

**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Position on the Alberta-Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim,
filed October 16, 2019**

- On March 1, 1994, under the guidance and leadership of Gerald Morin, former MNS President and current MNS Vice-President, a claim for parts of the Métis homeland in Northern Region II and Northern Region III was filed at the Saskatchewan Court of Queen’s Bench. (the “**1994 Action**”)
- The 1994 Action was filed on behalf of the Métis against the Canadian government. The claim demands the Canadian government make a declaration that recognizes Métis title and right to the possession, occupation, use, and benefit of our homeland. The 1994 land claim sent an important message to Canada: the Métis people’s title and rights to their homeland were never extinguished nor surrendered.
- The Plaintiffs for to the 1994 Land Claim are individually named Métis local presidents, Métis elders, Métis senators, the MNS, the MNC, and the Métis Society of Saskatchewan Inc. (the predecessor to the MNS Secretariat Inc.).
 - The Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Council is not a named party in the 1994 Land Claim and has no legal standing in the Action.
- The 1994 Land Claim did not see any movement for many years. However, the current MNS government has diligently continued its efforts to advance the 1994 Land Claim and Métis aboriginal rights in Saskatchewan.
- The Framework Agreement, signed with Canada in July 2018, explicitly names the 1994 Land Claim as a priority at the negotiating table between Canada and the MNS.
- Since the signing of the Framework Agreement, the MNS has made clear to Canada in its negotiations that the 1994 Land Claim is one of MNS’s top priorities. Canada and the MNS have set up a land claim negotiations side-table to explicitly address the 1994 Land Claim and any other Métis claims in Saskatchewan.
- Most recently, in 2019, the MNS and Canada signed the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement. This Agreement is an important milestone—the affirmation of Métis people’s inherent right to self-government and the recognition of the MNS as the Métis people’s government in Saskatchewan is a big step forward toward achieving the goals of the 1994 Land Claim.
- We’re confident the new Liberal government will continue to be an excellent partner at the MNS-Canada negotiations table and will support our work toward a resolution of the 1994 Land Claim.
- On October 16, 2019, Mr. Clement Chartier filed an action in federal court against the government of Canada for a land claim which spans parts of northwest Saskatchewan

and Northern Alberta. (the “**2019 Claim**”) The 2019 Claim includes the area encompassed in the 1994 Action.

- The individual plaintiffs of the 2019 Claim are made up of Métis from both Saskatchewan and Alberta, as well as two Saskatchewan Métis communities and Seven Alberta Métis Communities.
- The MNS was not consulted or advised that the 2019 Claim was being filed and notes that there are numerous legal issues with the 2019 Claim.
- We consider the claim to be adverse in interest to the MNS and all its Citizens as it covers much of the same area of the 1994 action and includes Alberta in what is a uniquely Saskatchewan claim. In addition, the 1994 claim is an issue the MNS has already begun to negotiate with Canada outside of the courts. The interference of the 2019 Claim could put all the good will the MNS has worked hard to build with Canada in jeopardy.
- The MNS will not back down and continue to work tirelessly for its Citizens in its negotiations with Canada to ensure our 1994 Land Claim is recognized.