



Métis Nation
of Ontario 

March 10, 2020

Government of Canada
Justice Building, Room 106
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Attention: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Crown-Indigenous
Relations

Dear Minister Bennett:

Re: Métis National Council Governance

We are writing on behalf of the Citizens and governments of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the “**MNS**”), Métis Nation of Alberta (“**MNA**”) and the Métis Nation of Ontario (“**MNO**”) regarding the Métis National Council’s (the “**MNC**”) continued lack of transparency and accountability.

The governance of the MNC is not just an internal matter. The recent actions of the MNC have national implications and directly affect how federal funding for Métis Citizens across Canada is distributed and utilized.

We are sure you are aware, the MNC is a corporation, with its membership consisting of the MNC’s three founding members – the MNS, MNA and the Manitoba Métis Federation (“**MMF**”) – as well as the MNO and the Métis Nation British Columbia (“**MNBC**”). We remind you that while Canada has recognized MNS, MNA and MNO as Métis governments, it has not recognized MNC, MMF or MNBC as such.

The two decision-making bodies of the MNC are the MNC General Assembly (the “**General Assembly**”) and the MNC Board of Governors (the “**BOG**”). In broad terms, the General Assembly’s role is to formulate the national policies of the MNC and it is required to meet at least once every 12 to 18 months. The BOG manages the affairs and business of the MNC and has the responsibility of carrying out the mandate set out by the General Assembly.

The president of the MNC, Mr. Clement Chartier, is responsible for calling BOG meetings. A meeting can be requested by three Governors, two of whom must represent founding members. It has been over two years since the last BOG meeting and 21 months since the last General Assembly meeting. We three Presidents have requested a BOG meeting on numerous occasions over the past year and President Chartier denied these requests.

According to the MNC bylaws, contracts, documents or any instruments in writing requiring the signature of the MNC shall be signed by any two governors of founding members. Neither the MNA nor

MNS (two of the three founding members) have been asked to sign any documentation regarding MNC matters. This matter, coupled with the absence of any meeting of the BOG or the General Assembly in over two years, strongly supports the MNA, MNO, and MNS's position that the MNC cannot be considered to act for the MNS, MNO, or MNA in any capacity, particularly in the negotiation of the MNC 2020 budget.

Accordingly, any funds provided to MNC by Canada since the last BOG meeting were provided without the express agreement of the governing members of the MNC. As such, the MNS, MNA and MNO cannot be held responsible for mismanagement of any such funds.

Therefore, due to the MNC's complete lack of accountability to three of its five member governments, we request that Canada:

1. Copy all correspondence between Canada and the MNC to the offices of the MNS, MNA and MNO so that these three member governments can be kept apprised of the affairs and business of the MNC and ensure that the mandate set out by the General Assembly continues to be carried out;
2. Freeze all funding to the MNC until such time that the internal MNC governance issues are resolved; and
3. Going forward, negotiate directly with MNS, MNA, and MNO on all funding that applies to these three governments.

Please advise when we can meet with you to discuss the above issues further.

Yours truly,



Glen McCallum
President
Métis Nation of Saskatchewan



Audrey Poitras
President
Métis Nation of Alberta



Margaret Froh
President
Métis Nation of Ontario

Cc Board of Governors
Rick Theis, PMO