Corporate Leaders, and Japanese Businesses to communicate three key messages: Métis want investment; Métis want economic development, and Métis want to build respectful and long-term relationships with Japanese officials and businesses. Participation in the Mission developed relationships and strategy looking toward international investment into the Métis Nation.

Then, in March 2023, the Department also facilitated Métis participation at the United Kingdom Policy Mission in London, England. The purpose of this Mission was to introduce UK Government Officials and UK Investment Houses to Métis and First Nations perspectives on the intersection of the investment concept of ESG (Environmental, Social, & Corporate Governance) and the mining of critical minerals required to drive growth of green technologies. Continuing to underline the Métis economic landscape and build relationships with international investors, the delegation made strides in driving investment toward Métis, First Nations, and Inuit economies.





# NOTES

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[metisnation.ca](http://metisnation.ca)



[@MNC\\_tweets](https://twitter.com/MNC_tweets)



[@MNCinfo](https://www.youtube.com/@MNCinfo)



[Métis National Council](https://www.facebook.com/MetisNationalCouncil)



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