Celebrating Proclamation Day
On Wednesday, November 1st, MSGC commemorated the 27th Proclamation Day with a flag raising at the Legislature.

On November 1st, 2017, the Metis Settlements General Council held a public flag raising ceremony at Federal Plaza, which sits just north of the Alberta Legislature building, to promote and celebrate Metis Settlements Proclamation Day. The event was a celebration of Metis Settlement-Crown
Relations as manifested in the Metis Settlements legislation. Minister of Indigenous Relations, Richard Feehan, was in attendance, as well as various Cabinet members and MLAs. There were many Councillors from the Settlements in attendance as well, and members of the general public. This flag raising ceremony marked the 27th anniversary of the historic Proclamation of the suite of legislation that formally recognized our lands and Metis Government.

**President Gerald Cunningham’s Proclamation Day Speech:**

Good afternoon and welcome Council Members, Minister and dignitaries, Ladies and Gentleman:

Every year on this day, the Metis Settlements and our members celebrate Proclamation Day.

Twenty-seven years ago, on November 1, 1990, a long and at times difficult chapter of our history came to a close, and a new era for the Metis Settlements began.

On this day in 1990, the Alberta Legislature enacted four pieces of legislation that form the legislative pillars of our communities today: The Metis Settlements Act, Metis Settlements Land Protection Act, Metis Settlements Accord Implementation Act, and the Constitution of Alberta Amendment Act.

The passing of this Legislation marked an important milestone in the Metis Settlements journey.

A journey that started with the enactment of the Metis Population Betterment act in 1938, that set the Metis Settlement members on a road to Local Self Government and Local Autonomy.

It was our Metis Leaders Charles Delorme and Dieudonne Collins, that approached J.F. Dion to assist them in submitting a proposal to government for land to be set aside for Metis.
J.F. Dion then enlisted Malcolm Norris, James Brady, Felix Callihoo, Peter Tomkins, and together they continued the Metis cause for a Metis Homeland.

The result of their tireless efforts led to the establishment of a Royal Commission known as the Ewing Commission, to investigate the situation of the destitute Metis living in the Province of Alberta.

This Commission tabled a report recommending that Land should be set aside for the Metis, Land held by the crown, but for the exclusive use of the Metis.

The Act empowered the Lieutenant Governor to set aside twelve parcels of land, then the twelve Metis colonies.

The purpose was to provide Alberta’s Metis with the means to improve their quality of life, to govern their affairs according to their culture, and to live their lives according to tradition.

Sadly, in the intervening years, four of the twelve colonies were ultimately rescinded, the last in 1960, leaving eight communities intact.

This was a difficult period for our people and this deeply felt loss only served to further motivate us to protect our lands, our culture and our future.

These efforts led to the formation of the Alberta Federation of Metis Settlements.

In 1975, the Fathers of the Federation of Metis Settlements, Richard Poitras, Maurice L'Hirondelle, Lawrence Desjarlais, Sam Johnson and Adrian Hope, succeeded in their goal to unite the remaining eight communities, strengthening their ability to prevent any further loss of Metis land.

Maurice L'Hirondelle once said “The finest thing that ever happened to the Metis people is that they got together and organized themselves and got land set aside for them....We must continue to work together for the betterment of our people in the future.”

In fact, it was Richard Poitras’ dying wish that all of our leaders would never stop fighting to protect our land.

And it was with this inspiration in mind that we set out to negotiate an agreement with Alberta that would get us that much closer to achieving this dream.

The Metis Settlements Act and corresponding legislation passed in 1990, strengthened the Alberta Government’s commitment to protecting our communities by transferring Fee Simple Title ownership of 1.25 million acres of land over to the Metis Settlements General Council. A land mass that is
similar in size to the Province of Prince Edward Island. The Metis Settlements Act provides the Framework for Self-Government and establishes the eight incorporated Metis Settlements.

At this point, Alberta is the only Province in Canada that has Legislature Land Based Metis. In many ways, we have realized the vision of other iconic Metis Leaders like Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel, who fought to preserve and protect the rights of all Metis, and fought for the establishment of a Metis Homeland. They tirelessly pursued their vision of a Metis land, Governed by Metis people and respected as separate and unique from other Indigenous communities. And, it is once again a very exciting time for the Metis Settlements. It is a time of significant and potentially historic opportunity for our people.

With the recent Supreme Court decision on the Daniels case, affirming that Canada has a responsibility to Metis, and with Alberta’s commitment to a renewed relationship with its Indigenous communities, and with eight decades of history between the Government of Alberta and the Metis Settlements, now is a time of great hope and change. We are entering another new era for our people.

While there is much to be hopeful about, we cannot become complacent. Deeds are more significant than words and although we are optimistic that our provincial and federal partners mean what they say, we look forward to seeing how they act to make real and positive change.

We are here today to raise the flag of the Metis Settlements, to mark the anniversary of Proclamation Day, and to honour the historic partnership between the Metis Settlements and the Government of Alberta. Although the relationship has not always been perfect, we have spent the better part of 80 years working together for the benefit of our Metis Settlements and Albertans. We have achieved a great deal over the last 80 years and we are poised to achieve even more as we close out the second decade of the twenty-first century.

We look forward to the next eighty years of community building, of educating our people and non-indigenous peoples about who we are, what we believe in and our rich culture and history. Today is a first step forward on the next phase of our journey as we raise our flag at the Legislature for the first time and signal a renewed partnership with Alberta and a new era of progress with all Albertans.

I will close off with a quote from our Elder, Robert Aulotte from Fishing Lake, who said: “THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT THE SETTLEMENTS IS THAT THEY GAVE THE METIS PEOPLE A LAND BASE. NO MATTER WHERE THEY GO NOW, THEY ALWAYS HAVE A HOME TO GO BACK TO”.

Thank you.
Metis Settlement Elections
New Councils were elected October 2nd.

Settlements conducted their local community election on October 2nd, 2017. While a number of familiar faces are returning, a large number of new Councillors were also elected in many of the communities.

The Metis Settlements General Council thanks everyone who put their name on a ballot and congratulates all who were elected. It takes courage to run and the Settlements can only succeed when passionate people, with pride in their communities, step up and run. The Executive looks forward to working with all of you! Here is a complete list of Settlement Councillors:

**BUFFALO LAKE METIS SETTLEMENT**
- Chair- Stan Delorme
- Vice-Chair- Harold Blyan
- Councillor- Archie Handel
- Councillor- Lawrence Ladouceur
- Councillor- Horace Patenaude

**EAST PRAIRIE METIS SETTLEMENT**
- Chair- Harry Supernault
- Vice-Chair- Raymond Supernault
- Councillor- Shelly Auger
- Councillor- Karen L'Hirondelle
- Councillor- Peter Patenaude

**GIFT LAKE METIS SETTLEMENT**
- Chair- Art Tompkins
- Vice-Chair- Ed Anderson
- Councillor- Dave Lamouche
- Councillor- Howard Shaw
- Councillor- Les Calaheson

**PADDOLE PRAIRIE METIS SETTLEMENT**
- Chair- Greg Calliou
- Vice-Chair- Lori Wanuch
- Councillor- Brad Villeneuve
- Councillor- Danielle Poitras
- Councillor- Joan Wanuch

**KIKINO METIS SETTLEMENT**
- Chair- Cory Cardinal
- Vice-Chair- Chad Cardinal
- Councillor- Lee Thom
- Councillor- Dean Thompson
- Councillor- Randy Hardy

**ELIZABETH METIS SETTLEMENT**
- Chair- Irene Zimmer
- Vice-Chair- Raymond Desjardins
- Councillor- Gwen Lepine
- Councillor- Ambrose Lepine
- Councillor- Kathy Lepine

**PEAVINE METIS SETTLEMENT**
- Chair- Ken Noskey
- Vice-Chair- Rondy Gauchier, Sr.
- Councillor- Leeann Gauchier
- Councillor- Rene Cunningham, Jr.
- Councillor- Glen Anderson

**FISHING LAKE METIS SETTLEMENT**
- Chair- Herb Lehr
- Vice-Chair- Wayne Daniels
- Councillor- Monica Cardinal
- Councillor- Kristen Lindsay
- Councillor- Travis Daniels
Metis Settlements Governance

On October 02, 2017, elections were held throughout the Metis Settlements. A total of 23 new and former councillors were elected. The Executive would like to extend Congratulations to all elected officials for the 2017-2021 council term. The Executive is looking forward to working with the Assembly on initiatives designed to progress our communities.

To help prepare Councillors for their responsibilities, two workshops were conducted during the months of October 2017 and November 2017.

From October 25-27, 2017, elected officials were presented with information pertaining to MSGC governing legislation and policies. An overview of the organizational structure, financial information, LTA (Long-Term Agreement), affiliate organizations etc. was also completed. Presentations were conducted by the Executive, MSGC Legal Counsel (Witten Law), MSGC staff members and MSGC affiliate staff members.

On November 15-16, 2017, renowned Municipal expert, George Cuff conducted a workshop specific to Metis Settlements Leadership. Day one focused on Councillor roles and responsibilities, governance expectations and keys to a successful term. Day two focused on good governance, council relationships, decision making, meeting format and methods which work. Participants were pleased with the information which was presented and found the workshop very informative.

The basic purpose of hosting these workshops was to ensure that new Councillors are equipped with information and ideas which will serve the purpose of our Metis Settlements Government:

a) To provide good government,

b) To provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the Settlement, and

c) To develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

MSGC Governance/Committees

There are many elements that work together in the MSGC governance structure in order to achieve outcomes. Outlined below are some of the general responsibilities of two of these elements.

MSGC (Metis Settlements General Council) Assembly

The MSGC Assembly is comprised of the Councillors of all the Settlement Councils and the Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) of the General Council.

The MSGC Assembly deals with matters that affect the collective interests of the Metis Settlements in accordance with respective legislation. Includes the development of policies as required.

The main objectives are to:

i. Build an effective and unique form of Metis Government;

ii. Establish infrastructure, housing, economic opportunities and other community supports to obtain healthy and viable communities;

iii. To secure Metis Settlement land in the Canadian Constitution for future generations; and,
iv. Establish/maintain a positive working relationship on a Government to Government basis with the Provincial and Federal Governments.

**MSGC Board**

The MSGC Board is comprised of the Chairpersons from each of the Settlements and the Officers of the General Council. The Board has the powers, duties and functions delegated to it by General Council. Decisions and actions of the Board must be reported at the next General Council meeting.

In addition to MSGC Assembly and MSGC Board, the Metis Settlements General Council has various committees in which Settlement Councils appoint representatives. The Committees are designed to discuss and review issues pertaining to specific areas prior to decisions being requested of the Assembly.

The following is a brief explanation of each of the committees:

**Climate Change**

The Climate Change Committee was created in May 2017. The Government provided a grant to MSGC made possible through the use of carbon levy dollars.

The purpose of the Climate Change Committee is to:

i) Reduce green house gas emissions;

ii) Create a greener or diversified economy;

iii) Increase community well-being;

iv) Protect mother earth;

v) Be a steward of the environment;

vi) Create jobs;

vii) Energy self-sufficiency;

viii) Healthy people and communities; and

ix) Better homes

A Climate Change Coordinator has been hired to ensure the objectives of the Settlements and the Government are carried out.

**Economic Development Working Group**

The purpose of the Economic Development Working Group is to provide supports to all the Settlements in their economic development with an approach based on the “Metis Settlements Long-Term Sustainability Plan”.

There are four phases which have been identified to assist the Settlements with the implementation of a Long-Term Economic Development Plan.
A Central Economic Development Coordinator provides support to the Economic Development Working Group and the Settlements to carry out and implement a Long-Term Economic Development Plan.

Meetings have generally been held on a monthly basis. Funds are provided by the Government for these meetings.

**Harvesting**

The Terms of Reference were recently approved at an MSGC Assembly on June 28, 2017. Basically, members of the Harvesting Committee will address the following:

1. Alberta’s current Metis Harvesting Policy;
2. A new harvesting agreement or arrangement between the Government of Alberta and the Metis Settlements Genera Council; and
3. An agreement or arrangement with Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia to accommodate Metis Settlements’ harvesting activities in those jurisdictions.

**Metis Settlements Health Board (MSHB)**

The Terms of Reference for the MSHB were approved by the Assembly on August 31, 2017. This Board was created to ensure an organization was in place to address health on Metis Settlements.

The MSHB is a community driven organization dedicated to improving the health of settlement members by advocating for culturally appropriate, proactive, evidence-based, sustainable health solutions.

**Investment Committee**

The Investment Committee was created to make certain decisions regarding how the Future Fund is invested and managed. An Investment Policy was developed and amended numerous times over the years. Presently, a “Management and Administration Guidelines” document was approved by the Assembly on June 28, 2017.

The Investment Committee has contracted the services of an Investment Consultant and two Money Managers to ensure that the Future Fund monies are being managed in the best way possible.

**Settlement Investment Corporation (SIC)**

Settlement Investment Corporation was created to assist members with wealth creation through capital investment, the establishment and expansion of member owned business enterprises and farms that contribute to economic development of Metis Settlement members. Board members are responsible to ensure the mission of SIC is carried out by; approving an annual operating budget, reviewing loan applications, approving financial statements etc.
Long-Term Governance & Funding Arrangements Agreement (LTA) Committees

LTA Implementation Team (LTA IT)

The LTA IT is responsible for the general oversight of the implementation of the July 04, 2013 LTA Agreement. The LTA IT is established to ensure the interests of the parties of the agreement are reflected in the implementation of the LTA agreement.

As per the Terms of Reference, the LTA IT is comprised of:

i) Government of Alberta: the Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations and Metis Relations, the Executive Director of Policy and Planning and the Executive Director of Metis Relations.

ii) Metis Settlements General Council: the eight Metis Settlement Chairs, including MSGC Executive members as ex-officio members.

LTA Education Working Group

Meetings are currently scheduled to take place once on an annual basis.

This committee was formed approximately 2.5 years ago. This working group was established to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for the K-12 Education Initiative (Schedule F of the LTA). The implementation plan was based on the October 1-2, 2015 Strategic Planning Session.

Future plans include expanding the education comprehensive plan to include post-secondary.

LTA Governance Committee

The Governance Committee was created to address aspects of the following governance matters associated with the LTA:

i. Joint Accountability Review Committee Report (the “JARC Report”);


In March 2017, the Settlements approved six principles with recommendations from the JARC report. The document was submitted to the Minister of Indigenous Relations. MSGC is currently awaiting a response from the department.

LTA Sustainable Housing Steering Committee

The Sustainable Housing Steering Committee was created to provide guidance and insight to the Housing Sub-Committee on implementation issues contained within the Housing schedule of the LTA. The overall goal is to ensure the housing needs of the Metis Settlements and their members are addressed wherever possible.

Meetings will be conducted for the following purposes:

i. The development of the Metis Settlements Housing Authority (MSHA);
ii. The development of the management agreement between the MSHA and Habitat for Humanity, which will be in effect until the housing program is fully transferred to the MSHA;

iii. Establish criteria for allocating housing projects beyond the year 2015;

iv. Defining other policies/procedures for the housing program.

Policing Committee

The Policing Committee (Working Group) was created in 2016. The purpose of the Committee was to review the Memorandum of Understanding between MSGC, each Settlement, RCMP and Alberta Solicitor General with respect to the community policing services provided to each Settlement. As of late, each settlement has been reviewing their individual service agreements to improve and enhance policing within each settlement. The Committee has been working with stakeholders to achieve this purpose.

MSGC Assembly Priorities

During the month of November 2017, the MSGC Board/Assembly met and discussed the priorities which MSGC will work towards:

- Federal Engagement (Federal funding, protection of land & resources, consultation, reclamation, etc.)
- Membership
- Financial Sustainability
- Development of MSGC Enabling Policies
- Review of MSGC Organizational Structure
- Children’s Services
- Safe Communities
- Health
- Education & Training
- MSGC Administrative Items

MSGC will be developing a work plan containing time lines, course of action etc. for each of the noted priorities. These priorities are not set in stone and can be refined at any time.
Community Opioid Awareness and Naloxone Training

In the Metis Settlements Community Health Assessment, which was completed this past June, mental health and addictions were identified as the most concerning health issues across all eight Settlements. In its effort to ensure that concerns are being dealt with, the Health Board arranged to have opioid awareness sessions and naloxone training delivered as an urgent first step toward the fentanyl crisis.

These Opioid Awareness and Naloxone Training sessions were hosted in partnership with HIV North (Grande Prairie) and held in each of the Settlements during September and October. The response to these sessions was tremendous – with 366 community members attending and 321 take-home naloxone kits being distributed.

In addition, a survey was administered to gage the perception of residents around the issue of drug and alcohol use and abuse within the communities. 368 surveys were completed and are in the process of being analyzed. Once the results of this initial survey are compiled, a second “drilled down” online survey will be administered. This version, which is slated for mid-December, will gather more detailed information from individuals who self-report alcohol and drug consumption. The purpose for this more detailed survey is to learn about patterns, mental health issues, available services and met and unmet needs.

The Metis Settlements Health Board wishes to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Health Assessment as well as everyone who gave their valued time to attend the opioid awareness and naloxone training sessions. Your participation has identified the most important issues and has empowered the Health Board to advocate for services and partnerships in response to these issues.

Opiate Overdose Signs and Symptoms

Call 911 if:

- Breathing is slow or nil
- Nails and lips are blue
- Choking or throwing up
- Gurgling
- Skin is cold and clammy
- Person cannot be woken up

Responding to an Overdose: SAVE ME

- Stimulate – call 911
- Airway – ensure there are no restrictions – open airway and begin rescue breathing or initiate CPR with compressions if directed by 911 dispatcher
- Ventilation – give 1 breath every 5 seconds (chest should rise with each breath)
- Evaluate the situation
• Administer Nalaxone – it will take 2 to 5 minutes for the antidote to begin taking effect
• Evaluate again - administer another dose of naloxone if required and continue with rescue breaths until medical help arrives

**Metis Settlements Youth Wellness Conference**

The Health Board also hosted a Youth Wellness Conference on September 22-24, 2017. 80 youth, 16 elder mentors and 16 chaperones/drivers attended the event. The program included workshops and discussions on a range of topics, including bullying, cyber safety, Metis Settlement history, life choices, and so forth. This group also received information on opioids and overdose prevention (delivered by Edmonton inner city organization StreetWorks). 105 surveys were completed and 53 nalaxone take-home kits distributed at this forum. The Metis Settlements General Council also took this opportunity to engage the youth on Alberta Education’s First Nations, Metis and Inuit curriculum. A report was finalized and will be made available in the coming weeks.

**Support from MSGC on Health Portfolio**

MSGC President and Secretary met with former Deputy Minister Dr. Carl Amhrein on September 6, 2017 for an initial meeting to begin discussing Metis Settlement priorities and issues relating to health services on-Settlement. During this discussion, it was recommended that MSGC initiate a second meeting between President Cunningham, Alberta Health Services President Dr. Verna Yiu and the successor Deputy Minister Mr. Milton Sussman, to address potential opportunities for supporting the work of the Metis Settlements Health Board and Metis Settlement service needs. This second meeting will be held in December.

The President and Secretary were also in attendance at the Federal, Provincial, Territorial preparatory meeting between various indigenous leaders and Alberta Health Minister Sarah Hoffman, Federal Health Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor, and Alberta Associate Minister of Health Brandy Payne. An overview of the Metis Settlements, Metis Settlements General Council, Metis Settlements Health Board was presented at this forum – along with highlights from the Community Health Assessment. Minister Hoffman provided a follow up letter to MSGC, expressing Alberta’s commitment to a continued relationship and ongoing collaboration with MSGC and its Health Board.
Federal Negotiations Overview:

The MSGC has been working diligently to set the stage for talks with Canada on Metis Settlement self-governance and reconciliation. It began with a January 2017 meeting between President Cunningham and Minister Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) where it was requested that bi-lateral talks commence between MSGC and Canada. After nearly a year of hard work, MSGC can now report that the Metis Settlements/Canada “Memorandum of Understanding for Advancing an Effective and Culturally Appropriate Structure for Metis Settlements’ Self-Governance and Reconciliation” is in its final stages of approval.

Canada’s negotiations team and the MSGC Board finalized discussion on the MOU July 10th, 2017 and the MOU was submitted to INAC for entry into the federal approvals process.

The MSGC was notified that due to the recent changes undertaken by the Federal government to dismantle INAC and the recent creation of the Ministry of Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and the Ministry of Indigenous Services, the new Ministries implemented new approval processes with heightened scrutiny of all Indigenous – Crown negotiations. Furthermore, that our M.O.U would have to go through the same additional steps prior to submission to Minister Bennett for signing.

One of the final reviews is from the Department of Justice (DOJ) Canada – Aboriginal Law Unit; we have been advised by Canada’s legal counsel that the review by Justice is complete and there was no concerns identified.

The following outlines the MOU approval process:

1. Messaging to the ADM [Joe Wild] who then recommends the MOU go to the Federal Officials Group (FOG)
2. FOG reviews
3. Treaties and Aboriginal Government confirm meeting with FOG
4. Presentation made to FOG
5. FOG has 7-10 working days to provide a record of discussion
6. The matter is referred to the upper approvals stage - Federal Steering Committee agenda (FSC)

7. Presentation to FSC

8. Other government departments can provide comments/recommendations

9. All recommendations are collected

10. Recommendations presented to the Minister for approval

The above process is estimated to take two to three months. On November 16th, 2017, a meeting took place with President Gerald Cunningham, Elected-Secretary Dorothy Anderson, and Director of Public Affairs, Blake Desjarlais met with Minister Bennett. She informed President Cunningham that the review process was roughly 50 percent complete. The estimated completion date would be approximately two-to-three weeks.

The target date for signing the MOU is December 15th, 2017, during the annual MSGC Christmas Banquet.

Once the MOU is signed, the next step is the formal establishment of an “Exploratory Discussion Table” with Canada, MSGC and the Settlements participating. The proceedings will be bound by confidentiality. This work will rely on the information gathered in the Strategic Summit Report and the Metis Settlements Strategic Summit Tour Reports (local, rights based, needs of the Settlements). The exploratory discussion is intended to result in a “MSGC – Canada Framework Agreement” by mid-2018.

President Cunningham has expressed strong concerns regarding the extended amount of time that Canada is taking at each step, including the MOU stage. These concerns were expressed in a letter to Minister Bennett on October 5th, 2017 as well as during the meeting with Minister Bennett on November 16th, 2017. Mr. Grigas, Senior Negotiator of Treaties and Aboriginal Government (TAG) noted that there is little that can be done to avoid the new approvals process. All “Milestone” documents must be reviewed by each Federal department cited in the proposed agreement.

Although it seems that the process has taken more time than expected, it is important to note that it has been less than one year since the MSGC began engaging with the Federal Government on the entry into negotiations via a bi-lateral MOU

**Basic Organizational Capacity (BOC) Grant**

The BOC grant is currently under review following a teleconference meeting between the MSGC Executive, MSGC staff members, Director General François Weldon and key staff of Aboriginal and External Relations. MSGC’s Director of Public Affairs has also met with Mr. Weldon and his team at Aboriginal and External Relations Central, Ottawa, to discuss larger and more stable funding options for the MSGC.

Three options of funding are currently under consideration:

1) BOC Grant Funding (limited)
2) Co-development of Multi-year/Multi-themed funding arrangements to address specific costs associated with governance

3) Federal Office Establishment Funding

During a meeting on November 16th, 2017, MSGC President Gerald Cunningham and Elected Secretary Dorothy Anderson informed Minister Bennett of the financial requirements associated with Settlement governance. The Minister agreed to support a meeting between MSGC and the Federal Finance Committee. In addition to presenting the governance funding issues, MSGC will advocate for expanded Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) dollars.

Metis Settlements General Council – National Office (Ottawa)

MSGC’s Director of Public Affairs and Canada Metis Relations Branch have been working together to establish the MSGC National Office. To date, the MSGC has had meetings with INAC to finalize the MSGC National Office funding arrangements. These arrangements will provide funding for the 2017/18 fiscal year and work is ongoing to secure MSGC National Office funds for an additional three years.

Negotiations Timeline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 30th 2017</td>
<td>After receiving a letter from INAC informing us that the MSGC will be represented by the MNAA in future negotiations talks the MSGC board directed President Gerald Cunningham and Blake Desjarlais to meet with Minister Bennett and resolve our concerns.</td>
<td>President Gerald Cunningham and Blake Desjarlais secured a historic commitment for bi-lateral negotiations between the MSGC and Canada that will resolve outstanding claims and seek to enable our rights under s.35 of the Constitution Act 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15th 2017</td>
<td>Overview of Canada’s Exploratory Discussions with the Métis. Open dialogue on Métis Settlements s.35 rights and Interests</td>
<td>Draft “Metis Settlement List of Reconciliation Items” via a process of Reconciliation - recognition and redress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15th 2017</td>
<td>MSGC submission of Draft Memorandum of Understanding for Advancing an Effective and Culturally Appropriate Structure for Metis Settlements’ Self-Governance and Reconciliation for first review</td>
<td>MOU review was a priority agenda item in March 30, 2017 TAG meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13th 2017</td>
<td>Collective review of draft MOU submitted on March 15, 2017. Negotiators also proposed that MSGC draft a workplan and budget for review</td>
<td>MOU initial review – Canada proposes amendments – MOU is re-drafted under recommendation; MSGC Metis Rights Research initiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11th 2017</td>
<td>Submission of MSGC Strategic Summit Report Phase 1, proposed draft budget/workplan, and re-drafted MSGC-Canada MOU</td>
<td>Canada recommends inclusion of negotiable fields within MOU: Health, education etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 19th 2017</td>
<td>During negotiations break, the MSGC and Canada exchanged proposed MOU language amendments and requested further commitment by the Federal government for engagement</td>
<td>The MSGC populated proposed subjects of negotiated field within the MOU – represents all targetable interests as identified within the Metis Settlements Strategic Summit Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27th 2017</td>
<td>TAG further commits to process and clarity; MOU negotiations resume</td>
<td>Canada highlights process of MOU and post-Daniels implementation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consultation Policy Review Update:

Since October 2017, the Government of Alberta and the Metis Settlements General Council have had four meetings to discuss a renewed Government of Alberta Consultation Policy. All eight Settlements have participated in the review process through their Consultation Coordinators and/or their Councils. At these meetings, technicians from the Government of Alberta and representatives from the Metis Settlements have been going through changes the MSGC would like to see in a new policy. Some of these changes include: increased transparency in Government decision making and processes; a focus on cumulative impacts to Crown land rather than only site-specific impacts; improvements to how the Government triggers consultation and determines consultation ‘adequacy’; and enhanced consultation capacity funding. Additional meetings are scheduled for early December 2017 and a follow up meeting between Minister Feehan and the MSGC is scheduled for January 2018. The Government of Alberta wants to have a new policy in place by spring/summer 2018.
If members have questions about the consultation process, they can contact their Settlement consultation office or the MSGC consultation office:

**Buffalo Lake: Cheryl Gordon**  
780-689-2170

**East Prairie: Robert L'Hirondelle**  
780-523-2594

**Elizabeth: Anne Turbine**  
780-594-5026

**Fishing Lake: Stacey LaBoucane**  
780-943-2202 ext. 260

**Gift Lake: Ryan McLeod**  
780-767-3794

**Kikino: Sharron Blyan**  
780-623-7868

**Paddle Prairie: Dustin House**  
780-981-2224

**Peavine: Mark Sinclair**  
780-523-2557

**Elizabeth Metis Settlement Traditional Land Use work at Wolf Lake**

**History:**

Wolf Lake was one of the original twelve Metis Settlements (colonies) established in 1938-39. It was located about 50 km north of Bonnyville and just south of what is now the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range. In 1941, there were at least 63 people living on the Settlement and at least 26 plots of land allocated for agricultural purposes. Wolf Lake Settlers participated in a mixed economy of agriculture, hunting, trapping, and fishing. Because of the remote location of Wolf Lake, it was considered “inconvenient and impractical” for the Government of Alberta to provide services to the community. In 1960, the Government of Alberta closed the Settlement along with the Settlement at Cold Lake. At that time, the population at Wolf Lake was reduced to 11-12 families, most of whom were moved to other Settlements. At least five of these families moved to Elizabeth Settlement. More research needs to be done to determine where the other families eventually settled.

**Wolf Lake Traditional Land Use:**

Since 2015, Elizabeth Metis Settlement has been conducting interviews and mapping their members’ traditional land uses at Wolf Lake, recording where members used to live, hunt, fish, and trap as well as where members still use the lands in this area. This information assists the Elizabeth Consultation Office in advocating for the protection of members’ land uses and significant historical areas during consultations with industry proponents.
One important priority of this work has been to accurately document the Wolf Lake historical cemetery so that it can be properly protected. Because the cemetery was established so long ago and was not registered as a Cemetery by the church or the government, it has no official status and is vulnerable to encroachment and even damage by recreational ATV users and industry developments. Family members of those who are buried there have erected signs to alert other land users of the cemetery but Elizabeth Settlement would like to see it fenced and properly protected under provincial legislation.

In August of 2015, Consultation Coordinators from the eight Metis Settlements did a site visit to the cemetery. Two more site visits to the cemetery have occurred since then, one to conduct a pipe ceremony and another for Elizabeth Settlement to collect additional GPS coordinates of the graves and surrounding features. Elizabeth Council is currently in discussions with the Government of Alberta to have the site registered and protected as a Cemetery under the *Cemeteries Act*. Additionally, Elizabeth Settlement consultation office has been working with Alberta Culture to document land-access routes to the cemetery (currently, it is easiest to access by boat).

If anyone has information about the historical Wolf Lake Settlement or cemetery they would like to share, please contact Anne Turbide, Elizabeth Consultation Coordinator (780-594-5026), or your own Settlement’s Consultation Office.

**Harvesting**

*Update on developments.*

In the late spring of 2017, representatives from Indigenous Relations and Alberta Environment and Parks began meeting with the MSGC Harvesting Committee to make improvements to the Government of Alberta’s Metis Harvesting Policy. The MSGC Harvesting Committee (made up of one Council member from each Settlement and chaired by the MSGC Vice President) met with government representatives several times over the summer months, advocating for: recognition of Metis Settlement membership cards as valid proof of members’ harvesting rights; an agreement between
Alberta and the MSGC on how Settlement members’ harvesting rights will be managed (or a Metis Settlement specific Harvesting Policy); and the ability of Settlement members to harvest Alberta-wide (or throughout most of the province).

During the discussions with government representatives it became apparent to the Harvesting Committee that the Government of Alberta had already pre-determined both the items for discussion and the scope of possible changes to the Metis Harvesting Policy, therefore calling into question the sincerity of the engagement process. On the direction of the Assembly, President Cunningham wrote a letter to the Premier in early September 2017, asking for a meeting to discuss the matter with her, Ministers Feehan and Phillips (Environment and Parks), and a representative from the Government of Canada (Crown-Indigenous Relations). A follow up letter asking for a response to the September letter was sent on November 3, 2017. No response has been received to date.

**Climate Change Initiative**

*Many opportunities for the Metis Settlements can be found in the Province of Alberta’s Climate Change Strategy*

On August 11th, 2017, Lee Thom resigned from his position as the Climate Change Coordinator (CCC). Charlene Holmes was asked to step into the role as CCC in the interim until the position will be posted in late fall/early winter.

In August 2017, the CCC along with the GoA set up a Climate Change booth at the Kikino Rodeo. A brief survey was introduced where more than 35 people participated, most of whom indicated that they were not aware of the Indigenous Climate Leadership Plan. Raising awareness in the Settlements on this initiative is a key focus.

In late August, early September 2017, the CCC, along with the Firelight Group, visited the eight Settlements to deliver Climate Change Literacy workshops. Attendance was not as high as anticipated due to late notice to the Settlements and hosting the workshops during the workdays. Additional evening Climate Change workshops are currently being proposed in early 2018.

The CCC has completed an application for the Community Energy Program and received approval in late September 2017. This will result in an energy audit of the MSGC building in Edmonton. After the audit is complete, MSGC will move forward in applying for an Energy Efficiency Retrofit of the building.

The CCC has requested and received quotes from industry with regards to installation of solar panels on the MSGC building in Edmonton. The MSGC Executive will receive an outline of the quotes and make a decision on the company that they wish to use. Once a decision is made, the CCC will be applying for the Alberta Indigenous Solar Program grant.

Due to the elections on the Settlements, a new Climate Change committee has been established. A Climate Change Committee meeting is being proposed for November 2017. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to inform and educate the members on the entire initiative.
Policy Development

Work on several MSGC Policies has been ongoing.

As of November 03, 2017, the following progress has been made regarding policy development:

**Councillor Remuneration Committee (GCP 2017/02)** - In May 2017, the Minister approved the “MSGC Councillor Remuneration & Benefits Committee Policy”. This policy basically established a Councillor Remuneration Committee. The purpose of the Committee is “to consider what amounts are appropriate to pay to councillors, including, without limitation amounts of remuneration and honoraria and benefits and expenses, and report and make recommendations to the General Council”.

In May 2017, the MSGC Assembly appointed three persons to serve on the Councillor Remuneration Committee: Jeanette Calliou (Elizabeth Administrator), Roger Littlechilds (Kikino Administrator) and Darla Wanuch (Paddle Prairie member).

In June 2017, the MSGC Assembly approved a Terms of Reference (see attached) for the Committee.

To date, the following work has been completed by the Committee:

**Councillor Remuneration Policy** – An updated draft of the Councillor Remuneration Policy will be completed the week of November 06, 2017. The Committee is planning to meet the week of November 13, 2017. After that meeting, another draft will be presented to the Assembly for review.

**Other policy work conducted by the MSGC Board and Governance Committee:**

**Elections Policy (GCP 2017/05)** – The MSGC Assembly gave second reading to the Elections Policy on August 04, 2017. The Policy is currently awaiting Assembly review and approval for third reading.

**Standardized Financial Reporting Policy (GCP 2017/07)** – The MSGC Assembly gave first reading to the Standardized Financial Reporting Policy on September 22, 2017. The Settlements are currently reviewing the policy and will provide comments, edits etc. In addition, the Government of Alberta is also reviewing the draft policy.

**Conflict of Interest Policy (GCP 2017/08)** – The MSGC Assembly gave third reading to the Conflict of Interest Policy on August 04, 2017. On November 01, 2017, the Minister of Indigenous Relations met with the President and informed that there are legal and jurisdictional concerns with some of the policy contents. As such, the policy has been vetoed by the Minister and will have to be redone.

**Relationship of Settlement Councillors to Settlement Controlled Business Policy (GCP 2017/09)** – The MSGC Assembly gave third reading to the Relationship of Settlement Councillors to Settlement Controlled Business Policy on September 01, 2017. On November 01, 2017, the Minister of Indigenous Relations met with the President and informed that there are legal and jurisdictional concerns with some of the policy contents. As such, MSGC will be requested to withdraw the Relationship of Settlement Councillors to Settlement Controlled Business Policy.
**Code of Conduct Policy (GCP 2017/10)** – The MSGC Assembly gave third reading to the Code of Conduct Policy on September 01, 2017. On November 01, 2017, the Minister of Indigenous Relations met with the President and informed that there are legal and jurisdictional concerns with some of the policy contents. As such, MSGC will be requested to withdraw the Code of Conduct Policy.

**Membership Policy** – MSGC Membership Policy GCP 2017/01 was defeated on third reading on July 19, 2017. Since then, legal counsel has been instructed to rework this policy. MSGC was informed that this policy would take a few months to redraft. MSGC is still waiting for the redraft.

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**MSGC PREZ HITS THE AIRWAVES!**

On Wednesday, November 1st, as part of the Proclamation Day flag raising and celebration, MSGC President Gerald Cunningham joined 630CHED host Ryan Jespersen on his morning show. The segment featured President Cunningham providing some history about the Metis Settlements to Jespersen and his listeners. Gerald also explained the meaning behind Proclamation Day.

The radio appearance proved to be an important opportunity, as part of MSGC’s commitment to building awareness about the Settlements. The link to the segment is: [https://omny.fm/shows/ryan-jespersen-show/nov-1-jespersen-10-alberta-metis-accord-anniversary](https://omny.fm/shows/ryan-jespersen-show/nov-1-jespersen-10-alberta-metis-accord-anniversary)

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**Fishing Lake Metis Settlement Honours Fallen on Remembrance Day 2017**

On November 11, 2017, the Fishing Lake Metis Settlement held a special Remembrance Day ceremony in honour of those individuals who fought on behalf of our country. In particular, war veterans from the Fishing Lake Metis Settlement and other Indigenous veterans were honoured.

Dignitaries, invited guests and community members of Fishing Lake participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the memorial statue located in the heart of the community. Sean DesRoches-Fenton played the bag pipe at different intervals throughout the ceremony. Fishing Lake Chairperson, Herb Lehr, served as emcee of the event. Participants then met at the Communiplex. Speeches were conducted by officials from MSGC (Sherry Cunningham), MNA (Karen Collins) and the Fishing Lake Metis Settlement (Herb Lehr). Guests were treated to exemplary fiddle music by local musician, Grayson Durocher. Michelle Arrigoni provided a touching rendition of “Danny Boy”. Frances St. Jean recited the poem “Flanders Field”.


Ceremony participants had the humble opportunity to participate in a poppy laying ceremony on a Metis sash, which was draped around a statue of a soldier. The whole event was extremely moving and heartfelt.

Congratulations to the Fishing Lake Metis Settlement for a wonderful tribute to the veterans who fought bravely to keep our Country intact. Ceremonies such as this will ensure that we will never forget how fortunate we are to enjoy the many freedoms we have today.
Metis Settlements Strategic Training Initiatives

Work is ongoing to enhance services

MSSTI has completed Labour Market Surveys on each of the eight Metis Settlements. This process allowed each respective settlement to prioritize local training opportunities for their members based on local labour market initiatives. The data collected will form a pillar in the development of a workforce strategy for the communities, both collectively and individually. The process for data collection was mindful of the end goal: to provide insight and understanding about how to best achieve a well-trained and productive workforce in each of the Settlements.

MSSTI has been conducting on-site Activity & Financial Monitoring as outlined in the ASETS Agreement. MSSTI Administration assesses the following:

- MSSTI Application & Career Investigation
- Approval letter/Acceptance letter
- Signed Action Plans
- Cash-flow, invoices, cheque req’s & cleared bank cheques
- General transaction ledger & bank/credit card statements

MSSTI also invites you to visit the MSGC website under the Strategic Training Initiatives tab. You will find links to assist all members/students looking for guidance in:

- Exploring Occupations/Post-secondary Planning
- Certification Requirements for Occupations
- Transfer Alberta
- Job Seekers
- Canada Job Bank
- Glass Door – Students and recent grads can find internships, entry level jobs, interview questions etc.

Links to bursaries, scholarships and awards can be found at: https://metissettlements.com/mssti/

If you require any assistance with the above or with resume writing, cover letters or applying for EI, your local Human Resource Officer can assist you in many areas regarding Labour Market opportunities. There are also MSSTI applications, career investigations, scholarships, bursary links and further information on the MSGC website. Please review and apply or forward to anyone you know that might benefit from this information:

http://www.altalink.ca/responsibility/community-investment/powerful-education.cfm

http://indspire.ca/for-students/bursaries-scholarships/

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the MSSTI Director, Dianne Desjarlais at: 780-822-4069 (OR) 780-887-1939.
The Long Term Agreement

The LTA was signed on July 4th, 2013, and provides a minimum of $85 million in funding to the Settlements over a ten-year period. As part of MSGC’s commitments, MSGC has agreed to contribute 28.5 million towards infrastructure and housing within the Settlements. Funding for all other initiatives will be provided through the LTA. Specific Government departments have also provided additional funding for various initiatives contained in the schedules.

Schedule A – Essential Services

Essential Services operating payments for the 2017-18 fiscal year have now been transferred to the eligible Settlements. The 2018-19 fiscal year will be the last year of grant funding for this area under the LTA.

Schedule B - Infrastructure

Capital Infrastructure projects continue to proceed on the Settlements. The Buffalo Lake Road and East Prairie Approved Road Improvements are being Tendered for construction in the spring of 2018. Elizabeth Settlement is preparing for bridge file work to commence in the spring of 2018. Considerations regarding the best practices in handling of solid waste are being evaluated. The progress on the Fishing Lake Administration Building is continuing at a good pace and Gift Lake continues its work on their water treatment plant upgrade and water intake projects, with Tender being prepared for a water pressure booster station. In Kikino, they are also considering how best to handle solid waste, and are preparing to undertake bridge file projects as soon as possible. Peavine is completing work on the water system and proceeding with Road “A” upgrade work although winter weather will slow down progress until spring. An Asset Inventory and Condition Assessment program is being implemented to update the Capital Infrastructure information on all Settlements. This program is part of the Five-Year Review.

Schedule C - Housing

The Metis Settlements Sustainable Housing Steering Committee is working with a Consultant to formulate the structure and management practices for the Metis Settlement Housing Authority (MSHA). This work was briefly delayed due to the Settlement Elections and Council re-organizations. A Report on this work is expect by the beginning of December for presentation to the MSGC Assembly for consideration. Once approval is gained for the operational procedures of the MSHA, a process to transition the LTA Housing Program from Habitat to the new Authority will be undertaken.

Schedule D - Governance

A detailed policy update is provided on page 20.

Schedule E – Capacity Building

The Settlement Implementation Capacity Program is in its third year and will continue in 2018-19 for a fourth year. The original intent of the schedule was to create training programs for Settlement staff - Administrators, Finance, Public Works, etc. - in order to build capacity to do community work at the Settlement level. It became clear, and Settlements provided feedback, that the best approach was
to make resources, on an equal basis, available to each Settlement and have them submit proposals for using the money. Projects in the Settlements have ranged from updating records management to staff training to policy development. The program has worked well, which is why the Implementation Team approved a request for decision allocating **$146,934 per Settlement party to the LTA, for 2017-18**. Settlements must complete their progress reports on 2016-17 funding before they are eligible for new funds. Additional details and templates were provided to each Settlement.

Schedule F - Education

The K-12 Education Program is in its first funded year and is confirmed to continue through 2018-19. The program is the result of a comprehensive community engagement process that allowed Members to voice their concerns and their ideas to improve K-12 education. Each Settlement has developed their own community plans and submitted proposals based on these plans. Initiatives vary in each Settlement, ranging from funded support workers, attendance enhancement programs, head start-style programs, and much more. **For 2017-18, each Settlement that is a party to the LTA is eligible to receive $140,000.** Settlements must complete their progress reports on 2016-17 funding before they are eligible for new funds. Additional details and templates were provided to each Settlement. Money has been set aside to begin planning a process of assessment and engagement regarding post-secondary education.

Schedule G - Training

A pilot project to supplement the ASETS (MSSTI) funding from the Federal Government was launched in 2016-17. The 2016-17 pilot program has been extended. **For 2017-18, each Settlement that is a party to the LTA is eligible to receive $80,000.** This program will continue the ASETS supplement. Additional details and templates were provided to each Settlement.

Schedule H – Safe & Healthy Communities

A detailed update on Health Board activities can be found on page 11. All parties agree that the Settlements require greater say in how policing works for them in the Communities and Dot continues to work on the issue.

Schedule I - Consultation

A detailed update on Consultation is provided on page 16 of this edition of The Messenger.

Schedule J – Financial Sustainability

Preliminary discussions about how to support initiatives that will lead to greater financial sustainability are ongoing. Options are being considered and recommendations on next steps will be developed as the process to draft a 2018-19 Annual Work Plan & Budget gets underway.

Schedule K - Implementation

MSGC has received the 2017-18 LTA grant funds from the Government of Alberta. The recommended changes proposed during the Two-Year Review have been accepted and are now being implemented to improve the agreement. These changes are primarily administrative. Substantial changes will be discussed in the new year as the Five-Year Review commences.
Self-governance is about making and applying law. It’s about checks and balances.

However, for the Metis Settlements of Alberta, and for the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, self-governance is more than a mechanical proposition. Self-governance is about people. In particular, it’s about preserving and enhancing Metis culture and identity and furthering the very attainment of self-governance by Metis settlements under the laws of Alberta.

While every appeal is different, our objective is to glean the values and ways of living from each participant that strengthen Metis culture and identity and that bind us together. Our job is to also clarify provincial statutes, General Council policies, and local bylaws to show how the rules can be used to build a home, a partnership, a community.

For example, the Appeal Tribunal has recently recommended that bylaws be put before settlement members guaranteeing timely and transparent reviews of council expenditures, and bylaws be put to public meetings setting out the principles and processes for settlement councils to retain external legal counsel. The Appeal Tribunal does not restrict its recommendations to councils. We recently recommended that the Metis Settlements Registry reject membership notices that are not completely filled in, including any forms in which the “reasons of refusal” of membership are left blank. We’ve also suggested that thought be given to making all land and membership clerks provincial employees, with access to the resources and direct supervision of the Metis Settlements Registrar.

The Appeal Tribunal also continually strives to improve its own operations and outcomes. We welcome ideas from councils and members. Recently, one great recommendation was that the Appeal Tribunal consider teaching mediation techniques at future outreach sessions on the Metis settlements. On the whole, every idea and even every criticism is welcome because each is aimed at improving the way the Appeal Tribunal achieves its mandate of preserving and enhancing Metis culture and identity and strengthening self-governance.

If you’ve got any suggestions, call us. Our number is 1-800-661-8864.

Lorne Dustow
Chairman, Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal
ATTENTION!!! RECRUITING LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term used to describe the range of disabilities caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol. FASD is a lifelong condition with no cure. FASD is a very complex issue. The Metis Settlements FASD Network exists to enhance the capacity of our Communities to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and support those impacted by FASD through coordinated planning, collaboration, education, service delivery and advocacy. The strategic direction and goals are influenced by the Provincial FASD Network core operating value's in collaboration with the Metis Way of Life & other unique Metis cultural elements. The Metis Settlements are the only land-based government in Canada. Our culture guides and shapes our partnerships. Respect, hard work, creativity, and commitment are the hallmarks of our present and future relationships. We are in a unique position to lead by example by building enriching partnerships that yield economic and social prosperity.

Starting in April 2017 and up to December 2017, the Metis Settlements FASD Provincial Service Network will be recruiting for a Leadership Team. We are looking for members who believe in our mission and are willing to be active in their leadership roles. The Metis Settlements FASD Provincial Service Network believes that this work has never been more important than it is today. We are looking for members whose experience and involvement in the community would be an asset to our organization, and we hope that you will consider becoming a member of our Leadership Team. The role of the Leadership Team will be to provide the Metis Settlements FASD Provincial Service Network with operational and strategic direction. The Metis Settlements FASD Provincial Service Network is entering a challenging and exciting time, as pressures on our clientele increase and the demand for our service continues to rise. This is an excellent opportunity for our members to learn and grow with the organization. Our aim is to reduce the incidents of FASD, strengthen community capacity to deliver FASD Supports and Services, and support positive outcomes for children, youth and adults affected by FASD and their families.

If you are an individual with an interest in FASD (Caregiver, Service Provider, Individual with FASD, Elder, Youth) who is interested in being a part of our Leadership Team, please contact the Metis Settlements FASD Provincial Service Network Coordinator, Anita Anderson at (587) 336 5683 or (780) 822 4096 to submit your name.
From everyone at MSGC, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! May 2018 be filled with joy, prosperity and success!