

Métis Nation British Columbia Senate Initiates Official Duties



(Kelowna, BC) – On Aug. 04-05, 2007, the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Senate heard its first four cases in their official role as the judiciary arm of the MNBC. The Senate had to decide on three citizenship appeals and one citizenship challenge as per the MNBC Citizenship Act

and the Senate Act. These hearings included the review of the Senate Clerk files, citizenship appeal file, second opinion genealogical report, and both verbal and physical testimony by the applicants and the respondent.

This was the first time the Senate employed their recently ratified new policies and procedures. The hearings were opened with the standard Senate prayer and all testimonies were sworn-in by the Senate oath. The individuals were notified of the ground rules for appearing in front of the Senate. Upon agreeing with the ground rules, the Senate then began its information session on the details of the case.

“It hasn’t been since the provisional government of Louis Riel that the Métis have exercised the judiciary aspect of self-government”, stated Dean Trumbley, Interim Senate Clerk.

“These hearings were the beginning of an impartial judicial system for the Métis citizens of British Columbia,” added Senator Bill Thibeault.

“The Senate took its duty very seriously and analyzed all aspects of each case to ensure no stone was left unturned,” said Senate Chairperson Alan Edkins.

“I was proud to be a part of this historic moment and the Métis Nation British Columbia should be extremely confident that it has created a fair and just system,” remarked Senator Margaret Penner.

The four cases took two days of review, testimony and deliberation to come to the decisions. The Senate now has fourteen days to deliver the written decisions to the applicant and the respondent as well as post it on the MNBC website (<http://www.mnbc.ca/senate>).