

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
CONSULTATION WITH THE
METIS SETTLEMENTS OF ALBERTA

*Working Together For
Our Land, Our Culture, Our Future*

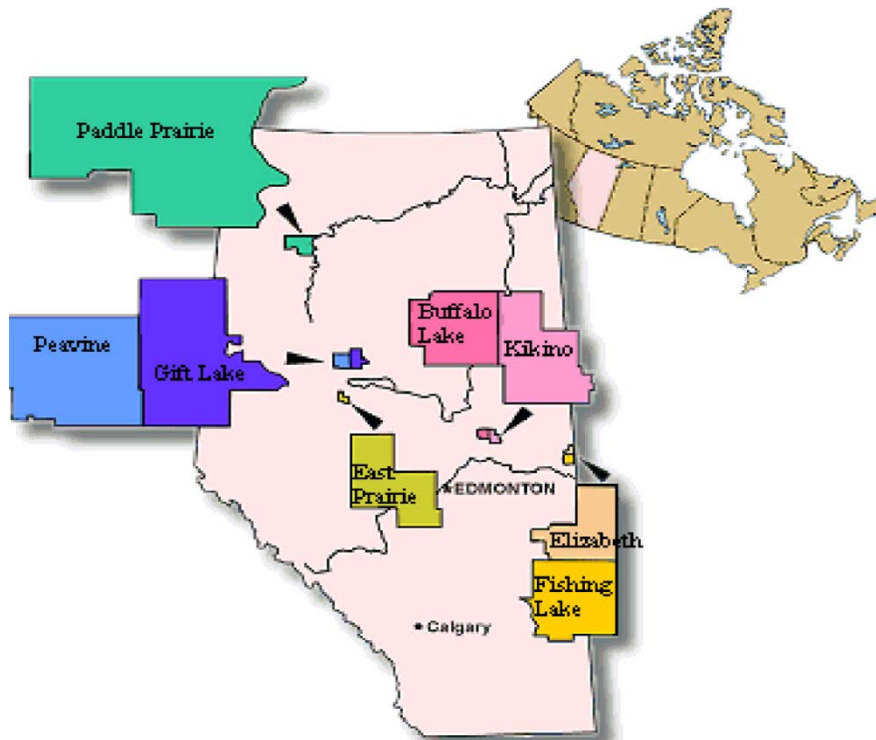
March 2018



Government
of Canada



METIS SETTLEMENTS OF ALBERTA COMMUNITY PROFILES AND CONSULTATION CONTACTS



Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement

Near Lac La Biche, Alberta
Land Mass: 34, 720 Hectares
Population: 700+
Consultation Contact:
Cheryl Gordon
Email: cgordon@blmetis.ca
Office: 780-689-2170
Fax: 780-689-2024
P.O. Box 16,
Caslan, AB. T0A 0R0

East Prairie Metis Settlement

Near High Prairie, Alberta
Land Mass: 32, 647 Hectares
Population: 500+
Consultation Contact:
Caitlyn Supernault
Email: caitlyn@epms.ca
Office: 780-523-2594
PO Box 1289
High Prairie, AB. T0G 1E0

Elizabeth Metis Settlement

Near Cold Lake, Alberta
Land Mass: 25, 601 Hectares
Population: 700+
Consultation Contact:
Anne Turbide
Email: anneturbide72@gmail.com
Office: 780-594-5026
Cell: 780-812-5257
PO Box 420
Cold Lake, AB. T9M 1P1

Fishing Lake Metis Settlement

Near Elk Point, Alberta
Land Mass: 37, 957 Hectares
Population: 500+
Consultation Contact:
Stacey LaBoucane
Email:
consultationofficer@fishinglakems.ca
Office: 780-943-2202 ext. 260
Cell: 780-646-0581
General Delivery
Sputinow, AB. T0A 3G0

Gift Lake Metis Settlement

Near High Prairie, Alberta
Land Mass: 83, 951 Hectares
Population: 700+
Consultation Contact:
Ryan McLeod
Email:
consultation.office@giftlakemetis.ca
Office: 780-767-3794
Cell: 587-283-0644T9M 1P1
PO Box 60
Gift Lake, AB. T0G 1B0

Kikino Metis Settlement

Near Lac La Biche, Alberta
Land Mass: 44, 825 Hectares
Population: 900+
Consultation Contact:
Shelby Merchant
Email: kikinoconsultation@mcsnet.ca
Office: 780-623-7868
Cell: 780-404-4581
Fax: 780-623-7080
General Delivery
Kikino, AB. T0A 2B0

Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement

Near High Level, Alberta
Land Mass: 163, 168 Hectares
Population: 500+
Consultation Contact:
Justin Gaudet
Email: Justin@paddleprairie.com
Office: 780-981-2227
Cell: 780-296-1504
P.O. Box 58
Paddle Prairie, AB. T0H 2W0

Peavine Metis Settlement

Near High Prairie, Alberta
Land Mass: 82, 233 Hectares
Population: 600+
Consultation Contact:
Mark Sinclair
Email: mark.sinclair@peavinemetis.com
Office: 780-523-3991
Bag #4
High Prairie, AB. T0G 1E0



CONSULTATION WITH METIS SETTLEMENTS

The Government of Canada has a duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Aboriginal groups when it considers conduct that might adversely impact potential or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights. The right to be consulted on any development that will negatively impact our traditional territories has been on the forefront for the past several years. There are a number of reasons why consultation is required:

1. The Government of Canada consults with Aboriginal communities for a variety of reasons including
 - a) Statutory and contractual obligations
 - b) Policy and good governance
 - c) Common law duty to consult
2. Rights recognized and Affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act of Canada, 1982*.
3. *United Nations Declaration the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)*
4. Duty to consult as recognized through the Supreme Court of Canada when Aboriginal rights are potentially adversely impacted.

With the unique governing structures of the Metis Settlements **it must be made very clear, that initial contact will occur directly with affected Settlements.** Each Settlement has their own Consultation Coordinator and established offices.

MSGC RESOURCE CENTER

The Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) Resource Center will serve as a conduit for information between the Settlements and the Government of Canada with respect to consultation. The MSGC resource center will:

1. Facilitate the development of relationships on consultation between Metis Settlements and Government of Canada initiatives and issues.
2. Provide training to support the Metis Settlements.
3. Support Metis Settlements' traditional land use mapping.

CONSULTATION PRIORITIES FOR METIS SETTLEMENTS

The consultation priorities for the Metis Settlements are:

1. Cumulative effects and impacts.
2. Transparency of the federal government's process and decision-making.
3. Recognition of, and respect for, the Metis Settlements as unique Aboriginal governments and communities.
4. Recognition of, and respect for, consultation on Metis Settlements traditional land use areas.
5. Recognition of, and respect for, for Metis rights and traditional land uses.

OUR HISTORY - LAND SECURITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

Prior to Alberta joining the confederation in 1905, many Metis were destitute and were not welcome in white Settlements nor allowed to live on crown land. They did not have a land base like the First Nations or access to



permanent homestead agreements as did the settlers. The Metis scrip system offered by the Canadian government, while appearing benevolent, was, through its convoluted procedures of application, designed to part the Metis from their land. Many who took the land scrip eventually sold their land, while others chose to join First Nations bands in which they had relatives, and still others made their homes on road allowances (narrow strips of Crown land designated for future road development throughout Alberta). These road allowance homes were often burned and the road allowance land taken up by the Crown. This is why the Metis in northern Alberta were once called the “road allowance people”.

The first serious attempt by the government of Canada to address the Metis situation was with the establishment of a Metis Reserve near Saint Paul, Alberta in 1896. Four townships were leased to the Catholic Church for allocation to the Metis, along with the promise of livestock and farming equipment; which never came. The lack of equipment made farming very difficult and progress was slow. By 1910, the reserve was deemed a failure and was opened to French Canadian settlers, forcing the Metis to move again.



The Big 5

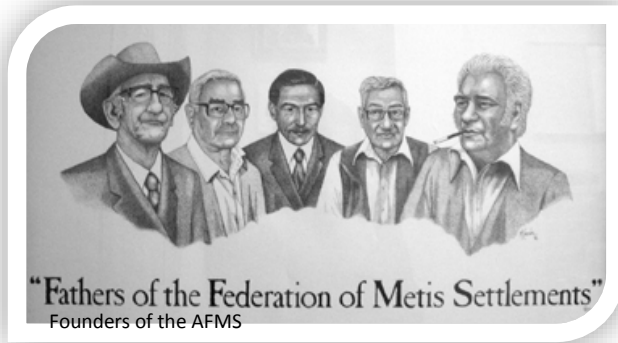
In 1932, the Metis in Alberta began to organize themselves politically and formed the "L' Association Des Metis D' Alberta Des Territoires Du Nordquest" under the leadership of Joseph Joe Dion, Malcolm Norris, Felix Calliou, and Pete Tompkins (who replaced Henry Cunningham). Known as the “Big 5” they were successful in their negotiations with the province of Alberta and in 1934 prompted and participated in the Ewing Commission to look into the “*Problems of Health, Education and the General Welfare of the Metis People*”.

One of the recommendations of the Ewing Commission final report was for the province to set aside land for the establishment of Metis colonies. In 1938, the Alberta government passed the *Metis Population Betterment Act* and Alberta became the first province in Canada to enact legislation specific to Metis and to designate land for 12 Metis Colonies (later called Settlements). Between the year 1941 and 1964 four of these Metis Settlements were dissolved, causing great concern for Metis, again about land security.



Ewing Commission

During the 1960's that oil and gas development was happening on the Metis Settlements, and funds from the sale of their resources was going into provincial revenue instead of the Metis Population Betterment Trust Fund; added to that, was the concern that Province of Alberta was contemplating lifting the boundaries of the remaining Metis Settlements and turning them into Improvement Districts.



The Metis Settlements leadership were organized as 'associations' and as such did not have any legal capability to speak for the collective interests of the 8 Metis Settlements. This led the Metis Settlements leaders to work together and form the Alberta Federation of Metis Settlements (AFMS) in 1975. This political body became a strong, united voice for the Settlements to advance their collective interests. The AFMS was successful by working collaboratively with the Alberta Government and was able to work out a "Made in Alberta" agreement. Through their

concerted efforts the province of Alberta established the MacEwan Committee and accepted its report in January 1985.

The proposal "By Means of Conferences and Negotiations We Ensure Our Rights" was presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in July 1986 and became the framework for the ongoing discussions between the AFMS and the Alberta government that led to the signing of the historic Alberta Metis Settlements Accord on July 1, 1989.

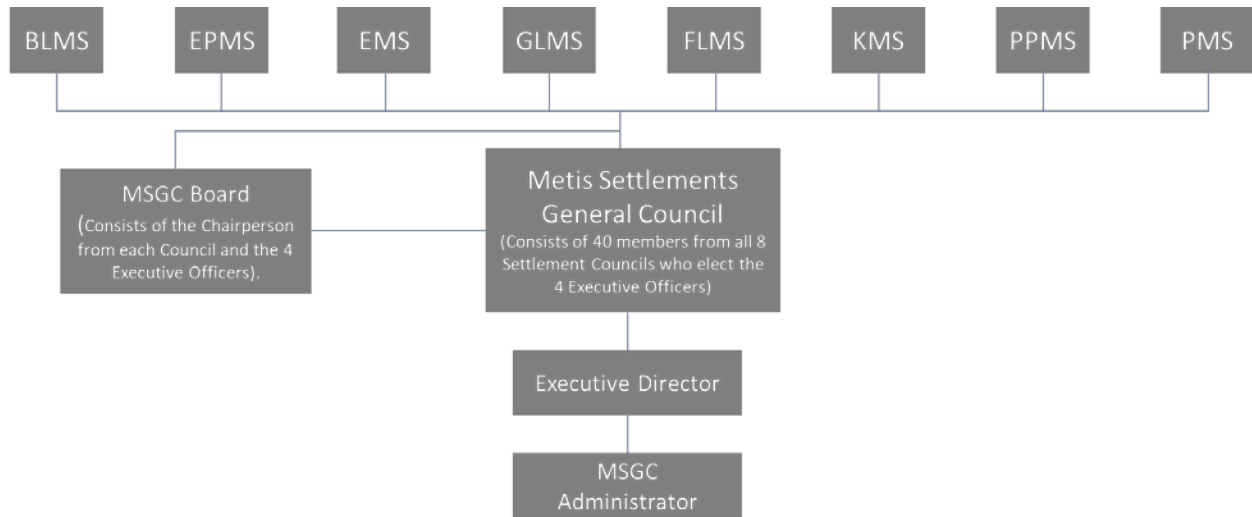
The following year, on November 1, 1990, Alberta government passed four pieces of legislation related to the Metis Settlements, creating a governance framework for the eight remaining Settlements and providing for co-management of subsurface resources on Settlements (*Metis Settlements Act*); protecting Metis Settlement lands under the provincial constitution (*Metis Settlements Land Protection Act* and *Constitution of Alberta Amendment Act*); and providing a 17-year statutory funding commitment (*Metis Settlements Accord Implementation Act*). A total of 1.25 million acres of land was transferred to the Metis Settlements General Council, resulting in the only protected Metis land base in Canada.



Signing in Kikino, 1989



METIS SETTLEMENTS GOVERNING STRUCTURE



METIS SETTLEMENT COUNCILS



Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement Council

The *Metis Settlements Act* creates the framework for the establishment of the Metis Settlement Councils and the Metis Settlements General Council. The Metis Settlement Council is the governing Council for their respective Settlements; they have the basic powers of a local government as well as jurisdiction over: membership, land management and allocation, hunting, fishing, and other traditional pursuits. They also have by-law making power. This by-law making power is the purest form of democracy in Canada, as the passage of a by-law requires the approval of the Settlement membership, at a public meeting before it becomes law.



METIS SETTLEMENTS GENERAL COUNCIL (MSGC)

The MSGC is the legal corporation established under the *Metis Settlements Act* of 1990. The MSGC is the only political body that represents the 8 Metis Settlements provincially and nationally and is the only Metis government of the land-based Metis in Canada.

A four-member executive is elected by The General Council assembly every three years and they play a major role in ensuring the Settlements maintain good government, and strengthen relationships with provincial and federal governments as well as other local authorities and Aboriginal political bodies.



MSGC Executive

The MSGC which is the central government for the 8 Settlements has a broad mandate that includes:

- Holds letters patent which officially transferred fee simple title of 1.2 million acres of land from The Province to the MSGC.
- Powers to pass General Council policies which have the same enforcement as provincial statutes
- Authority to pass model bylaws until replaced by local Settlement bylaws
- They also oversee administrative functions and are responsible for developing and ensuring the delivery of programs and services to the 8 Metis Settlements.

This unique system is built on the guiding principles:

- Our land
- Our culture
- Our future

CONCLUSION

The Metis Settlements have a long history of working tirelessly for the protection and betterment of our land, culture and future. We are confident that through consultation and collaboration, a positive working relationship can be developed between the Government of Canada and the Metis Settlements of Alberta.