

MÉTISBC



NATION

Press Release

Date: Monday, March 19th, 2007

For Release: Immediate

March 19th, 2007 – Métis Nation British Columbia initiates judicial arm, the MNBC Senate.

Vancouver, BC - Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) established a Senate Act at the 2005 Annual General Meeting in Fort St. John. Upon ratifying this document, the MNBC's thirty-five Chartered Métis Communities appointed seven Senators from throughout the province. The Senators were charged with developing a detailed policy and procedure on how the Senate would conduct judicial business on behalf of the MNBC. On March 08, 2007, the Senate presented a proposed policy and procedure to the MNBC Board of Directors where it was ratified by unanimous motion to implement immediately.

Senate Chairperson Alan Edkins stated, *"This is a historic day for the Métis Nation British Columbia in implementing a judicial arm for itself as we did back in the mid-1800 with our Provisional Government under the leadership of Louis Riel"*.

MNBC President Bruce Dumont indicated, *"Part of responsible self-governance is the ability to hold oneself accountable to its own citizens. The MNBC Senate will do just this, it allows a group of highly respected elders to listen to the concerns and appeals of MNBC citizens and deliver them a fair process in ensuring we are following our own legislation and procedures"*.

The MNBC has established a Senate webpage on the main MNBC website (www.mnbc.ca) which will supply all the contact information for the Senate as well as, forms/descriptions, decision results, news/current issues and appeal processes.

For more information contact:

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Background

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents approximately 44,000 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 creating a Métis Nation governance structure. Since 2003 the Métis Nation British Columbia 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 three levels of Métis Nation Governance; thirty-five (35) Métis community associations throughout the province, seven (7) regional governance councils, and the Board of Directors. The development of this governance enabled the MNBC to expand 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.