



Ministry of Natural Resources

Strategic Plan

Updated
AUGUST 25, 2010



Ministry of Natural Resources



Message from the Minister Responsible for Natural Resources

The 2010/11 Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Natural Resources outlines our ongoing commitment to ensure our Ministry will advocate for Métis involvement in all aspects of the management of natural resources in British Columbia. The Ministry will work toward active participation by Métis and seek out benefits for MNBC citizens and chartered communities.

The Ministry's efforts over the next year will continue to concentrate on ensuring Métis Rights and Traditional Land Uses are protected and our communities and citizens benefit from involvement in Consultation. We have achieved significant federal involvement over the past year and will continue our efforts to ensure complete provincial engagement in Consultation as well. The Ministry will continue to incorporate both western-based science and Métis Traditional Knowledge in natural resource management and conservation.

I will further support the important work of the BC Métis Assembly of Natural Resources and our Ministry staff to fully implement the MNBC *Natural Resource Act*. I will continue to find ways to diversify the funding resources that support our Ministry and implement our plan.

I will support the recognition of Métis Rights through negotiation where possible and legal challenges where necessary.

I will be accountable for achieving the objectives in this plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. R. Trumbly', written in a cursive style.

Minister

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1. Overall Purpose

The MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources is mandated to address Natural Resources issues on behalf of our Métis Citizens. The Ministry of Natural Resources is comprised of a multi-layered process that includes a Minister of Natural Resources (political), a Director of Natural Resources (bureaucratic/technical), Ministry Staff (technical) and the BC Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR). BCMANR is made up of seven Regional Captains and 35 Community Officers. Collectively this Natural Resources Management Team is known as the MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Vision Statement for the MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources is: ***“To help revitalize Métis culture and nationhood pride through the wise use of our natural resources”***. The mandate for the MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources is: ***“To establish a natural resource policy to support the sustenance and cultural needs of the Métis people in British Columbia through the conservation and management of our environment using both traditional and educational knowledge.”***

The preamble to the BCMANR Policy and Procedures states: ***“The British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR) should be, in principle, based on the success of the Métis people in the 1700-1800’s. The “Buffalo Assembly” and the “Laws of the Prairies” were established by the “community” way of life. These communal commitments ensured the survival of the Métis people during tough times. The basic principles were; no “individual” way of thinking and “that strength was generated from the collective group”. These principles were the basis of the historic Métis culture; therefore the present day infrastructure and principles should honor the past.”***

In September of 2008, the Métis citizens of British Columbia ratified the MNBC Natural Resource Act. This Act was developed and implemented by Métis citizens to express their desire for sustainable use of our natural resources with sustainable use defined as:

∞ ***Managing natural resources to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations***

∞ ***Providing stewardship of natural resources based on an ethic of respect for the land***

∞ ***Balancing economic, productive, spiritual, ecological and traditional values of natural resources to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of the Métis peoples and other aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities***

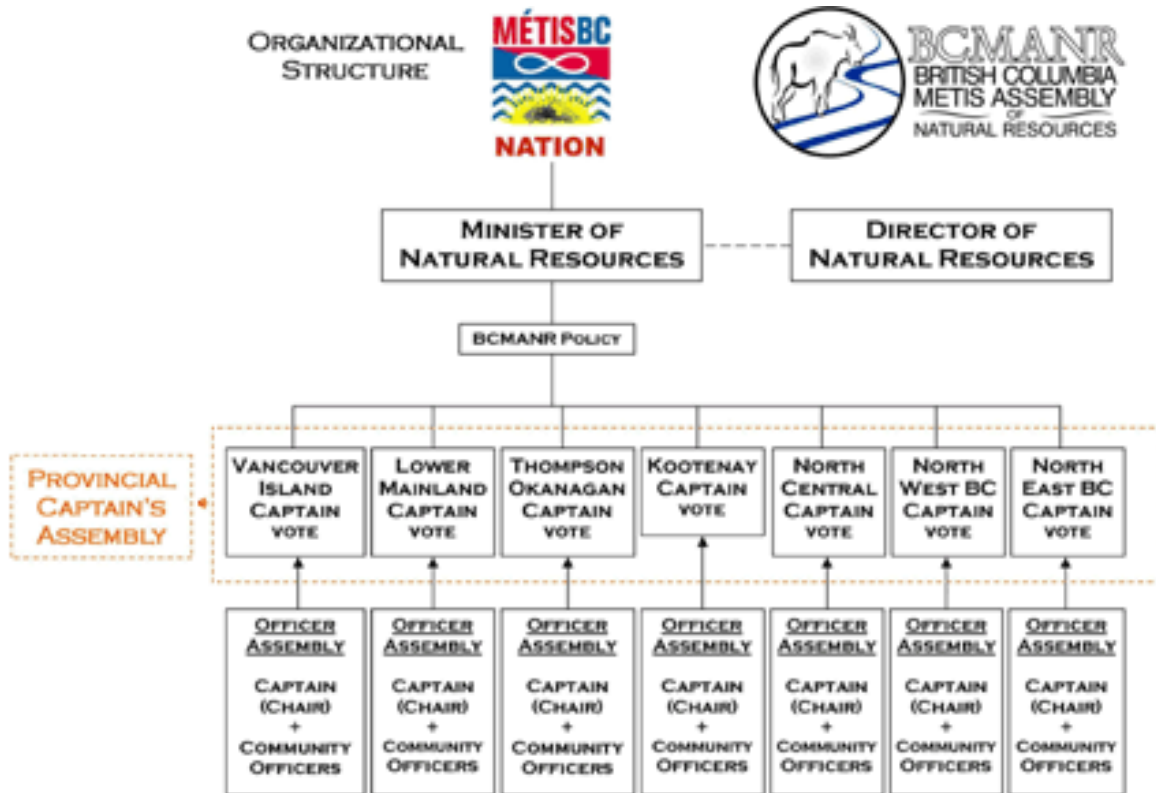
∞ ***Conserving biological diversity, soil, water, fish, wildlife, scenic diversity and other natural resources; and***

∞ ***restoring damaged ecologies.***



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2. Organizational Structure



George Todd was the grandson of HBC Chief Trader John Todd and his Métis Wife Sophia Lolo. He was also the great-grandson of Jean Baptiste Lolo, the famous St. Paul after which Paul Lake and Paul Mountain near Kamloops is named. (Fort St James 1930)



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3. Framework

3.1 Ministry of Natural Resources

The purpose of developing a MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources is to proactively address the directives given to MNBC by MNBC Citizens. During regional sessions held in 2005, Métis citizens provided a number of directives to MNBC, included:

- ∞ Métis must manage our own activities related to harvesting.
- ∞ Métis management must be based on sound conservation strategies, safety and respect.
- ∞ Métis harvesting must be for sustenance and not for profit.
- ∞ Activities must be sustainable and over harvesting must not be allowed.
- ∞ MNBC must advocate for recognition of Métis rights and traditional land and resource uses.
- ∞ MNBC must press for equal rights for all Aboriginal Peoples (First Nation, Inuit and Métis).
- ∞ Activities must support our families and the passing on of Métis traditions.

The foundation of Métis culture is rooted in the historic management of natural resources. The Ministry of Natural Resources program of Métis Nation BC is building momentum and is destined to be the foundation of a re-awakening of Métis cultural awareness. By managing Métis activities and developing Métis stewardship of natural resources based on respect for the land, Métis culture will be enriched.

3.2 Challenges

Lack of recognition for Métis Aboriginal Rights in British Columbia

- ∞ The absence of a Métis rights court victory in BC is being interpreted as Métis having no rights, particularly by the Province of BC
 - Lack of recognition by the Province of BC has created challenges beyond the obvious lack of access to traditional harvesting opportunities. MNBC is being left out of consultations with proponents of major projects in this province. The BC Environmental Assessment Office will direct proponents to consult with any First Nation and many special interest group but not MNBC. Organizations and special interest groups such as the BC Wildlife Federation, BC Guide Outfitters, BC Trappers Association, and BC Naturalists, just to name a few, are included in consultation orders to industrial developers. The Province of BC will not even acknowledge that Métis have interests let alone Aboriginal Rights.
 - While there has been significant progress with Federal Agencies, especially in the area of consultation, some agencies of the Federal government still take a position similar to the Province of BC. DFO has repeatedly refused to engage MNBC in discussions around access to fish and data sharing. This makes DFO Aboriginal Fisheries Branch - Pacific Region the only Federal Agency that does not work with MNBC. MNBC believes this resistance is solely based in the political nature of the Pacific fisheries. MNBC applied for and was accepted as an Intervener in the Cohen Commission on the “Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River”. In his reasons for granting standing, Commissioner Cohen stated “*Although the MNBC’s legal position and its relationship with the DFO*

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may differ from other aboriginal groups, this applicant has satisfied me that its substantial and direct interest is in the sustainability of the sockeye salmon fishery in the Fraser River, and the policies and practices of the DFO, in particular allocation of departmental resources, fisheries management practices and procedures, and enforcement.” The Department should be concerned that the current policy toward Métis is so clearly contrary to the views of the learned Commissioner who is a Supreme Court of British Columbia Judge.

Lack of understanding of Métis contributions to the development of British Columbia:

- ∞ Extensive information is available however; governments still do not have a clear understanding of the significance of Métis in developing the Province of BC.
- ∞ Métis are marginalized in BC even though some historians speculate that were it not for the actions of a few Métis individuals, BC could have become part of the United States in the same manner as the states of Oregon and Washington.
- ∞ poor communication has been a barrier to progress
- ∞ Governments do not seek or support Métis cross-cultural education for their managers or employees in the same manner that they do for First Nations.

Inconsistent application of Métis and Aboriginal case law, between governments and also between Ministries/Agencies:

- ∞ Federal Agencies include Métis in environmental assessments Consultations while BC does not.
- ∞ Canadian Wildlife Service allows harvesting of Migratory Birds using Métis Nation BC identification while other Federal Agencies (DFO) and Provincial Ministries (Forests and Environment) do not.
- ∞ Provincial Crown Corporations (BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corp) refuse to consult with MNBC even where their proposed project requires federal permitting that requires Métis Consultation.

Lack of long term (core) funding:

- ∞ inability to implement long term plans
- ∞ diversion to project specific activities that do not always support long term objectives
- ∞ high turnover in volunteers at community and regional levels due to on and off progress

Requests to undertake unfunded work,

- ∞ All MNBC Ministries experience requests to take on work that is not funded. The Ministry of Natural Resources is no exception. A multitude of requests come to MNBC annually asking for MNBC participation in activities that range from giving presentations (community, government, industry, legal conferences) attending meetings (community, regional, stakeholder, industry and government) and participate in projects (community, stakeholder, industry, academic, cultural, government). In the past MNBC has been able to accommodate many of these unpaid work requests, however, government is increasingly reluctant to fund these requests. The Ministry will likely, by necessity, restrict the number of activities that are undertaken without funding. With reduced support for extra work MNBC will be challenged to prioritize future activities. MNBC must meet contract and contribution agreement obligations for funded projects. The Ministry will then give first priority for unfunded activities to community and regional requests, second priority to projects that meet the objectives of the MNR Strategic plan or those that have partial funding. Projects that do not

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directly support the objectives or have funds will be reviewed but not typically engaged. This will be unfortunate since MNBC has observed that in some cases, unpaid work can be the foundation that new funded projects are built upon.

Inadequate advocacy (on natural resource issues) by the Office of the Federal Interlocutor and Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation,

- ∞ OFI – the MNBC MNR would like to see OFI advocate for harvesting agreements with Federal Agencies:
 - Currently only CWS recognizes Métis rights (unofficially) while refusing to sign harvesting agreements with MNBC.
 - DFO (Pacific) says only First Nations are eligible for Aboriginal Fisheries Strategies while the Atlantic region of DFO has agreements with Métis and non status organizations.
 - Parks Canada agrees to work with MNBC but does not direct their staff to actually engage,
- ∞ BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation – MARR has advocated for Métis inclusion in a number of instances, however, the Natural Resource Ministries from the Province of BC appear to not be influenced by this advocacy.
- ∞ MARR needs to step up their advocacy for Métis inclusion, particularly in the area of consultation,

4. Long-Term Objectives, Enabling Objectives, Activities/Tasks and Success Indicators

4.1 Long-Term Objective: Métis Citizens will benefit from and participate in the management of natural resources in British Columbia.

The MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources reflects the Métis traditional management practices documented in the Métis Buffalo Assemblies and Laws of the Prairies from the 1800s. Professional staff (technical) within the Ministry works cooperatively with the BC Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (traditional) to insure management actions/activities are technically sound and supported by traditional knowledge. The Ministry is also integrated into the MNBC Métis Chartered Communities, Youth, Women's and Elders processes. The level of support from our Communities and Citizens was illustrated in unanimous passage of the MNBC Natural Resource Act (Act) at first reading (2008 MNGA) and second reading (2008 AGM).

4.1.1 Enabling Objective 1: A MNBC Natural Resource management program will allow Métis to engage in meaningful natural resource management within BC.

Active engagement in natural resource management processes, programs and projects will create opportunities for Métis to benefit from natural resource based economies, access to natural resources and participate in future planning and developments.

Strategy

Full Implementation of MNBC *Natural Resource Act*.

- Implementation of this legislated *Act* will define the roles and responsibilities of Métis Citizens, MNBC Chartered Communities and Métis Nation BC to

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enable management of all aspects of Métis access to, and use of, natural resources in British Columbia.

Full Implementation of MNBC – Management Agreement Policy

- Develop Policy related to how MNBC will enter into management agreements under the authority of the Act.

Full Implementation of MNBC – Harvesting Card Program

- Continue issuance of MNBC Harvesting Cards
- Continue to refine the Harvesting Card Program initiated in December 2008.
- Refine the Harvester database
- Refine the Harvest reporting database

Full Implementation of MNBC – Regulations Development by BCMANR

- Continue to refine the process of Regulations Development as enabled by the Act.

Full Implementation of MNBC – Environmental Protection Policy

- Develop policy related to Environmental Protection as enabled by the Act.

Full Implementation of MNBC - Consultation Guidelines

- Implement and refine the Consultation Guidelines developed under the authority of the Act.

Full Implementation of MNBC – Compliance and Enforcement Policy

- Develop Compliance and Enforcement Policy as enabled by the Act.
- Implement Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

Full Implementation of MNBC – Appeal Process

- Develop Appeal Policy and Protocols as enabled by the Act.
- Implement Appeal Policy and Protocols.

Full Implementation of BCMANR Policy and Procedures.

- Refine policies and procedures to maintain consistency with the *Natural Resource Act* and policies/processes enabled by the Act.

Staffing of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

- Maintain minimum staffing appropriate to manage *Natural Resource Act* and BCMANR Policy and Procedure priorities,
 - Director of Natural Resources – Lead technician in the implementation of the *Natural Resource Act* and BCMANR Policy and Procedures,
 - Harvester Clerk – technician with responsibility for data entry of Harvesting Card applications and mandatory harvest reporting functions.
 - Biologist(s) appropriate to achieve *Natural Resource Act* requirements and for planning, implementation of programs/projects.

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- support the development of programs and projects, which have capacity to resource the hiring of natural resource professionals.
- Clerical support to meet requirements of the *Natural Resource Act* and BCMANR Policy and Procedures.

Success Indicator	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number of Management Policies Developed	0	1	1	1
Number of Management Agreements signed	2	1	2	3
Number of Harvesting Cards issued	53	141	250	350
Number of refinements to harvest related databases	2	2	2	2
Number of regulations developed	1	1	2	3
Number of Environmental Protection Policies developed	0	1	2	3
Number of Compliance or Enforcement files	0	0	2	5
% of C&P files that result in hearings by BCMANR judiciary process	0%	0%	50%	50%
Number of BCMANR decisions appealed to the MNBC Senate	0	0	1	1
Number of Refinements to the BCMANR P&P	1	1	1	1
Number of Ministry staff maintained (M), added (A)	1.(M)	1.25(M),	2(M), 1(A)	3(M), 1(A)

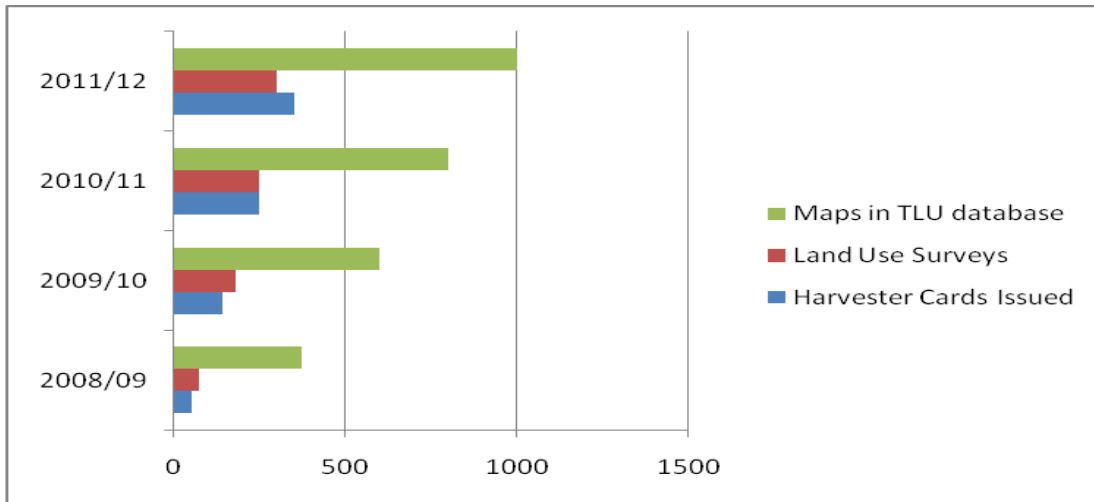
4.12 Enabling Objective 2: MNBC institutions support ongoing Métis involvement in natural resource management that incorporates both Western-based and Traditional Knowledge.

Strategy

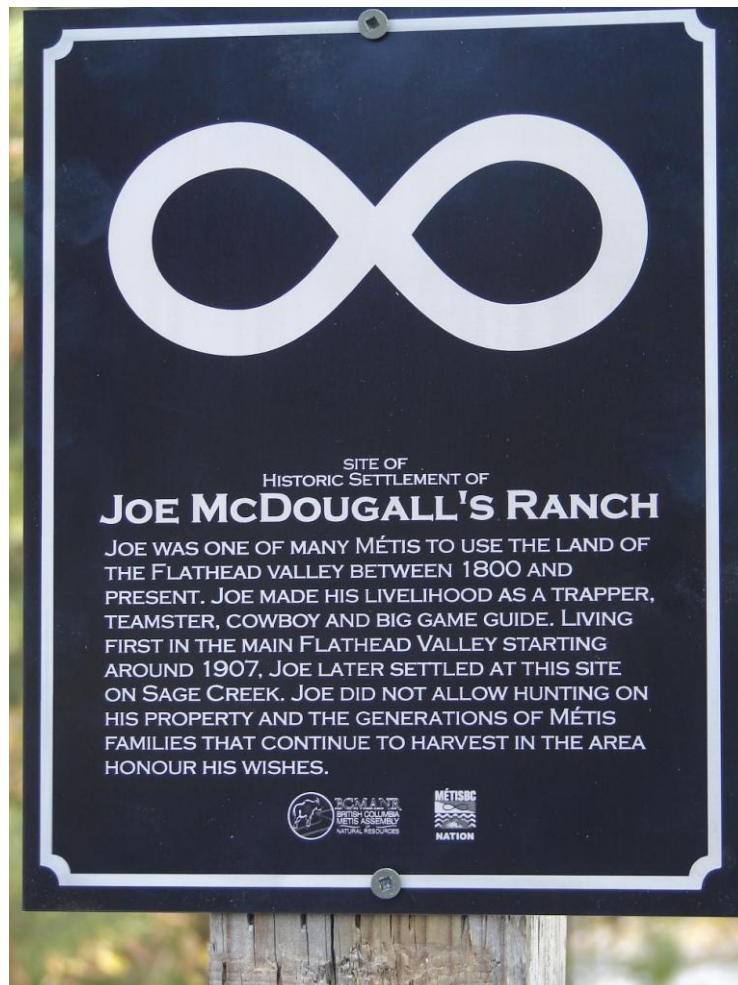
- Maintain the natural resources interface with the Citizenship Registry.
- Maintain the harvester use and harvest reporting databases created by the MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources and University of British Columbia – Okanagan.
- Maintain the land and resource use mapping tools created by the MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources and University of British Columbia –Okanagan.

Success Indicator	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number of new Harvesters Cards that use the Citizenship interface for verification	53	141	300	400
Number of Harvester Land Use surveys in database	75	181	250	300
Number of Harvest Reports in database	29	43	141	320
Percent compliance with mandatory harvest reporting	81%	85%	90%	90%
Number of Maps in the Harvesting Land Use program	375	600	800	1000

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The McDougall Wildlife Sanctuary has been identified as an excellent opportunity for creation of a MNBC / BC Ministry of Environment joint management agreement.



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Métis elder and old friend of Joe's at the Métis Nation BC commemoration of the Settlement of Joe McDougall's Ranch in the Flathead Valley (October 2009)

4.13 Enabling Objective 3: Métis will manage access to and the use of natural resources by Métis Citizens.

Métis natural resource management by Métis is an important step in taking responsibility for the real and potential effects of Métis harvesting activities. Further, Métis investment in managing our own Citizens is a step toward self-governance and ultimately can be expected to result in development of improved access to resources and other benefits for Métis people.

Strategy

- Implement and maintain Métis Harvester identification (MNBC Harvesting Cards), Métis harvest regulation and harvest monitoring systems (under the Natural Resource Act).
- Maintain the Harvester Database created by the MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources and University of British Columbia –Okanagan.
- Refine the Natural Resource Management Database created by the MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources and University of British Columbia –Okanagan.
- Engage in Enforcement Protocols and Harvesting Agreements with Government Agencies.

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Success Indicator	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number of Harvest Systems in use	2	2	2	2
% of harvester management database maintained	N/A	100%	100	100
Number of refinements to Natural Resource Management Database(s)	3	5	3	3
Number of Enforcement Protocols signed	1	0	1	1
Number of Harvesting Agreements signed	0	0	1	2

4.14 Enabling Objective 4: Develop and Foster Natural Resource Partnerships

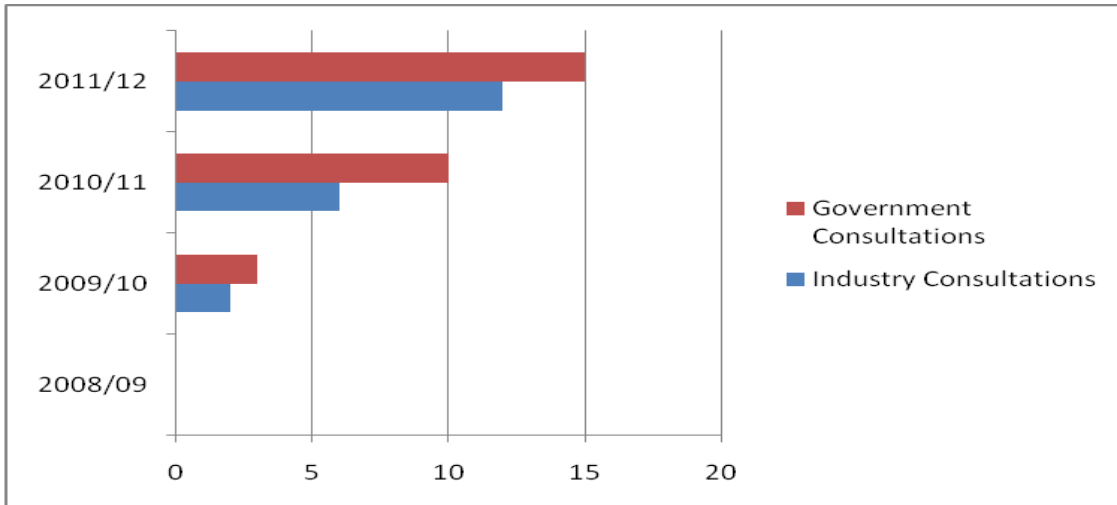
The Métis Nation BC Ministry of Natural Resources is to improve participation in the management of natural resources and benefits from this participation through agreements with Government and Non-Government Organizations.

Strategy

- Negotiate, sign and implement agreements with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.
 - Engage in Consultations with Government.
- Negotiate, sign and implement agreements with First Nations.
- Negotiate, sign and implement agreements with Industry.
 - Engage in Consultations with Industry.
- Negotiate, sign and implement agreements with Non-government Organizations.

Success Indicator	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number of Partnership Agreements with government.	0	1	1	3
Number of Consultations with Governments	0	3	10	15
Number of Partnership Agreements with First Nations.	0	0	1	2
Number of Partnership Agreements with Industry.	0	2	2	4
Number of Consultations with Industry.	0	2	6	12
Number of Partnership Agreements with Non-government Organizations.	0	1	1	2

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*Government Consultations are **ALL** with Federal Government – British Columbia has not engaged Metis Nation BC in consultations despite the Metis Assertion of Harvesting Rights and Traditional Land Uses over the entire province of BC*

Managing natural resources to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations



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5. Resource Summary

Natural Resources 2009/10

Resource Summary						
Fiscal Year	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	Actual	Required ¹	Actual	Required ¹	Actual	Required ¹
Operating Expenses						
Minister, BCMANR and Staff Costs	\$ 125,400	\$ 208,000	\$ 123,100	\$ 210,226		\$ 212,475
Provincial and Regional Meetings	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 35,300	\$ 70,749		\$ 71,506
Consultation Capacity	\$ 70,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 121,284		\$ 122,582
Communications with Stakeholders	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,214		\$ 20,430
Traditional Land-Use Research	\$ 209,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 83,000	\$ 252,675		\$ 255,379
Harvester and Survey Database	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 38,000	\$ 50,535		\$ 51,076
Natural Resource Act	\$ 65,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 32,342		\$ 32,688
Projects	\$ 75,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 226,042	\$ 202,140		\$ 250,000
Total	\$ 654,400	\$ 950,000	\$ 538,942	\$ 960,165	\$ -	\$ 1,016,136
Administration						
Operational Expenses	\$ 71,910	\$ 142,500	\$ 74,114	\$ 144,025		\$ 152,420
Total	\$ 71,910	\$ 142,500	\$ 74,114	\$ 144,025	\$ -	\$ 152,420
Funding Sources						
² Province of British Columbia	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
³ Canada	\$ -	\$ 579,400	\$ -	\$ 312,900	\$ -	\$ -
⁵ Environment Canada	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 64,000	\$ -	\$ -
Canadian Env. Assessment Agency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,000	\$ -	\$ -
Projects - Industry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,042	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ 654,400	\$ 538,942	\$ 538,942	\$ -	\$ -

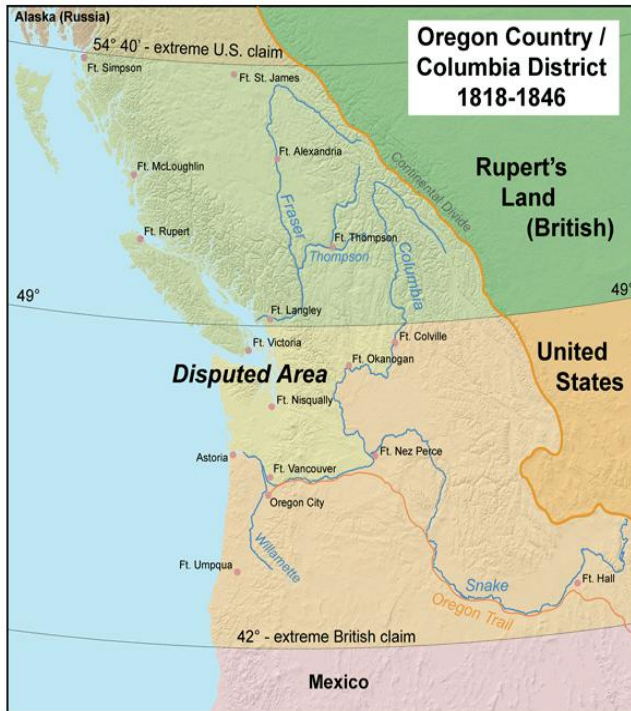
¹ The Required column refers to the minimal amount of resources needed to demonstrate a significant impact on the proposed activity.

² Province of British Columbia refers to funding received from any Provincial Ministry, Department or Crown Corporation.

³ Canada refers to funding received from any Federal Ministry, Department or Crown Corporation.

⁴ Annual Increases were allowed for inflation @ 1.07%

⁵ Environment Canada provides funding to support the Species at Risk and Migratory Birds projects



Métis are marginalized in BC even though some historians speculate that were it not for the actions of a few Métis individuals, BC could have become part of the United States in the same manner as the states of Oregon and Washington

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6. Contact Information

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