

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA ACQUIRES LAND IN CAMPBELL RIVER FOR HOUSING, CHILD CARE, AND SPACE FOR NORTH ISLAND MÉTIS ASSOCIATION

Campbell River, BC (October 26, 2021) – Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is proud to announce the acquisition of land in Campbell River which will see the construction of below-market rate rental housing for Métis families, a Métis child care centre, and office space for the North Island Métis Association (NIMA). The purchase, totaling \$1,160,000, is part of MNBC's ambitious goal of creating Métis centres across the province in all seven regions. The funding, provided under the Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) Early Learning and Child Care Accord supports MNBC to build a community-based system of quality child care, so families have access to high-quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive early learning and child care no matter where they live.

This child care facility housed with an affordable Métis family housing project will be designed to meet the needs of our families in Campbell River, a community that is currently lacking in Urban Indigenous child care services. The child care facility will provide 61 spaces for holistic child care programming to support the needs of families and provide children with consistent, quality child care from birth to age 12. MNBC is committed to exploring collaborative strategies and meeting the needs of children and families for a continuum of high quality, accessible, affordable and comprehensive child care services.

MNBC is partnering with NIMA to collaborate on the build of the housing and child care centre. M'akola Development Services, an Indigenous based, socially conscious professional development services organization, has been engaged to lead the development of the project. M'akola has 31 years of experience in planning, and development for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal clients.

Providing affordable housing, delivering Métis early years programs, and creating space for our Métis Chartered Communities is a key strategic goal of MNBC's Cabinet. Over the coming months, MNBC will continue on its progressive agenda with more announcements to come.

Quotes:

“I’ve heard from many Métis families about the need to provide affordable housing on Vancouver Island. I’m happy to see this vision of a network of Métis centres with housing, childcare, and offices space for our communities beginning to take shape and come to fruition. This is long overdue” - Lissa Dawn Smith, MNBC Acting President

“I am excited to see our Cabinet’s vision of providing quality, affordable housing, and culturally relevant child care spaces continue to come to fruition. Building on our announcement in Kamloops, it is great to see Campbell River as the next location for one of our centres. I am excited for the partnership with NIMA in delivering these services for our Métis people.” - Patrick Harriott, MNBC Director for Region 1

“We are excited to work with MNBC to begin the process of building affordable Métis housing. This is the next step for North Island Métis (NIMA) in supporting our community and strengthening our nation. NIMA is looking forward to working with all of our partners to provide a center for all NIMA activities and services in Campbell River.” - Tyler Masee, NIMA President

“Investing in quality, affordable housing is going to provide a lasting legacy for MNBC and help build a sense of belonging in our regions and Métis Chartered Communities. Working with our grassroots Métis citizens we will continue pursuing these life-changing projects to improve the lives of our people. Long live the Métis.” – Dean Gladue, MNBC of Housing and Homelessness

“Building a network of Métis early learning and child care programs is a pivotal moment in our Nation’s history. Ensuring that Métis children can attend early years programs at facilities that are culturally relevant and exposes them to the rich heritage we hold so near to our heart will have a long-lasting, positive effect on their lives. A dream come true.” – Debra Fisher, MNBC Minister of Education

About MNBC

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents nearly 90,000 self-identified Métis people in British Columbia, approximately one-third of the Indigenous population in B.C. The Métis National Council, the Government of Canada, and the B.C. Government recognize MNBC as the governing body for the Métis

people in B.C. MNBC develops and enhances opportunities for Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services for all self-identified Métis within B.C., regardless of citizenship with MNBC.

- 30 -

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