

Métis Nation British Columbia

A Guide to the Métis Nation British Columbia



Introduction to the Métis Nation British Columbia

MNBC Mandate

Métis Nation British Columbia develops and enhances opportunities for our Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs.

MNBC Vision

Métis Nation British Columbia will build a proud, self-governing, sustainable nation in recognition of inherent rights for our Métis citizens.

Values

Teamwork

Respect

Dedication

Accountability

Integrity

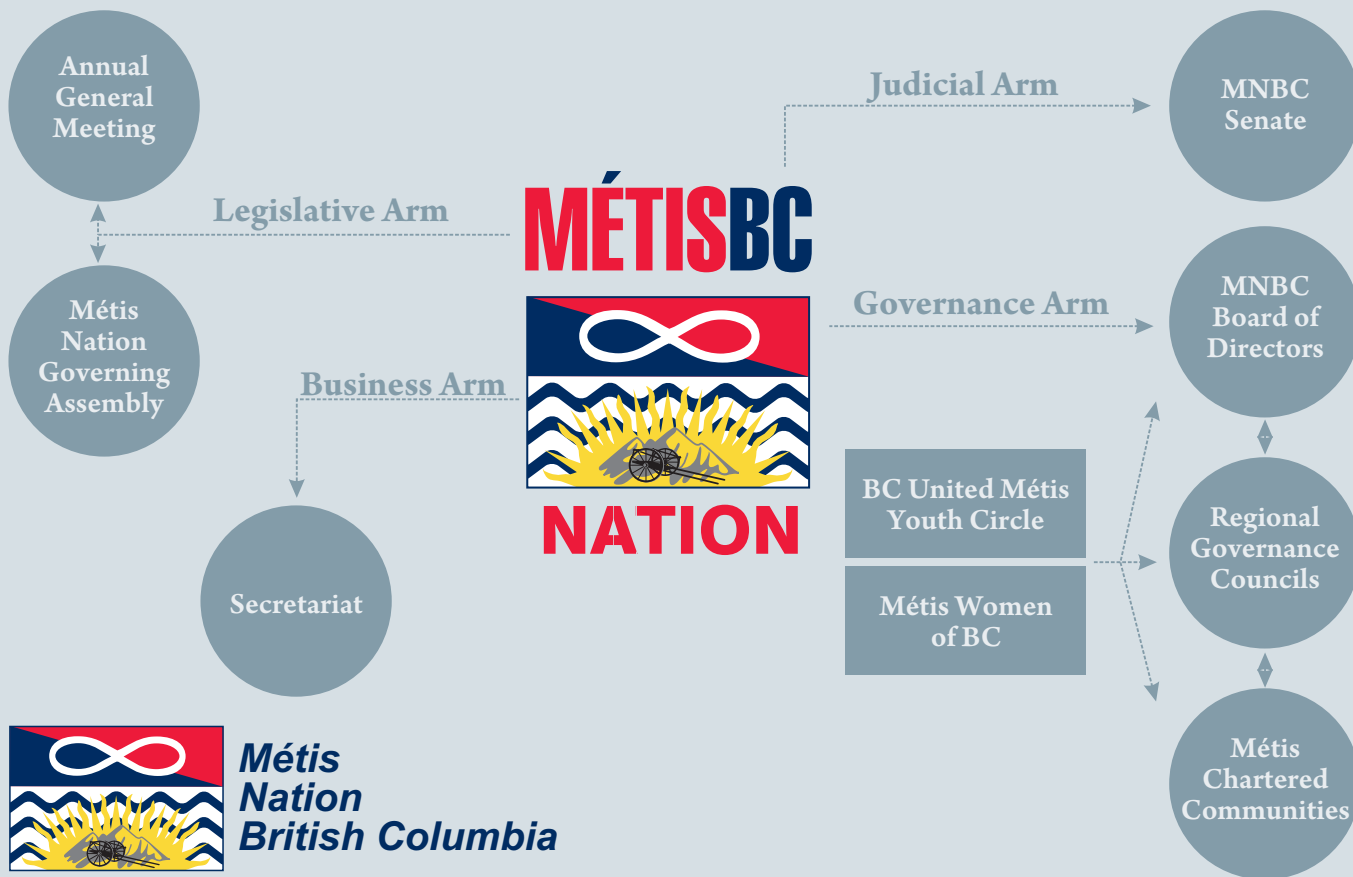
Professionalism

About Us

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) continues to develop a legitimate and accountable governance structure that truly represents the Métis communities and socio-economic issues confronting 59 445 (source 2006 Census) Métis people in British Columbia.

MNBC was created in 1996 and was formally incorporated as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (MPCBC). In 2003 the Métis leadership ratified the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution thereby establishing a new Métis Nation governance structure. Since 2003 the Métis Nation British Columbia leadership has implemented a number of institutions of governance such as the Senate, Métis Nation Governing Assembly, Youth representation, Women's representation, and an objectively verifiable citizenship process.

Presently MNBC has established three levels of Métis Nation Governance; thirty-seven Métis Charter Communities throughout the province, seven Regional Governance Councils, and the MNBC Board of Directors. The development of this Métis Nation governance model has enabled the MNBC to expand and directly impact programs and services provided for Métis people throughout British Columbia. MNBC delivers a variety of programs and services ranging from employment and training, education, health, youth advocacy, plus several others.



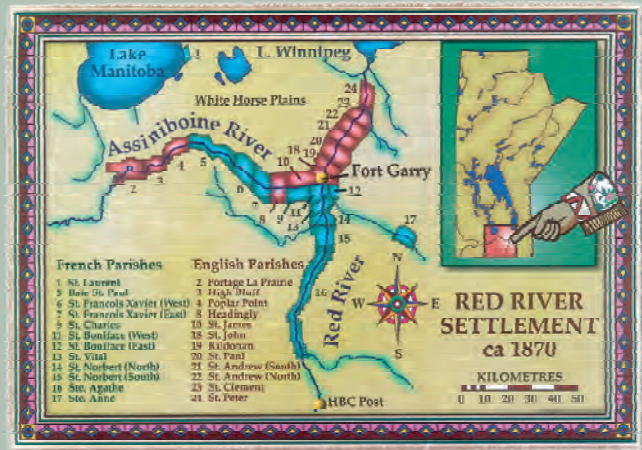
Who are the Métis?

Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

History

Prior to Canada's crystallization as a nation in west central North America the Métis people emerged out of the relations of First Nations women and European men. While the initial offspring of unions were individuals who possessed mixed ancestry, the gradual establishment of distinct Métis communities, outside of First Nation and European cultures and settlements, as well as, the subsequent intermarriages between Métis women and Métis men, resulted in the genesis of a new Aboriginal people - the Métis.

Distinct Métis communities emerged, as an outgrowth of the fur trade, along some parts of the freighting waterways and Great Lakes of Ontario, throughout the Northwest, and as far north as the Mackenzie River. The Métis people and their communities were connected through the highly mobile fur trade network, seasonal rounds, extensive kinship connections and a collective identity (i.e., common culture, language, way of life, etc.). The Métis, as a distinct Aboriginal people, fundamentally shaped Canada's expansion westward through their on-going assertion of their collective identity and rights.



From the Grand Coteau to the Red River resistance to the Battle of Batoche and in other collective actions undertaken throughout the central plans of North America, the Métis made their presence felt. The history and identity of the Métis will forever be a part of Canada's history. Today, the Métis people are alive and well within Canada; and continue to push for the respectful recognition and reconciliation of their Aboriginal rights, and their existence within the Canadian federation.

History of the Métis (BC)

The Métis presence in BC was, as in much of the rest of North America, linked to the introduction of the Fur Trade. As early as the 1790s significant numbers of Métis were present in the Peace River drainage and eastern slopes of the Rockies. Both the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company were active in the area. Of particular importance were bands of Iroquois and Métis freeman operating as independent trappers in the northern parklands of the Athabasca and the eastern slopes. In addition numerous Métis fur trade employees and their families could be found throughout the Columbia (present day southern BC and Washington State) and Athabasca (present day northern BC, Alberta, and Southern NWT) Fur Trading Departments or Districts.

The Eastern Slopes of the Rockies, from Jasper House in the south to Hinton and Lac Ste Anne, to Hudson's Hope and Fort St. John in the North, complex Métis communities lived and ranged across the present day border between BC and Alberta, and formed integral nodes within the contiguous historic Métis Nation homeland. Whitfords, Gladus, Letendres, Beaulieus, Cardinals, Campbells, Lafleurs and many other families stretch across the region today as in the past.

Historical evidence about these communities is more limited than that available from the rest of the Métis Homeland areas due the early and profound unwillingness of first the Colony of BC, and then the Province of BC to recognize Aboriginal rights and title generally, and Métis rights



specifically. When the Treaty Eight Commission and the accompanying “Half-Breed Scrip Commission” traveled through BC and the Northwest Territories at the turn of the 20th Century, the Half-Breed Scrip Commission was not permitted to operate inside BC, and thus a very important source of historical information was lost.

Nonetheless, historical materials from Missionary records (the Oblates), from early census documents, from fur trade records, and from the journals of travelers like the artist Paul Kane paint a compelling picture of Métis people and communities stretching from the Flathead of the Southeastern corner of the province to the Columbia, to the Peace, and to the Fraser and its fertile delta lands in the lower mainland. The picture of the complex patterns of Métis in the province is slowly emerging from the collaborative efforts of scholars, Métis organizations, and Métis families themselves.

Governance

Provincial Board of Directors

This is the provincial level of governance for the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC).

The MNBC Board of Directors consists of eleven members. There are four elected officials that are province-wide ballot box elected: President, Vice-President, Women's Chairperson and Youth Chairperson. The remaining seven members consist of the seven MNBC Regional Directors, who are elected from the seven MNBC regions.

The MNBC Boards of Directors serve the Métis Citizens in two main functions, as an elected voice for their constituency and as a Minister responsible for one or more of the MNBC Ministries.



Governance

Regional Governance Councils

There is one Regional Governance Council (RGC) in each of the MNBC Regions for a total of seven.

The RGC consists of all the region's Métis Chartered Community Presidents, the regional Youth and Women's representatives and the Regional Director, acting as a non-voting chairperson. There are also other regional non-voting participants present at the RGC, for example Captain of Natural Resources (BCMANR), Métis Veterans, the Regional Employment and Training Chairperson (RETC) and the MNBC Senate.

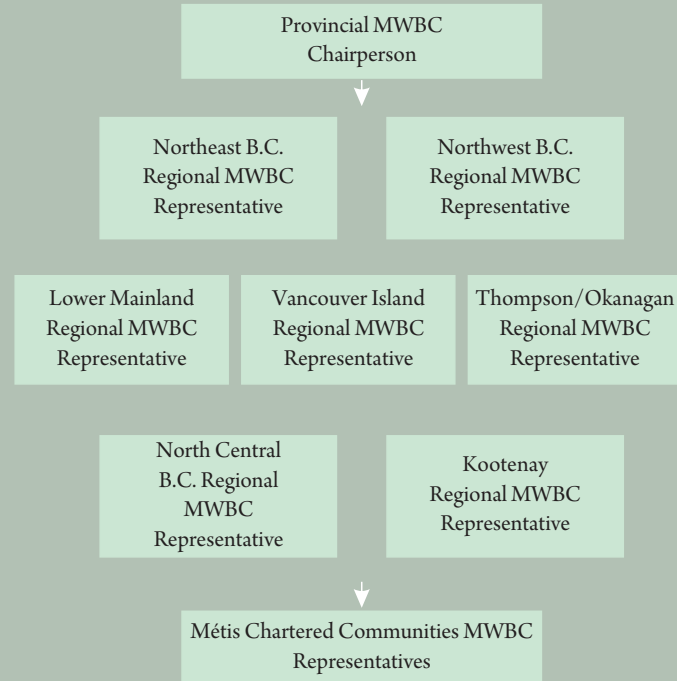
There are two main responsibilities of the RGC. The first is to mandate the direction of the Regional Directors for presentation at the Provincial MNBC Board of Directors. The second is to develop policy that is consistent within the Métis Chartered Communities within their respective regions. The RGC is an important element linking the MNBC Board of Directors and the Métis Chartered Communities.



Métis Women of British Columbia

The Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC) was established as an important institution of governance for the Métis women of British Columbia. The MWBC provides a voice for Métis women in British Columbia and ensures that the needs and priorities of Métis women are integrated into the goals and objectives of the Métis Nation British Columbia.

The MWBC chairperson is recognized by the MNBC Constitution as a voting member of the MNBC Board of Directors and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The seven MWBC regional representatives are included as voting members on the Regional Governance Councils. MWBC community representatives are included in the Métis Chartered Community executives.

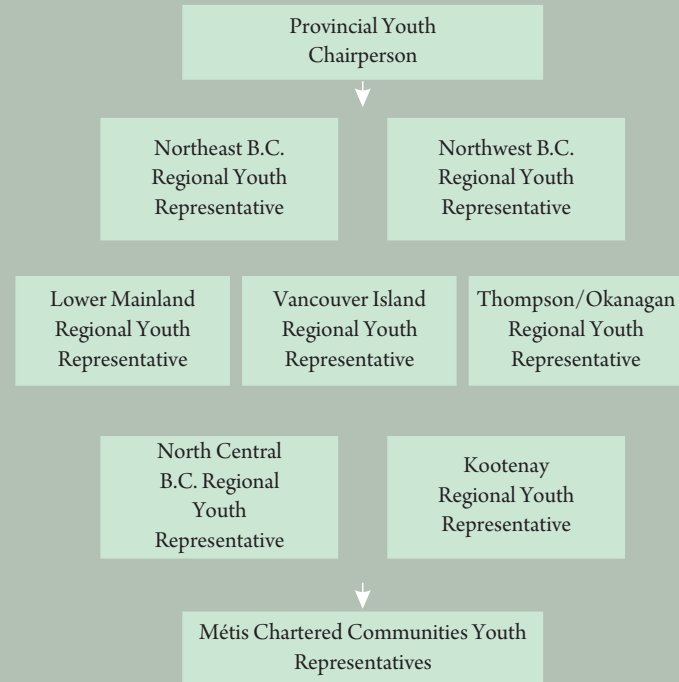


British Columbia

United Métis Youth Circle

The British Columbia United Métis Youth Circle (BCUMYC) is the elected political body for Métis youth in British Columbia and is an integral part of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) governance structure.

The BCUMYC chairperson is recognized by the MNBC Constitution as a voting member of the MNBC Board of Directors and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The seven BCUMYC regional representatives are included as voting members on the Regional Governance Councils. BCUMYC community representatives are included in the Métis Chartered Community executives.



Governance Métis Chartered Community Executives

The Métis Chartered Communities are the foundation of the MNBC governance structure. Typically, a Métis Chartered Community has an Executive that consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two to four Directors. The Métis Chartered Community's President is elected by the Métis Citizens residing within the established boundaries.

The President of the Métis Chartered Community serves several functions within the MNBC Governance structure. First the President represents the political voice for their Métis Chartered Community at the Regional Governance Council. Second the President has a voting seat on the MNBC legislative bodies, the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) and the MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM). Third the President represents their Métis Chartered Community within their respective boundaries on City Councils, School Boards etc.... Fourth they are the chairpersons for their respective Métis Chartered Community Executive. Last the President is accountable to the Métis Chartered Community regarding the corporate and political functions of the community.

A Métis Chartered Community must meet the following criteria in order to be accepted by the MNBC. First there is only one Métis Chartered Community in a geographic location (i.e. city, municipality etc...). Second the Métis Chartered Community must have no less than twenty five Métis Citizens who are eighteen years of age or older. Finally the Métis Chartered

Community must ensure that their bylaws (and constitution where applicable) are consistent with the MNBC Constitution.

The Métis Chartered Community has the Following Responsibilities:

- Support the Political and substantive positions of the MNBC including matters such as Métis citizenship, governance and self-government
- Agrees to participate in the MNGA and comply with the provisions of all MNBC legislation
- Agrees to participate regularly with the Regional Governance Council or agrees to ensure that the Métis Chartered Community bylaws are made consistent with the MNBC Constitution and legislation
- Agrees to submit any and all notices, reports, or concerns through their respective MNBC Regional Director
- Shall develop a privacy policy consistent with the privacy policy of the MNBC

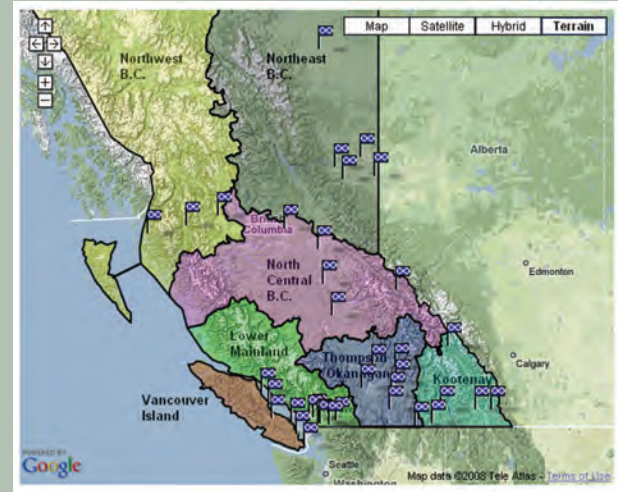
For information on Métis Chartered Community please refer to the MNBC website at <http://www.mnbc.ca>.

Governance

Métis Chartered Communities

Métis Chartered Communities are located in the following communities in British Columbia:

Abbotsford, British Columbia
Burnaby, British Columbia
Campbell River, British Columbia
Chetwynd, British Columbia
Chilliwack, British Columbia
Comox, British Columbia
Cranbrook, British Columbia
Dawson Creek, British Columbia
Duncan, British Columbia
Ferne, British Columbia
Fort Nelson, British Columbia
Fort St. James, British Columbia
Fort St. John, British Columbia
Golden, British Columbia
Grand Forks, British Columbia
Hudson's Hope, British Columbia
Kamloops, British Columbia
Kelowna, British Columbia
Langley, British Columbia
Merritt, British Columbia
Nanaimo, British Columbia
Nelson, British Columbia
Penticton, British Columbia
Port Alberni, British Columbia



Prince George, British Columbia
Prince Rupert, British Columbia
Quesnel, British Columbia
Salmon Arm, British Columbia
Smithers, British Columbia
Surrey, British Columbia
Terrace, British Columbia
Trail, British Columbia
Valemount, British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia
Vernon, British Columbia
Victoria, British Columbia
Williams Lake, British Columbia

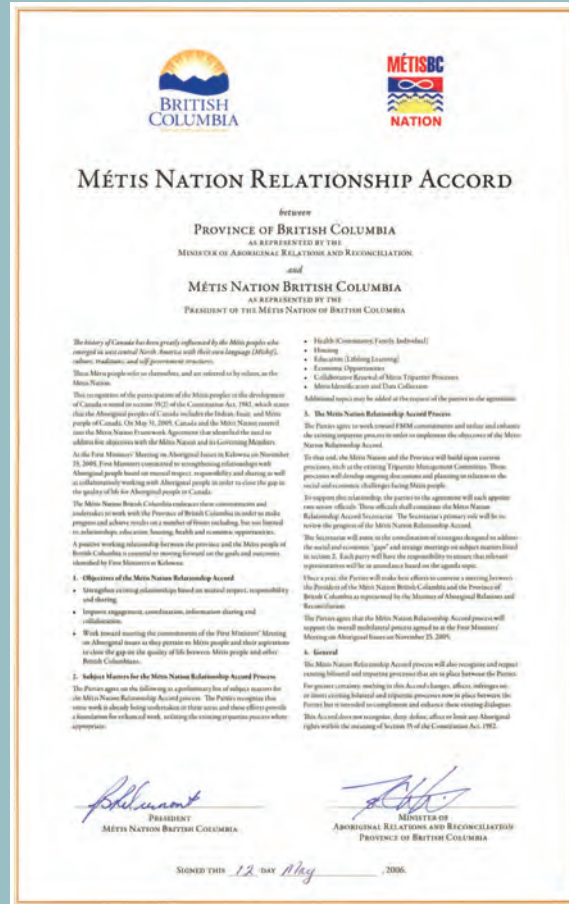
Métis Nation Relationship Accord

MNBC achieved historic success in 2006 with the signing of the Métis Nation Relationship Accord (MNRA) with the Provincial Government In British Columbia. The MNRA provides a framework for the Province of British Columbia and MNBC to strengthen existing relationships, especially the Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations (TSN) Process, and to move collaboratively forward together to close the gap in the quality of life of Métis relative to Non-Aboriginal residents of British Columbia.

The Accord has three principles of engagement:

- Strengthen existing relationships based on mutual respect, responsibility and sharing;
- Improve engagement, coordination, information sharing, and collaboration; and
- Work toward meeting the commitments of the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues as they pertain to Métis people and their aspirations to close the gap on the quality of life between Métis people and other British Columbians.

The Accord defines the following objectives: Health, Housing, Education, Economic Development, renewal of the Tripartite process, Métis Identification, and Data collection.





BRITISH COLUMBIA is a place defined by its history, diversity and people. In recognition of the important role the Métis people play in our province, its past, present and future, the Province of British Columbia and the Métis Nation of British Columbia come together on this day, May 12, 2006, to sign a new accord that commits us all to strengthen our relationship and improve the quality of life of the Métis people of our province.

We recognize our shared responsibility and desire to ensure that all British Columbians have the opportunity to participate fully in, and benefit from, the prosperity and opportunities created in a united and strong British Columbia. We do this in the spirit of respect, recognition and renewal that reflects the true nature, heart and vision of the people and communities of this province.

PREMIER GORDON CAMPBELL

HONOURABLE TOM CHRISTENSEN
MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS
AND RECONCILIATION

The Métis Nation Relationship Accord

The Accord proposes to use the existing Tripartite process wherever appropriate to work on a number of subject matters, a preliminary list of which is set out in the Accord: Health, Housing, Education, Economic Opportunities; Collaborative Renewal of Tripartite Processes and Métis Identification and Data Collection. A Métis Nation Relationship Accord Secretariat is established to review progress of the Accord; and a commitment is made for the President of MNBC and the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to meet at least once a year. MNBC has implemented a number of planning activities with the Métis citizens and communities in British Columbia based on the objectives in the Accord. Since May, 2006 MNBC has completed a number of community consultations, the Métis Nation British Columbia Provincial Survey to create base line data, and developed a five-year strategy to meet the objectives of the Accord. Based on the planning process the Métis Nation Governing Assembly Members mandated a revised five-year process in March 2007.

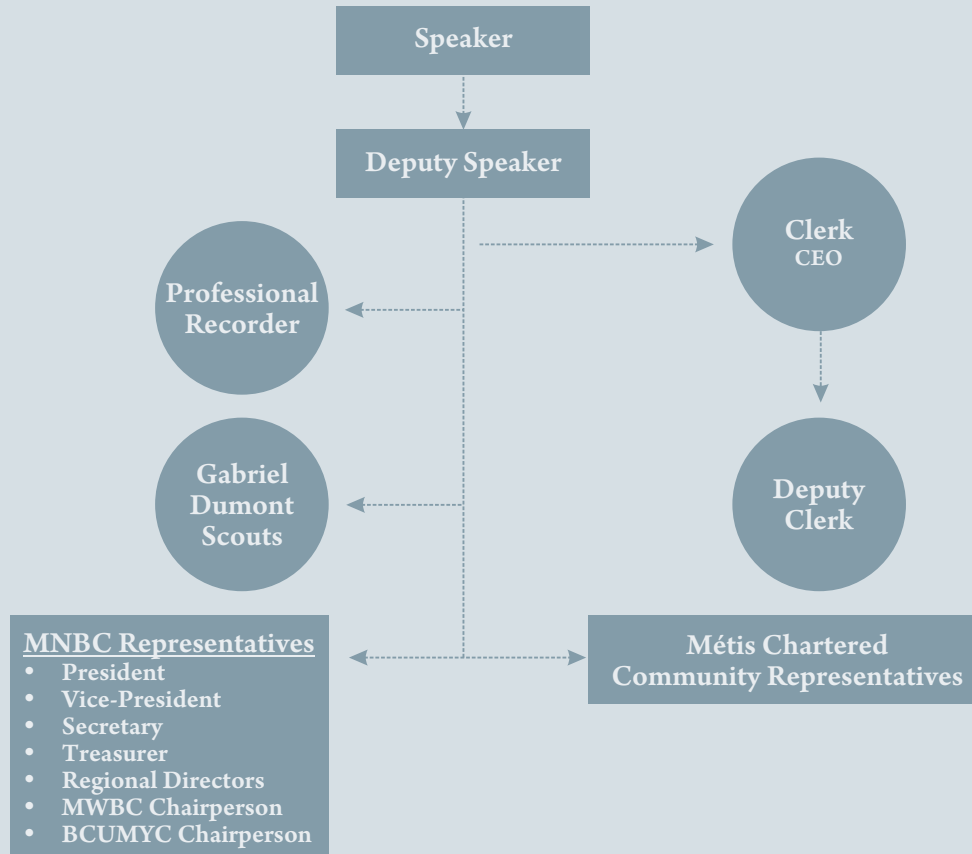
Legislative Process:

Métis Nation Governing Assembly

The Métis Nation Governing Assembly, also known as the MNGA, is the legislative body of the Métis Nation British Columbia.

MNGA is comprised of the elected Presidents or Vice-Presidents of the Métis Chartered Communities, the elected Regional Directors of MNBC, the elected President and Vice-President of the MNBC, the elected Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and the elected Youth Chairperson of the British Columbia United Métis Youth Circle. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly reviews and ratifies legislation, regulations, rules, resolutions and constitutional amendments for presentation and final ratification at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly also has the authority to appoint Commissions, Committees or other subsidiary bodies, where they are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out their legislative duties. The agenda for each AGM includes an Audited Financial Report for the previous Fiscal Year, the President's Report for the previous Fiscal Year, and any Business of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.





Legislative Process

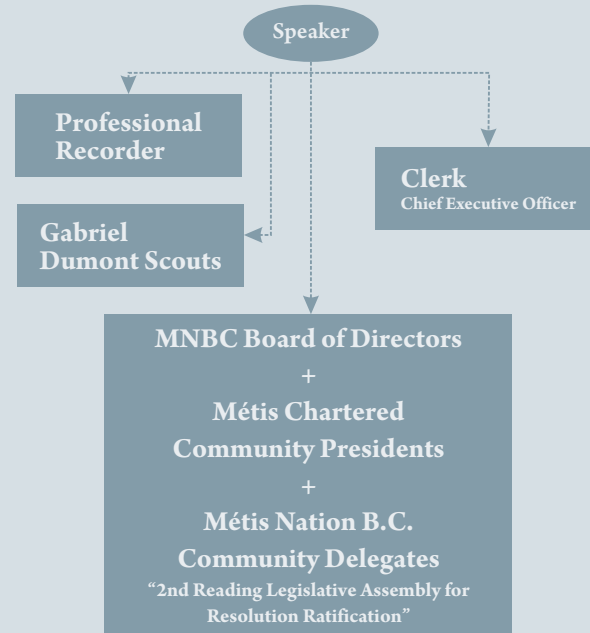
MNBC Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting, also known as the AGM, is the second step in the Métis Nation British Columbia's legislative body.

Officially, it is a second reading Legislative Assembly, where the ratification of the resolutions passed at the previous Métis Nation Governing Assemblies is held. The AGM is comprised of Community Delegates, Regional Leaders, Provincial Leaders, and the Métis Citizens of British Columbia and is held once a year in September.

The agenda for each AGM includes:

- Audited Financial Report for Previous Fiscal Year
- The President's Report for Previous Fiscal Year
- Business of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly





Legislation

Métis Nation Constitution

The Métis Nation Constitution was implemented in September 2003.

The Founding Principles outlined in the Constitution are:

1. The Métis Nation is distinct within the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The Métis are distinct from First Nations and Inuit and are the descendants of the historic Métis who evolved as a people with a common political will and consciousness.
2. Having experienced physical and political conflict and being deprived of property in the late 1800's, we are still engaged in a continuing struggle to rebuild our government and revive our cultural heritage and pride. As such, we are striving for the political, legal and constitutional recognition and guarantees of the rights of Métis people, including the right to a land and resource base, self-governance and self-government institutions. In order to achieve these objectives we are hereby re-establishing a strong and revitalized government within the province of British Columbia, which involves all sectors of Métis society.
3. In accordance with Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the Métis people are an Aboriginal people within Canada whose existing Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed.

The Constitution establishes the governing bodies of the Senate, Chartered Communities as well as the makeup of the MNBC Organization and Board, and outlines the Métis Nation Governing Assembly and the Annual General Meeting. It also defines the seven Governing Regions in BC, what constitutes Citizenship, and an outline of the Métis Nation's Electoral processes.

Legislation

Citizenship Act

The Citizenship Act was passed in 2005 for the purpose of a Métis Citizens Objectively Verifiable Process. The Citizenship Act outlines the Métis Citizenship application process, regulated the conditions needed for citizenship and outlines the citizenship process. The act specifically outlines the following:

- Defines Métis Citizenship
- Develops and outlines the Citizenship Application and Registration Processes
- Outlines the information and documentation required by the MNBC Central Registry
- Provides the process for removal from the registry, challenges to current citizens and a Citizenship Appeal process



Legislation

Electoral Act

The Electoral Act was established in 2007 in order to provide fair, open, transparent and democratic procedures and rules for MNBC General Elections. The Electoral Act outlines all proceedings of the General Election, including but not limited to, the following:

- Setting of Election Dates
- The roles of the Chief Electoral Officer, Returning Officer, Scrutineers, and Poll Clerk
- Electors
- Procedures regarding:
Nominations, acclamation, withdrawal and death of Candidates
- Voters and Voter lists
- Vacant seats
- Voting Procedures
- Maintenance and management of Polling Stations
including materials and personnel
- Conduct at the polls
- Announcement of Results
- Re-counts and Appeals



Legislation

Senate Act

The Senate is the judicial arm of MNBC. The Senate Act was passed in 2005 and is the legislation that governs the role of the Senate. The Senate Act legislates the Senates responsibilities such as Mediation, Citizenship Appeals, and Ceremonial Duties. The Senate Act includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Mandate and powers of the Senate
- Eligibility requirements and process for the appointment of Senators
- Terms of office and process for removal of Senators
- Guidelines for protocol, code of ethics and standards of conduct
- The parameters and duties of Senate appeals committees
- Voting procedures



Legislation

Natural Resource Act

The purpose of the Natural Resource Act is to provide governance for the management, perpetuation and rehabilitation of renewable natural resources in British Columbia, and to establish and maintain populations of Flora and Fauna consistent with all other proper uses of lands and waters. The Natural Resource Act addresses a number of legislation for the Métis Nation and seeks to accomplish the following:

- The development of a Métis specific Consultation Guideline
- Establishes principles of those guidelines
- Identifies the requirements for the MNBC to meaningfully participate
- Outlines an approval and decision making authority process for the MNBC
- Ensures a combination of western-based science and
- Métis traditional knowledge is incorporated into all guidelines



Métis Community Governance Charter

This Charter is an affiliation agreement between the Métis Chartered Communities and the Métis Nation British Columbia.

This Charter recognizes and defines the responsibilities and accountability of Métis Chartered Communities. The Métis Community Governance Charter requires support of MNBC citizenship policies and governance. Participation in the legislative process such as the MNGA, AGM and Regional Governance Councils and communication through the Regional Director are also required.

The Métis Community Governance Charter also recognizes MNBC's responsibility to respect the autonomy of the Métis Chartered Communities and ensures the Métis Chartered Communities needs are considered in the decision making process.

The Métis Community Governance Charter describes the following:

- Métis Chartered Community Responsibilities
- MNBC Responsibilities
- Accountability of each party
- Dispute resolution process (where required)
- Amendment and Termination clause



Métis Nation British Columbia – Citizenship Definition

“Métis / Michif / Apeetha’kosian” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation British Columbia.

History of the MNBC Registry

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Centralized Registry (Registry) was introduced approximately two years ago, and the Registry is compiling a database of Métis Citizens.

Dr. Mike Evans of the University of British Columbia is currently assisting the Registry with Métis history, and compiling Métis ancestral history in British Columbia. After the Powley decision the importance of having a Métis registry to identify those Section 35 rights holders became apparent. The purpose of Section 35 is to protect practices that were historically important features of these distinctive Métis communities and that persist in the contemporary Métis community and is an integral element of the Métis culture.

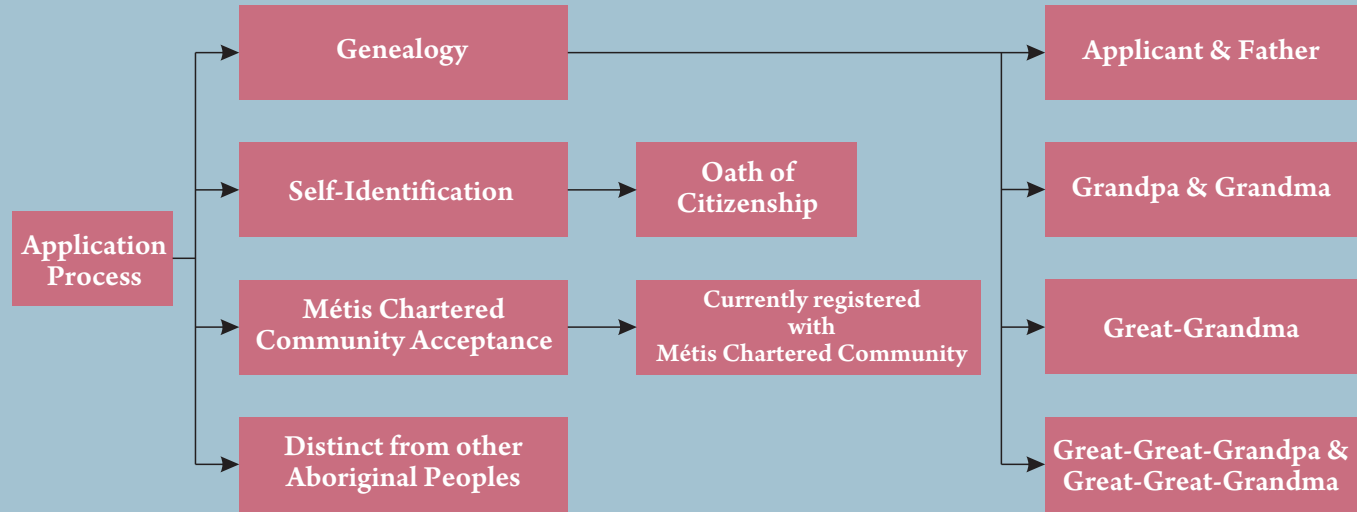
Prior to the Powley decision, Métis identification was community driven however the significance of this was simply to define membership. The inclusion of Métis in Section 35 was never defined until the Powley decision came to fruition. This decision not only defined who the Métis were in

Section 35 but also affirmed that the specific collective identified had an aboriginal right. The Powley decision also spoke about the urgent need to develop more systematic method in identifying Métis rights holders.

In answer to government claims about Métis identification problems, the Court said that this issue was not an insurmountable problem and that the difficulties must not be exaggerated in order to defeat Métis claims. Basically, there had to be a standardized process that was “objectively verifiable”. The Court did not develop a comprehensive definition for Métis. It did, however, develop the basic means to identify a Métis rights-holder. The Court identified three broad-factors, those being; self-identification, ancestral connection to the historic Métis community, and community acceptance.

The reason the Courts did not establish a comprehensive definition is that all aboriginal rights are collective; therefore it would be the collective that would develop the final definition. Thus, the Métis National Council and the Governing Members acted as the collective and achieved the Section 35 definition for Métis. The MNBC Centralized Registry is the “objectively verifiable process” that enforces the collective voice of the Métis throughout the Homeland.

The “Objectively Verifiable Process”



Identifies applicant as a Section 35 Métis Rights holder through an “objectively verifiable process”

Citizenship and Central Registry Frequently Asked Questions



How is Métis identity and citizenship established in the Métis Nation British Columbia?

Métis identity is verified through Métis ancestry. By providing your genealogy with supporting documentation, we are able to determine if you qualify for citizenship.

Where do I apply for citizenship?

Citizenship applications packages are available on our website at www.mnbc.ca or by contacting the regional registry clerk in your region.

How long do I have to wait to receive my card if my application is approved?

The application processing time is approximately 12 months. The MNBC processes thousands of applications and the genealogical information must be verified for each applicant. This process can be expedited by ensuring that all information required is accurate and complete.

I lost my card, can it be replaced?

Yes. You can request a replacement card application and pay the \$ 10.00 fee to have your card reissued.

Does my card need to be renewed?

Yes. Your card will need to be updated every 5 years. Children's cards may need to be updated sooner i.e. If your child was 14 years old when they received a card, and they now are 16 or older, they will need to update their card.

Citizenship and Central Registry

Frequently Asked Questions

One of my parents is Caucasian and the other is a status Indian. Does that make me Métis?

No. You will have to apply and prove your Métis ancestry.

If my parents have already applied, should I still send in my application?

Yes. If your parent(s) have citizenship cards but you have not made your own application, you will not be processed as a citizen of the Métis Nation.

I have applied for my citizenship, but, I have moved. What do I do?

If you are still living in British Columbia please contact the registrar's office to update your citizenship information.

If my parent is a Métis Nation British Columbia citizen and signed a declaration of parentage form on my behalf, will I still need to send in a long form birth certificate or baptismal record with my application?

Yes. Effective June 25, 2007 all new applicants must submit a long form birth certificate or a baptismal record even if their parent signed a declaration of parentage form as this declaration is no longer accepted documentation. If your application was already in progress on this date, you will be exempt from this requirement.

How do I get an INAC screening form as they cannot be downloaded from the website?

Please contact the regional registry clerk in your region.

If I have already submitted my application for citizenship do I still have to complete the INAC screening form?

Yes. All applicants, including current card-holding citizens will be screened through the Indian Registration & Band list Program at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

How will the existing applicants and current citizens be screened through the Indian Registration and Band list program?

The Métis Nation British Columbia registry will be contacting all current applicants and present citizens via mail to forward them a copy of the new INAC screening form. Please ensure your contact information is current information.

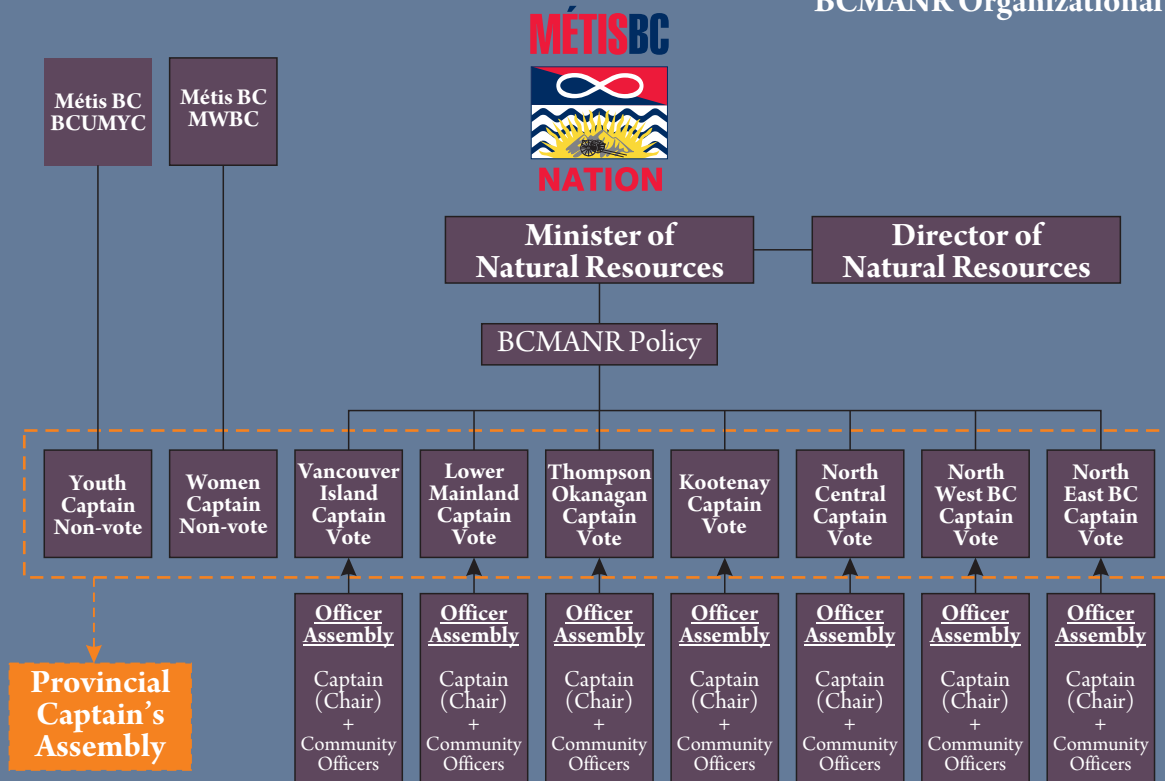
British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources

British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR) is a policy committee that consists of Métis land-users and knowledge holders that provide conservation and management support to the MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources. BCMANR was established to provide policy to support the cultural and subsistence needs of the Métis citizens in British Columbia. The objectives of BCMANR have been established through community engagement and natural resource programs provided to the Métis communities.

BCMANR has established a provincial policy committee that includes representatives from Métis communities. This includes a BCMANR Officer who is appointed by the Métis Chartered Communities and seven Regional Captains who compose the Métis Ministry of Natural Resources Committee.



BCMANR Organizational Structure



Senate

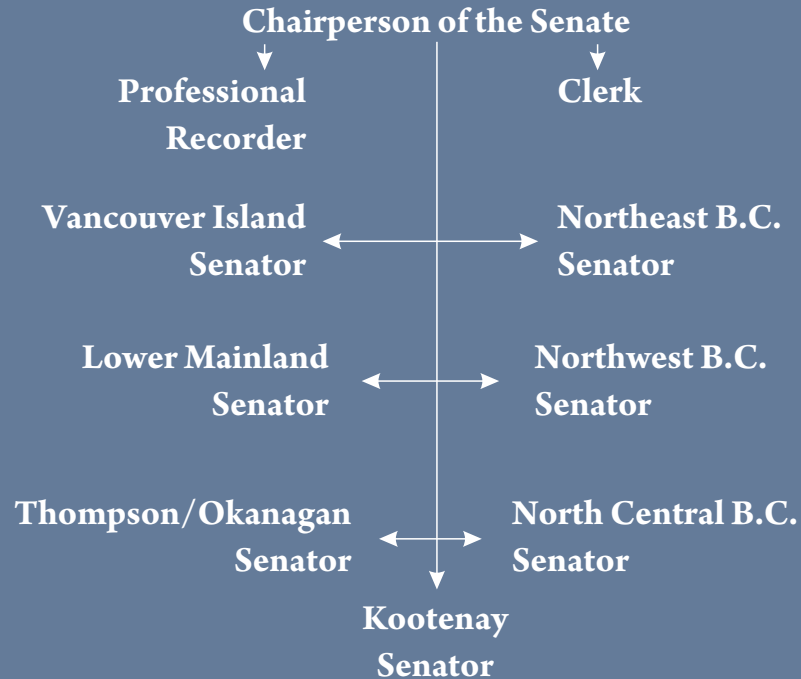
Each of the seven MNBC Regional Governance Councils appoints an individual to represent their judicial needs on the Senate. These appointments are non-political and represent the judicial arm of the MNBC.

The terms, code of conduct, and authority/responsibilities of a Senator are defined in accordance with the Senate Act.





Senate Composition

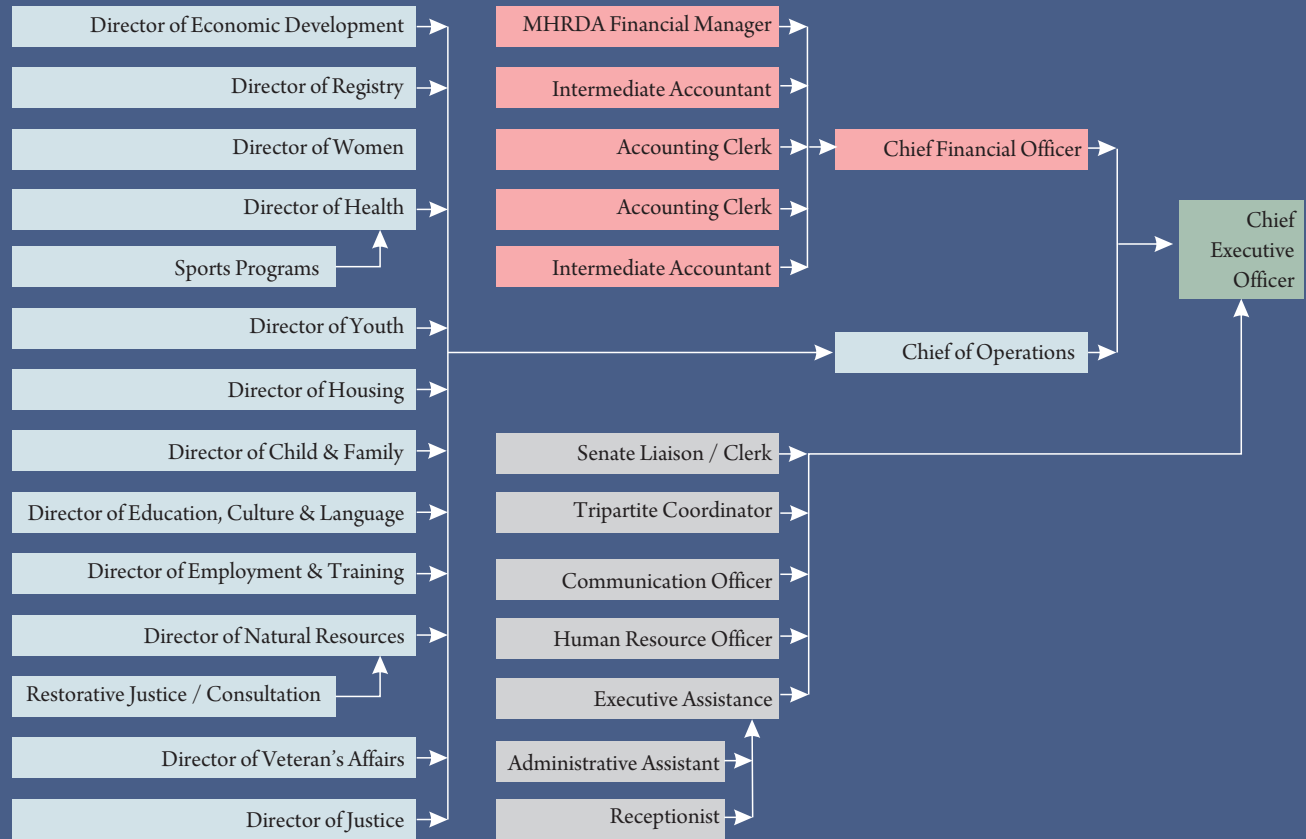


MNBC Ministries

The MNBC has designed their business structure after the provincial and federal government systems. The employment of the Ministry system helps the government, industry and public sectors to better understand the day-to-day operations of the MNBC. The MNBC has developed various Ministries such as:

- Ministry of Child and Family
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Language
- Ministry of Employment and Training
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Housing
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of Registry
- Ministry of Veteran Affairs
- Ministry of Women
- Ministry of Youth

Each MNBC Ministry has one member of the Board of Directors assigned that acts as a Minister or political voice for the Ministry (i.e. Minister Responsible for Economic Development, etc ...). The MNBC also hires one staff member to act in the role of Director or Senior Staff member (i.e. Director of Health, Director of Education, etc...). This individual is directly in charge of the operations and development of their respective Ministry. To ensure cohesion amongst the various Ministries the MNBC has established a Chief Staff level, which consists of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and the Chief of Operations. These members are ultimately responsible for all business operations of the MNBC and work directly with the provincial Board of Directors and the Senior Staff (Directors).



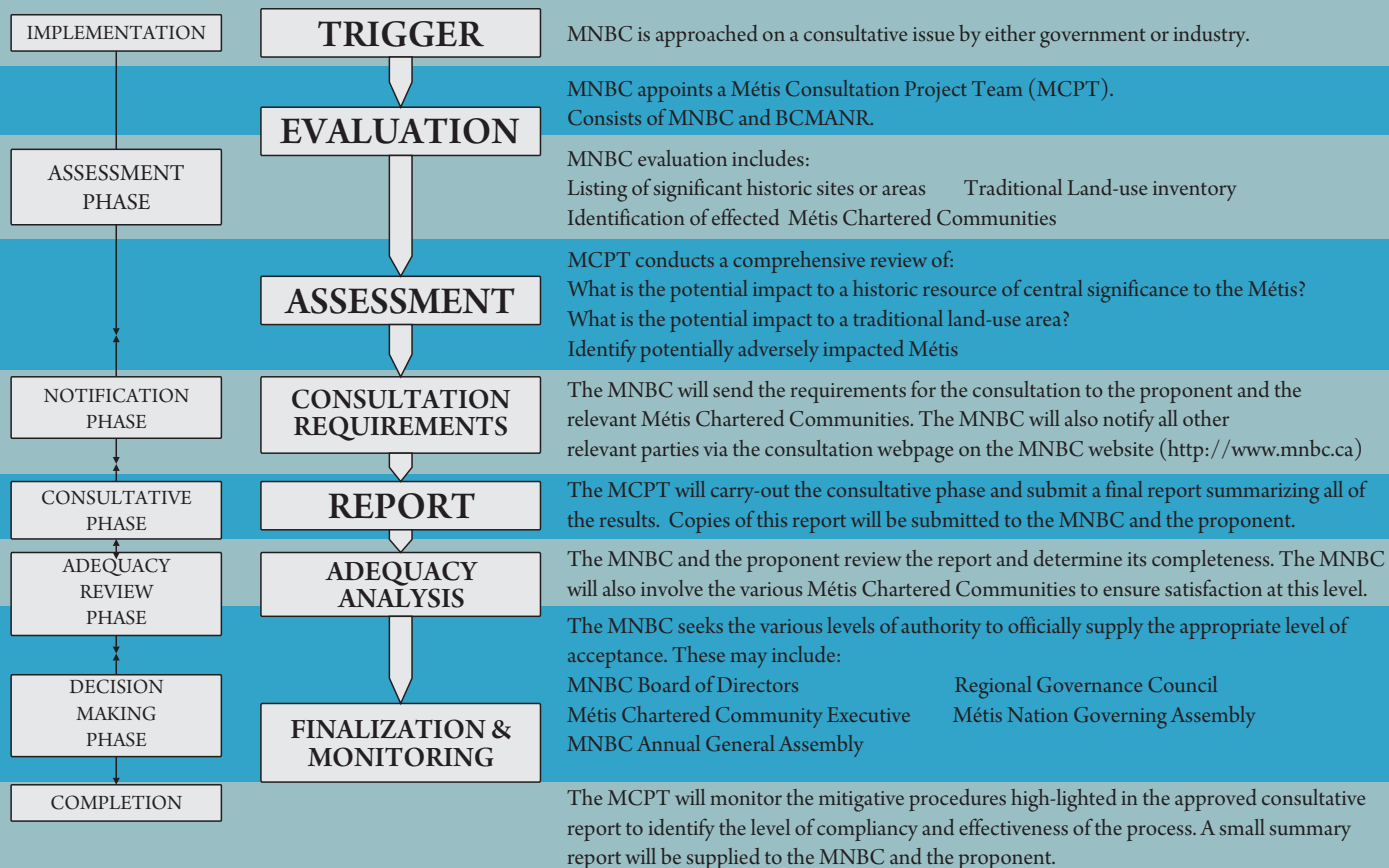
Consultation

Through a desire to implement a practical and efficient consultation process, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) has developed a policy framework and guidelines intended to provide procedures to carry out Métis consultation.

The consultative process instituted by MNBC aims to implement a practical consultation process that avoids or minimizes impacts on Métis lifestyles and traditional land-uses and creates greater certainty. The consultation process also seeks to encourage strong relationships, communication, and easier resolution of issues between industry, government, and Métis.

When MNBC is approached on a consultative issue by either government or industry, a Métis Consultation Project Team (MCPT) is formed from members of MNBC and BCMANR. The MCPT is responsible for conducting a comprehensive evaluation of potential impacts to Métis Chartered Communities, traditional land-use and historic sites. Upon completion of MCPT assessment, MNBC will contact the proponent and impacted Métis Chartered Communities with requirements for consultation, while providing public notification via the consultation page via the MNBC website (<http://www.mnbc.ca>).

The consultative phase is completed through the submission of a final summary report. Following an analysis of the report by the proponent, MNBC and impacted Métis Chartered Communities, acceptance of the proposed course of action will be supplied by the appropriate level of MNBC authority: MNBC Board of Directors; Regional Governance Council; Métis Chartered Community Executive; Métis Nation Governing Assembly; or MNBC Annual General Assembly. Once approval has been supplied by MNBC, MCPT will monitor the procedures of mitigation defined by the consultative report to ensure the effectiveness of the process.



Research

Métis Nation British Columbia and Dr Mike Evans, World's Indigenous Peoples Canada Research Chair and Associate Professor at The University of British Columbia have continued to be committed to pursuing research on the contemporary and historical presence of the Métis in British Columbia. This partnership has been facilitated through the key elements of the MNBC research agenda, which are focused on linking historical and community based research in ways that complement the work of the MNBC Citizenship Registry and other MNBC departments. Current research has included the development of the MNBC Historical Document Database, Harvester and Land-Use surveys, the creation of a MNBC DVD series, and an integrated Google Mapping initiative.

The MNBC Historical Document Database

The MNBC Historical Document Database provides access to thousands of historical documents including photos, Hudson's Bay Company records, Church missionary records, and personal accounts through an online, searchable interface. The documents have been indexed according to their source, internal references such as subject or family name, and geographic locations. The database is linked with the MNBC Registry activity through their collection and database of primary historical documents. These documents, alongside secondary materials and other primary historical documents are uploaded and downloaded by MNBC Staff and Citizens, creating a two way reciprocal flow of information. Documents are then spatialized using Google Maps in order to help demonstrate historical Métis presence in British Columbia.

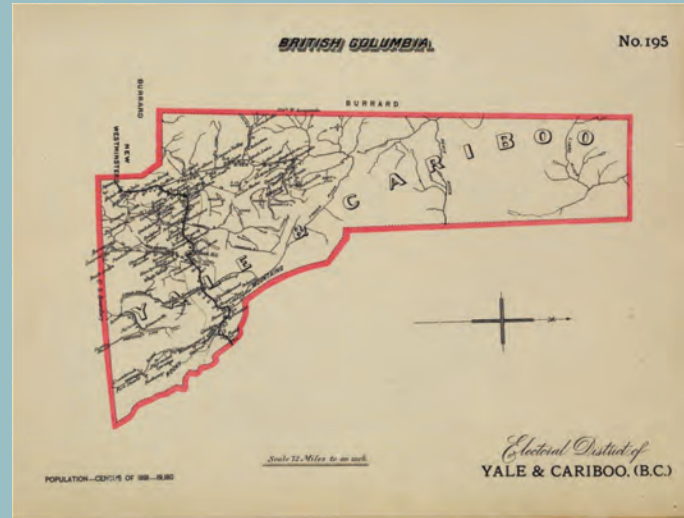


The BC Métis Harvester Survey and Mapping

Métis harvesters throughout British Columbia have been surveyed in order to better understand the scope and density of Métis harvesting practices. The data gained through community-based interviews with land users has been used to generate maps to visually demonstrate past and present harvesting activities. With the help of local Métis leadership, documentation of the extent of historical Métis harvesting activities is ongoing. Detailed information on various animal and plant species has also been documented and mapped. Harvesting practices linking multiple generations of families has also been surveyed and mapped, in order to understand how harvesting practices and traditional knowledge are passed on.

Métis DVD Project

MNBC and UBC have been working together on the creation of an interactive DVD series about the History and Culture of Métis in BC. This series provides an innovative DVD that features a number of distinct strands about Métis history, culture, elder life histories, dance and harvesting. An integral part of the DVD is the extensive community involvement in all stages of the process. The DVD has been developed for use in high schools and communities across BC.



The Powley Story

On October 22, 1993, father and son, Steve and Roddy Powley killed a bull moose just outside Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. They tagged their catch with a Métis card and a note that read "harvesting my meat for winter". One week later, the Powleys were charged by Conservation Officers for hunting moose without a license and unlawful possession of moose contrary to Ontario's Game and Fish Act.

The Métis Nation of Ontario decided to take the charges against the Powleys as a test case and provided full political and financial support throughout its duration. At the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, the Métis National Council, on behalf of the entire Métis Nation, intervened in support of the case and provided financial support. In 1998, the trial judge ruled that the Powleys have a Métis right to hunt that is protected by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The charges were dismissed, but the Crown appealed the decision. In January 2000, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice confirmed the trial decision and dismissed the Crown's appeal. The Crown appealed the decision to the Ontario Court of Appeal. On February 23, 2001 the Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the earlier decisions and confirmed that the Powleys have an Aboriginal right to hunt as Métis.

The Crown then appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. On September 19, 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada, in a unanimous judgment, said that the Powleys, as members of the Sault Ste Marie Métis community, can exercise a Métis right to hunt that is protected by Section 35.

What the Supreme Court Said

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed the existence of Métis communities in Canada and the constitutional protection of their existing Aboriginal rights. The Court said that the Métis were included as one of the "aboriginal peoples of Canada" in Section 35 to recognize them, to value distinctive Métis cultures, and to enhance their survival.

Specifically, the Court set out the test for establishing Métis harvesting rights protected by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Court applied this test to the Sault Ste Marie Métis community and to the Powleys and found that the Powleys were exercising the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community's constitutionally protected right to hunt. However, this does not mean that the case is limited in its application only to the Sault Ste Marie Métis community. The test will apply to Métis communities across the Métis Nation Homeland.

The Court also spoke about the urgent need to develop more systematic methods to identify Métis rights-holders. In answer to government claims about Métis identification problems, the Court said that this issue was not an insurmountable problem and that the difficulties must not be exaggerated in order to defeat Métis claims.

The Powley Test

1. Characterization of the right
2. Identification of the historic rights bearing community
3. Identification of the contemporary rights bearing community
4. Verification of membership in the contemporary community
5. Identification of the relevant time
6. Was the practice integral to the claimant's distinctive culture?
7. Continuity between the historic practice and the contemporary right
8. Extinguishment
9. Infringement
10. Justification





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- MNBC Board of Directors
- The Senate
- Métis Chartered Communities
- Métis Women of British Columbia
- British Columbia United Métis Youth Circle
- British Columbia Assembly of Natural Resources
- MNBC Ministries
- Provincial Employment and Training Committee
- MNBC Governance and Policy Committees

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