



## Métis Nation of Alberta

# GOVERNANCE

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), has adopted a model of governance which assumes full responsibility for the representation of the Métis people within the province of Alberta. Ancillary to this political representation, the MNA has also developed a strong governance infrastructure, which provides culturally sensitive services and programs to Alberta Métis at the regional and community level within urban and rural areas.

The MNA is the oldest of the Governing Members within the MNC. It finds its roots as far back as 1928 where a small group of Métis in the Cold Lake area began to meet and organize. This group, led by Charles Delorme, established L'Association des Métis Alberta et Les Territoires du Nor-Ouest. The political movement led to the incorporation of the Métis Association of Alberta (now the Métis Nation of Alberta) in December of 1932 with a mandate to mobilize Alberta's land-less Métis. As a result of this political movement, the MNA was successful in negotiating the *Métis Betterment Act* with the province of Alberta in November 1938, which set aside settlement areas (colonies) for Alberta's most indigent Métis.

The Métis Association's involvement in this historic accomplishment led to the creation of the Federation of Métis Settlements and ultimately, Métis Settlements legislation which makes Alberta the only province in Canada with an established Métis land base.

### Overview of MNA Governance Structure

Since the 1930's the MNA has continued to evolve to represent and advocate the interests of Alberta's Métis population. In its contemporary form the MNA has a democratic governance structure which represents Métis people at the community, regional and provincial level.

#### Annual Assembly

The MNA Annual Assembly is the ultimate governing authority within the MNA. It encourages participation from all MNA members, 67 Métis locals, six Regional Councils and a 14-member Provincial Council. The MNA Annual Assembly, which is held in a different region each year, is the contemporary expression of the centuries-old struggle of Alberta's Métis people collectively striving to become a self-governing nation within Canada.





## **Métis Provincial Council**

The MNA Provincial Council serves as the representative body and political voice of the Métis people in Alberta. Consistent with the MNA by-laws and resolutions from its Annual General Assembly, the MNA Provincial Council articulates Métis' needs, goals and objectives.

The MNA Provincial Council also develops strategic direction and policy for dealing with governments to achieve these objectives and participates in the design and delivery of programs and service directed toward Métis social and economic institutions.

The MNA operates as a democratic body with province wide, "one person, one vote," ballot box elections for the leadership of the MNA Provincial Council once every three years.

To strike a proper balance between regional and provincial interests, the MNA Provincial Council consists of two officers, a Provincial President and Provincial Vice President elected at large and two officers (a Regional President and Vice President) elected from each of the six MNA regions throughout the province.

Through an internal process, the MNA Provincial Council goes one step further and appoints a Secretary and a Treasurer from within the ranks of the Provincial Council to complete the requirements for a four member Executive body. Collectively these elected representatives form the fourteen-member Provincial Council.

## **Regional Councils**

To express constituent boundaries, the MNA governance structure is divided into six regional areas. Each designated region has a regional council that consists of a regional President and Vice-President and representation of Métis locals from within the region.

The Regional Council assumes a host of governance functions for the region and also provides direction, input and feedback to the Regional President/Vice President who in turn takes regional matters forward to the MNA Provincial Council.



## **Métis Locals**

There are currently 67 Métis locals throughout the province. Community members elect their local leadership, which give direction to the regional council, which in turn gives direction, input and feedback to the MNA Provincial Council.

## **Métis Judiciary and Council of Elders**

In recent years, the MNA has moved to enhance its governance structures to meet the evolving needs of the Métis Nation and implement governance infrastructures that embrace the Métis Nation's traditional self-government values.

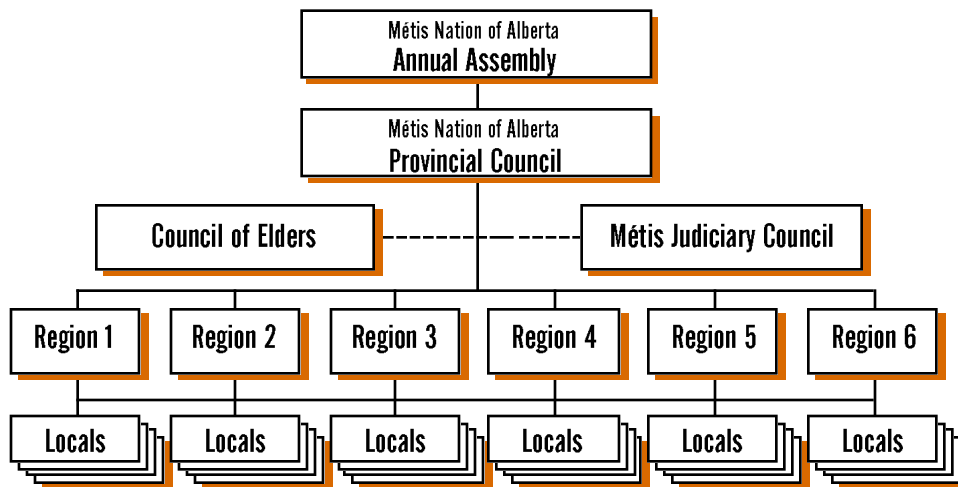
The Métis Judiciary Council (MJC) has been established to address various internal grievances at the individual and collective level within the MNA. The MJC provides a dispute resolution mechanism to resolve matters concerning membership, bylaws, conflict of interest and regional boundaries and to establish rules and procedures on other matters that require resolution.





In addition, a Métis Council of Elders has been established to serve as ambassadors in each region. Appointed for three-year terms, the Elders provide advice and guidance to the youth and members of the Métis Nation, they promote history, culture, language and spiritual traditions of the Métis and represent the MNA at special functions. These and other advisory bodies within the MNA generally consist of respected Métis citizens, youth, Elders and serve as a recourse that can be called upon to resolve disputes within the organization.

## MNA Governance Structure Overview



## Building Stronger Governance

While the MNA has worked hard to build a democratic governance structure for Métis people within Alberta, it continues to lack the much needed resources required to effectively exercise its broad self-government mandate.

As well, three fundamental issues continue to plague the MNA in its attempt to achieve political recognition of Métis self-government: identification; jurisdiction; and recognition of inherent right of self-government. These areas of uncertainty have been the subject of much recent analysis under the MNC and the Métis Nation Agenda. The MNA has worked tirelessly to address them and has doggedly pursued federal-provincial recognition of its elected officials' mandate to exercise governance authority over Alberta's Métis population.

In recent years the MNA has undertaken its own planning to develop a stronger governance structure for Métis within Alberta, while still recognizing the barriers posed by the current positions of Canada and Alberta with respect to Métis self-government. In achieving this goal the MNA has focussed on operating under the following objectives from the Métis people's by-laws:

- To promote the cultural, economic, educational, political and social development of Métis in Alberta and Canada;
- To develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation of Alberta;





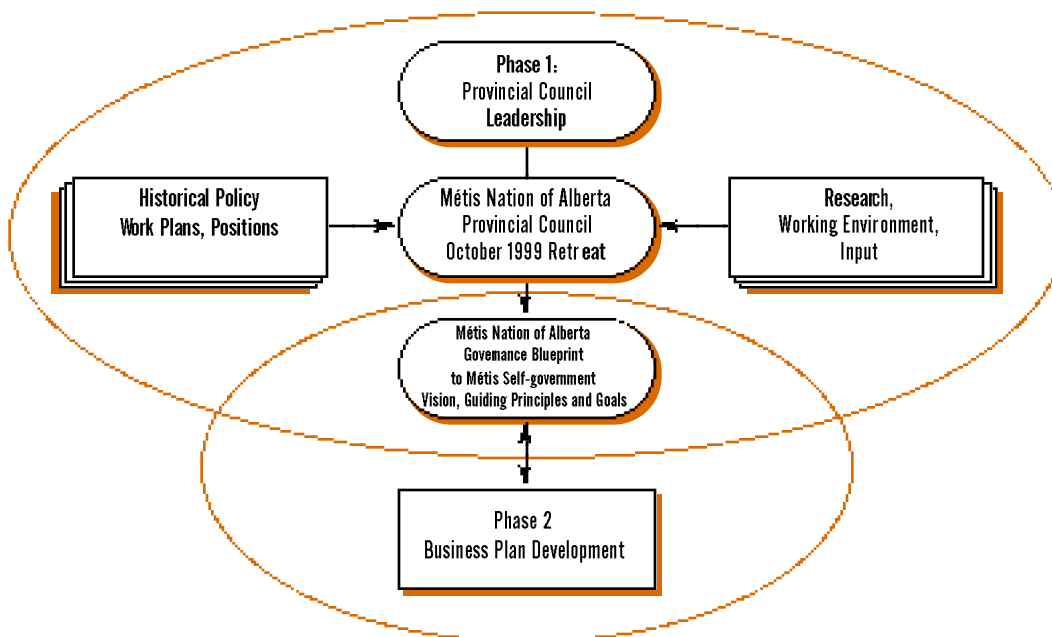
- To stand as the political representative of all Métis in Alberta and to promote self-determination and self-government for Métis in Alberta and Canada;
- To promote, pursue and defend aboriginal, legal, constitutional, and other rights of Métis in Alberta and Canada;
- Re-establish land and resource bases;
- To create awareness of the proud heritage of the Métis Nation of Alberta and to promote the history, values, culture, languages & spiritual traditions of the Métis Nation of Alberta;
- To promote and ensure participation of Métis Elders, Métis Women, Youth and Métis persons with disabilities in the educational, cultural, political and social development of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

### Blue Print to Métis Governance

From the people's by-laws, the MNA Provincial Council developed a strategic planning framework to develop its mandate in terms of vision; mission; guiding principles, policy direction and business planning process. The strategic planning framework is called the "Blueprint to Métis Governance." This document outlines the Provincial Council's three strategic goals and encompasses the MNA's mandate, the people's annual resolutions and the overall corporate vision, mission and guiding principles of the MNA Provincial Council. These are:

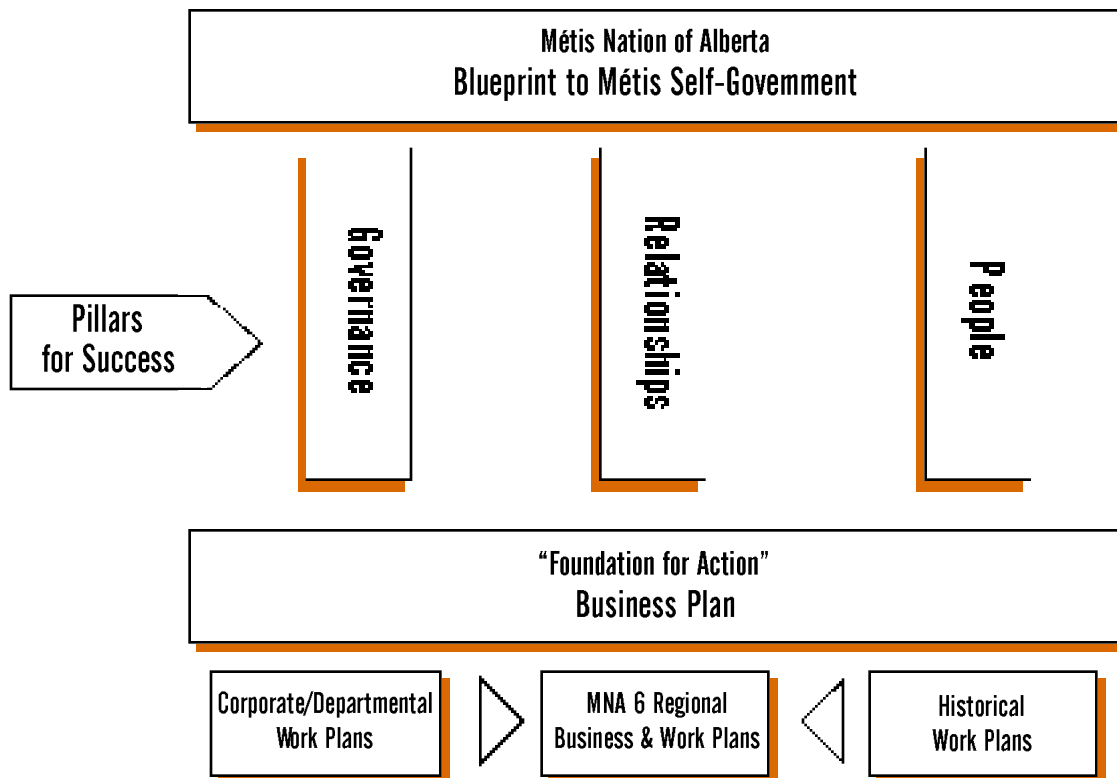
- MNA will develop sound and democratic political (governance) and administrative structures to support future Métis self-governance;
- MNA will be recognized as a self-governing authority by provincial & federal governments;
- MNA will establish socio-economic policy that improves the circumstances of Métis people.

To support the strategic goals of the Provincial Council, the MNA administration has developed, facilitated and implemented a comprehensive business planning process that has engaged the organization as a "collective" under one common format. This process is highlighted under the following illustrations:





## Blueprint to Métis Governance Flowchart



The MNA continues to move forward on implementing its "Blueprint for Métis Governance" through on-going discussions, review and evaluations.





## Métis Nation of Alberta

# PROGRAMS, SERVICES & INSTITUTIONS

Through its on-going development, the MNA has established a variety of affiliated institutions and structures (MNA Affiliates) to provide much needed socio-economic and cultural support (i.e. programs and services) to Métis people and communities. For example, the MNA has established the Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Corporation, Métis Nation Holdings Inc., the Métis Education Foundation, Métis Child and Family Services Inc., the Métis Nation Wilderness Camp Society, the Métis Urban Housing Corporation and the Alberta Métis Historical Society.

These MNA Affiliates have evolved as a part of the MNA's overall governance structure. Although many of the MNA's Affiliates are separate corporations or societies under provincial legislation, unique structures and systems have been established that ensure ultimate responsibility for these Métis institutions and structures rests with the elected leadership of the MNA, who are accountable to its grass-roots constituency.

The MNA Provincial Council and the MNA's Head Office administration are largely responsible for gaining access to government programs and services that can be delivered by the local and regional communities through a number of vehicles including the MNA's labour market development infrastructure (i.e. Employment Assistance Service Centres) or other MNA Affiliates. This access to programs and services is facilitated through negotiations under the MNA/Canada/Alberta Tripartite Process and the MNA/Alberta Framework Agreement Process, as well as, other mechanisms like the MNC's bilateral process.

In 2000/01, the MNA and the MNA affiliates had a total operating budget in excess of \$25 million. A detailed chart providing an overview of the contributions received for 2000-2001 is attached as "APPENDIX A". Of this operating budget, the provincial government provided approximately 14% (\$3.6 million), the federal government 86% (\$21.7 million) and 2% (\$0.54 million) was from other sources.

Currently, the MNA or MNA Affiliates offering programs and services and/or undertaking initiatives in the following sectors: Labour Market Development, Education, Economic Development, Child and Family Services, Housing, Health and Wellness, Justice, Youth, Culture and Heritage.





## LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

The MNA assumed responsibility of labour market programming from Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC) in 1996. Currently, the MNA has entered into a five-year (1998-2003) Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA) with HRDC which outlines the terms and conditions for this administrative devolution. For 2000/01, the MNA's AHRDA operating budget was \$11,095,145.00.

Through this arrangement with HRDC the MNA has developed an apex delivery system, capable of providing efficient and effective results-oriented programs to Métis people across Alberta. In a recent comparison released by Canada, the MNA sits among the top five delivery structures under contract or agreement with HRDC which includes more than 300 agreements among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

The MNA (AHRDA) labour market program, head-quartered in Edmonton, has six regional office locations situated throughout the province. Under the Labour Market Development Unit (LMDU), the AHRDA is implemented with seven full-time staff at the MNA head office and two full time staff at each of the six regional offices. In addition to providing support to LMDU staff at the regional level, the LMDU head-quarter staff prepare strategic plans, develop policies and procedures, liaise with the provincial and federal governments, provide staff training and prepare all reports necessary for a full accounting of the AHRDA program. The LMDU regional staff seeks out and initiates labour market initiatives locally and coordinates the selection and funding of local programs with the assistance of local Project Selection Committees.

### Employment Assistance Services

In addition to the LMDU regional offices, the MNA has established fifteen (15) Employment Assistance Service (EAS) centres throughout the province to provide labour market services to non-Settlement Métis (a separate AHRDA exists for 6,000 Métis living on eight Métis Settlements within the province of Alberta). The MNA-LMDU has done a remarkable job developing and utilizing effective partnerships to accomplish its labour market development objectives throughout the province of Alberta. Through its investment in a network of 15 independent local EAS centres, the MNA can ensure that Métis people across the province receive employment assistance somewhat independent of the political region offices and Métis locals. The EAS centres are contractually obligated to provide a variety of services regardless of cultural affiliation, including pre-employment services, career counseling, job referral, job finders clubs, employment assessments and the provision of labour market information. Although 60% of the clients served by the EASCs are First Nation or non-Métis, the MNA provides 72% of the funding to EAS centres, which has prompted a policy of leveraging EAS delivery costs with First Nations (Treaties Six, Seven and Eight). The leveraging allows for the delivery of a full range of services that might not otherwise be feasible. To this day, no other AHRDA has established an EAS service delivery structure comparable to the MNA.

The mandate of the AHRDA is to implement labour market development programs designed to assist non-settlement Métis to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. Therefore, the investment in local infrastructure was seen as an investment by the MNA Provincial Council to ensure community-based service delivery and to improve the numbers of Métis people participating in the labour market over the long term. As early as March 1998, 72% of the MNA-LMD's clients were participating in the labour force





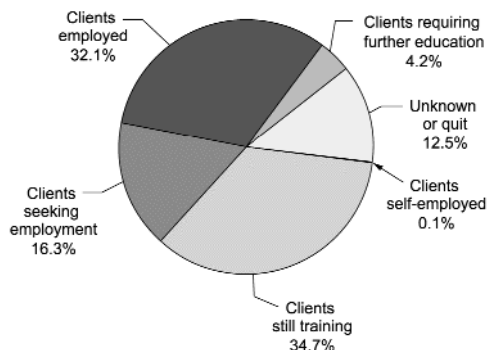
## Self-Employment Assistance

The self-employment assistance (SEA) Program has been re-designed and set up through a wholly owned subsidiary called the Métis Business Development Corporation (formerly Métis SELF Corporation). This program is designed to assist local Métis businesses and entrepreneurs to develop and expand their business with the objective of creating employment opportunities for Métis people. Support is based on the premise that an initial investment in a Métis company, using EI and CRF funding where possible, can be leveraged to attract additional investment from government and private financial sources.

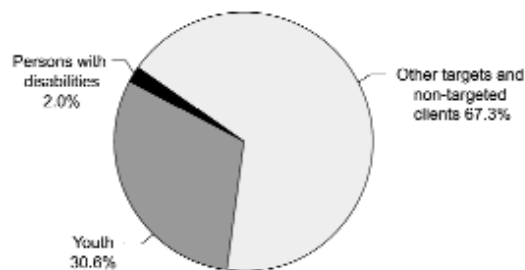
In its first year, this SEA program was successfully involved in 46 projects involving local Métis businesses, 30 of which leveraged CRF dollars and 16 utilized EI funding, resulting in the creation of 98 full-time jobs, 87 part-time jobs and 10 self-employment opportunities. The total MNA LMD investment was \$365,000 compared to (\$710,000 from client equity) an additional \$743,000 in Aboriginal Business Canada funding and over \$2.7 million in bank financing. Another MNA subsidiary, Apeetogosan Métis Development Inc. played a critical role in assisting these client companies to find financing. Today, the SEA program under LMD is enhanced by the Métis Business Development Corporation, and a Micro-business Training Centre at the MNA owned Inglewood Building in Edmonton.

Through the LMD Unit's involvement in the network of EAS centres and the MNA's involvement in the Alberta/MNA/Canada Tripartite Agreement, the notion of partnerships has long been incorporated into the guiding principles of the AHRDA. Particularly strong partnerships have been established with such provincial departments as Human Resources and Employment through the MNA's participation in Urban Aboriginal Strategy, where a group of federal-provincial-aboriginal officials meet to develop single window services for Aboriginal people in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary.

**Employment Status of  
Labour Market Development Unit Clients  
1999/2000**



**Selected Characteristics of  
Labour Market Development Unit Clients  
1999/2000**







## MNA Employment Assistance Service Centres Measurable Results 1999/2000

EAS Centres	Total Clients	Total Métis Clients	Total Client Interventions	Clients Self-Employed	Clients Seeking Employment	Clients in Further Education	Clients Still Training	Unknown or Quit	Total All Clients
REACT	212	208	80	115	96	0	0	0	212
SWB	233	128	3144	92	43	0	0	94	233
FC	326	45	388	179	60	0	0	86	326
LAEC	129	77	243	39	28	16	41	0	129
HCEC	576	288	181	144	378	0	21	31	276
AACC	223	141	67	137	86	0	0	0	278
LACEC	278	61	69	111	167	0	0	0	75
SETA	75	41	32	24	49	1	0	0	75
ACES	1845	661	1913	203	511	60	697	369	1845
KETS	570	203	261	317	253	0	0	0	570
MESC	419	58	137	83	252	2	7	74	419
SESA	230	57	107	144	31	5	50	0	230
NHOC	294	127	206	91	172	0	25	0	294
NAEOC	442	190	704	11	427	0	4	0	442
GU	72	19	70	7	48	0	0	17	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>5924</b>	<b>2304</b>	<b>8211</b>	<b>1698</b>	<b>2601</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>5924</b>

REACT Regional Employment Assistance Centre for Training  
 SWB Society of Wood Buffalo  
 FC Fort Chipewyan  
 LAEC Lakeland Aboriginal Employment Centre  
 HCEC Helping Circle Employment Centre  
 AACC Atokewan Aboriginal Career Centre  
 LACEC Lethbridge Aboriginal Career and Employment Centre  
 SETA Seamis Employment & Training Association

ACES Aboriginal Centre for Employment Strategies  
 KETS Kayas Employment & Training Services  
 MESC Muskwa Employment Services Centre  
 SESA Sagitwah Employment Services Association  
 NHOC New Horizons Outreach Centre  
 NAEOC Northern Abilities Employment Outreach Centre  
 GU Goals Unlimited

### Accountability Capacity and Financial Controls

The MNA has set up the AHRDA and the LMD program to be centralized in its financial accountability yet decentralized in its programs and services delivery. This strategy has ensured that programs and services are delivered locally through community based decision-making processes and corresponding sub-agreements, while the terms of the AHRDA are reinforced with fiscal prudence and accountability.

The MNA takes its financial accountability seriously. In 1998, the MNA was one of six participants under a national RBA/AHRDA Case Study survey, conducted by HRDC as part of the national evaluation of RBA/AHRDAs. The following profile reflects the MNA RBA/AHRDA notable "best practices" at that time:

- Annual Reports are made available to the public.
- Annual Reports provide complete accounting of income & expenses.
- Annual Reports provide complete Labour Market data.
- Centralized accounting, decentralized program delivery.
- All client application forms are kept together in one package.





- Project contribution agreements are standardized.
- Pertinent information concerning RBA evolution is kept up to date in a binder.
- Forms are developed for every routinized activity.
- RBA has developed and implemented a comprehensive self-assessment tool to measure the quality and effectiveness of services being delivered.
- Clients are provided employment and career counseling if needed.
- Clients are provided life skills training if needed.
- Senior staff attends partnership conferences to network.
- Share career and employment program costs with other area RBAs.
- RBA invests in local Aboriginal businesses to lever employment opportunities.
- Community Project Selection Committees review and approve local projects.
- Clients are assigned a file number and a case manager when entering program.
- One politician (portfolio holder) used as intervener with political organization.
- Purchases require purchase orders.
- Travel reports are required to substantiate travel claims.
- Time sheets are required for each salaried employee.
- Case files are colour coded by region.
- Random office audits conducted by review committee.
- Chart showing steps involved in processing client applications is available.
- Chart showing steps involved in appeal process is available.

## EDUCATION

### Métis Education Foundation

Métis people recognize that there is a strong and measurable link between success of an individual and the level of education one receives. The MNA has established the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) to address the gaps that Métis students face with regard to inadequate financial support should they wish to pursue a post-secondary education.

The MEF is a registered charity and is currently completing its management, communications and marketing plan. Its board of directors will be meeting in the upcoming year to begin implementation of these plans.

The MEF's overall goal is to establish a trust which will be able to provide several bursaries and scholarships to Métis students attending post-secondary by the Fall of 2002.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.

The Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. (AMDI) was established in 1984 to provide financial and business support services to assist Métis entrepreneurs to start new businesses. The mandate of the Corporation extends to providing support in the initial development and growth of Métis businesses. Services are provided under a series of program components which are outlined below.





AMDI initially received \$8,800,000.00 through its agreement with Industry Canada. Of the original agreement, \$800,000.00 was expensed on the initial start-up costs while the capital pool of \$8 million was disbursed in stages starting in 1989. Since the initial disbursement of the \$8 million capital pool, AMDI has lent out over \$27 million to assist Métis and Non-Status Indians business people. In other words, AMDI has recycled the original capital pool well over three times the original capital amount. This represents over 700 new businesses that AMDI has helped to create. As well, it is estimated that a total of 2,000 employment opportunities have been created through AMDI's assistance.

During the year 2000/01, Apeetogosan reviewed a total of 119 applications for financial support. Of these projects, 31 were approved, 31 were declined, 57 were withdrawn and 9 have been carried forward into the current fiscal year. From the 31 new business ventures that were financed during the past twelve months, 43 new jobs were created. Currently, AMDI offers a number of programs and services. These include;

### **Northern Program**

The Northern Program element provides Métis businesses in northern Alberta financial support for business planning, business support and equity contributions. The contributions for this year totaled \$658,000, an increase of 23 percent over the preceding year.

### **Aboriginal Youth Business Program Fund**

The Aboriginal Youth Business Program Fund processed 13 applications from Métis youth entrepreneurs for total funding of \$146,088. The Aboriginal Youth Business Program is new and will be promoted vigorously in the coming year.

### **Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.**

Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. is a self-sufficient subsidiary of Apeetogosan. Partially supported by the Western Diversification Office, Pinnacle provides clients with business planning and business management support. During the past year, Pinnacle staff assisted 33 Métis clients in the development of business plans. Six business training sessions were delivered and 21 clients received accounting and aftercare management support. Economic Development Officers, now established in each regional office, will complement the services of Apeetogosan and place increased demands on the services it provides.

### **Strategic Economic Development**

The objectives of the Strategic Economic Development (SED) plan is to assess the current economic development environment, to identify future economic development opportunities and to create a framework to foster economic self-sufficiency. The SED plan is focused on creating the foundation for a new business framework that addresses economic and social capacity development in the Métis community. Key elements of the project include engaging Economic Development Officers in each Region; engaging regions and Locals in the development of SED; linking economic development programming to labour market training services; linking economic development agencies to key industry sectors such as Community Futures Development Corporations, Alberta Economic Development, and Western Economic Diversification; participating in the Aboriginal Businesses Services Network of the federal government; and negotiating over-arching agreements with major industries (oil and gas, construction, forestry) to facilitate capacity-building agreements with regions.





The first phase of the project will identify existing active businesses owned in whole or in part by Métis in each of the regions. While it may not be possible to register every Métis-owned business a representative sampling from each region may suffice. Data collected will include the nature of business, the number of employees and the length of time the business has been in operation. The results of the regional consultations will be a registry of Métis-owned businesses in each Region and a list of best practices to be shared across Alberta. The second phase of the project will identify key industry sectors in which further research will be conducted to determine development opportunities and partnerships.

### **Métis Nation Holdings Ltd.**

The MNA is the sole shareholder of Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. The company holds title to three Edmonton commercial properties. In order to control its rent costs, the MNA purchased 11783 Kingsway Avenue (renamed the Delia Grey Building in honour of a well-respected Métis Elder). The building will be mortgage free in the Fall of 2004. On May 1, 1999, the company purchased 11922 - 121A Street, the property occupied by its affiliate Métis Urban Housing Corporation. This property will be mortgage free by 2009. On November 1, 1999, the Inglewood Centre located at 12304 - 111 Avenue was purchased by the company to house the "ACES 2000" EAS centre. In August 2000, Apeetegosan became a shareholder in the Inglewood Centre, relocating its operations to the site. This property is amortized over 20 years. The acquisition of all properties is independent from program funds, and mortgage and loan obligations are met through rental revenue.

### **Edmonton Aboriginal Business Development Centre**

The MNA, along with Treaties Six and Eight were responsible for negotiating the establishment of the Edmonton Aboriginal Business Development Centre (EABDC) which provides a single-window approach for prospective Métis and First Nation entrepreneurs. The EABDC opened its doors in November 2001 and provides an integrated approach to business development and business-link services for urban Aboriginal clients. Since its establishment, the EABDC has provided services to over 350 entrepreneurs.

## **CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**

### **Métis Child and Family Services Society**

The Métis Child and Family Services Society (MCFS) is a service institution of the MNA and is an active participant in the Social Services Sub-Committee of the MNA Framework Agreement. A Board of Directors guides the Society, which operates within a provincial social services regime consisting of 18 regional authorities. The MCFS client base is 53 percent Métis, 46 percent First Nations and a small percentage of the general population. With an operating budget of just over \$1M, a staff component of 22 employees delivers a series of community programs. Partnering is a method of choice to initiate action and provide response to existing and emerging community social issues. The Society is certified and accredited to provide in home services and foster care programs for all children and families in Alberta. MCFS is represented on a Child Welfare Placement Committee that meets weekly to address the placement of children in foster care and respond to issues that often extend beyond placement and foster care.





### Family Service Program

The Family Service Program is preventive and provides advocacy, counselling and referrals to supporting service agencies. Parenting classes and a Women's Talking Circle are integral elements of this Program. The Program has offered support to 106 families, with 58 percent of the referrals coming from other community agencies. The typical family profile consisted of two children, with 41 percent of the families being Métis and 29 percent being single parents. The average age for clients was 27 years old and 79 percent were female. The average length of support for families was 34 weeks.

### Family Intervention Program

The Family Intervention Program provides support services to families who have experienced child welfare intervention. Focus is on keeping families together and provides training in child management techniques, parenting skills, life skills, counseling and the successful transition of children to their homes. Family Intervention Workers provided support services to 128 families, with 54 percent of the families being referred by community agencies. The typical family consisted of 3.4 children. Métis families made up 44 percent of the clientele, of which 48 percent were single parents. The average age for clients was 32 years old and 87 percent were female.

## MCFS Family Services Statistics 1999-2000

	Family Services	Family Interventions
Number of Families	106	128
% referred	58	54
Number of Children	2.1	3.4
% Métis	41	44
Average Age	27	32
%female	79	87
Average Duration of Service Intervention (weeks)	34	not known

### Youth Support Program

The Youth Support program provides support to children and youth that have been involved in Child Welfare. This program endeavors to support youth at home through counseling and systems advocacy and by teaching dispute resolution techniques and life skills. Youth workers act as mentors and are positive role models in building self-esteem and restoring Métis pride among their peers. The program assisted twenty youth. The average age of the youth was 14 years, 55 percent were Métis, and 65 percent were female. The average period of intervention was 11.5 weeks.

### Youth Stay in School Program

The Choices program provides guidance, tutoring and support to Métis and First Nation youth aged 10-17. The program focuses on providing support and encouragement for youth to complete grade 12. Workshops on self-esteem, conflict resolution and anger management are provided.





ed weekly. Tutors are available within school hours to assist with assignments and homework. In partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Edmonton and with the support of the Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centres Initiative, a youth self-development program was completed. Participants also took part in extracurricular activities such as crafts, sports and field trips. Eighty-seven percent of students involved successfully completed their grade.

Partnering with the Catholic Social Services to address the problem of teen prostitution, the MCFSS has established a “safe house.” Two full-time employees and a part-time community worker provide support services to teens in need.

## HOUSING

### Métis Urban Housing Corporation

The Métis Urban Housing Corporation of Alberta (MUHC) provides affordable housing for Métis families in major urban centres in Alberta.

The MUHC administers 880 housing units, which are home to nearly 3,000 people. Expenditures for the maintenance and care of the housing portfolio totaled \$2.23 million in 2000/01. A staff component of 40 full-time employees and 11 contracted part-time branch managers maintain the operations of the MUHC. With a policy of creating employment for Métis people, 80 percent of the MUHC’s expenditures go directly to Aboriginal people and contractors.

MUHC’s administered mortgages will begin to expire in 2008 and will continue to expire until 2028. A Housing Task Force has been established to strategize on future MUHC and CMHC housing policies. A contingency plan will be developed in anticipation of policy changes in social housing.

### Urban Housing – Location and Number of Units

Branch	Number of Units	Branch	Number of Units
Edmonton	415	St. Paul	7
Calgary	249	Bonneyville	23
Medicine Hat	12	Grande Centre	11
Lloydminster	29	Lac La Biche	22
Red Deer	20	Ft. McMurray	20
Rocky Mountain House	11	Slave Lake	18
Grande Prairie	30	Peace River	13





## Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program & Emergency Repair Program

The MNA administers and delivers the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and the Emergency Repair Program (ERP), on behalf of CMHC, on a fee-for-service basis. The Edmonton-based office employs a certified inspector and administrative assistant who are responsible for interviewing applicants, inspecting homes, and processing applications for approval. The operating territory is north of Red Deer, exclusive of Edmonton, Fort Chipewyan and First Nation reserves. At present, 601 applications have been received and all are at various stages of processing.

### Approved Applications 2000/2001

Program	Number of Applications
RRAP Homeowner	60
RRAP Disabled	7
ERP	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>

## Homeless Initiative

The MNA in cooperation with federal, provincial and municipal partners has homelessness projects in progress within Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie and the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo. These community-based projects are undertaken in partnership with MNA Regional Council and Local Council and in some cases jointly with other Aboriginal organizations.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### Provincial Métis Health Committee

In Alberta, Métis health issues are a priority. In order to engage federal and provincial health authorities in a dialogue on these issues the MNA established a Provincial Métis Health Committee (PMHC). The PMHC became involved with the MNA Tripartite Unit and was created as a link between health authorities and Métis communities.

The MNA Tripartite Unit and PMHC is in the process of developing a Métis Diabetes Strategy to address the awareness of diabetes among the Métis and Métis youth and introduce a diabetes mobile clinic to provide public education, health prevention and promotion.

The PMHC has also identified the continuing need for awareness and public education for AIDS/HIV and Hepatitis C within Métis communities. Efforts will be made to create an awareness of the population most at risk. The MNA through the Provincial Métis Health Committee is committed to ensuring equal access to quality health care for Métis within Alberta.





## JUSTICE

### **Métis Nation Wilderness Camp Society**

The Métis Nation Wilderness Camp Society provides rehabilitation services for Aboriginal people who come into conflict with the law. The Camp, situated north of Lac La Biche, is a 20-bed minimum-security correctional facility for young Métis and First Nation offenders.

The Camp provides certification training and rehabilitation counseling to prepare inmates for employment upon release. Courses are jointly funded by the Camp and Alberta Environmental Protection and are taught by qualified instructors from Portage College. Offenders are also involved in maintenance and camp improvement projects. The Camp plans to expand services to include literacy, upgrading and life skills. A proposal to Correctional Services Canada is being developed to conduct a feasibility study for the proposed expansion.

Within 2000/01, 81 offenders attended the camp. 35 were Métis and 36 were other Aboriginal peoples. The average days spent at the camp was 47 with the longest time being 210 days and the shortest time being 5 days.

The MNA supports the concept of restorative justice and diversion measures designed to prevent crime and reduce the number of Métis coming into conflict with the law. A crime prevention conference designed to identify factors that contribute to crime and to frame community-based solutions to reduce crime will assist the MNA in the development of an Alberta Métis Crime Prevention Strategy.

## YOUTH

### **Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centres Initiative**

The MNA administers and delivers the Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centres (UMAYC) program in collaboration with the AHRDA labour market programming. The UMAC initiative is designed to focus more on the personal development side of youth who are facing a number of barriers beyond the labour market. Under the mentorship of the MNA, the MNA Youth Project Selection Committee guides the implementation of projects designed to improve the prospects of Aboriginal youth. For 2000/2001, the Council was responsible for an annual budget of \$701,119.00 which includes funds to support the Committee, a modest working secretariat, administration costs and a contribution budget to fund community-based projects.

Best practices include a book of elder's stories documented in interviews with elders and written by youth. The project enhanced communication between elders and youth and recognizes the important role of elders in community life. The Lakeland Aboriginal Human Resource Development Centre sponsored the project. The Heyoka Healing Society sponsored a film demonstrating the talent and positive lifestyles of Aboriginal youth. The film promoted healthy and positive lifestyles of Aboriginal youth and recognized a number of youth role models.







## CULTURE AND HERITAGE

### Aboriginal Languages Initiative

The Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI) is administered by the MNA central office and delivered locally through several venues. For 2000/2001, the MNA received \$120,000.00 to support ALI activities. A Michif Language Committee invites, assesses and recommends community projects designed to promote the Michif language and increase its use in Métis communities. Project highlights include the Calgary “Medicine Wheel” Child Care Centre, which established the Michif language as a component of early childhood development. The project also provided the opportunity for parents to participate in a home reading program. ALI Funds were also provided to the Métis Settlements to develop an inventory of Michif language speakers.

### Alberta Métis Historical Society

The Alberta Métis Historical Society has been busy under the guidance of a newly appointed board of directors. The board has been responsible for revitalizing the Society (formerly the Louis Riel Historical Society). The efforts of the board have produced tangible initiatives and resources that people can identify, access and enjoy. The Society has worked on initiatives aimed at restoring and promoting Métis culture, language and heritage. The intent of these initiatives is to create greater awareness of the integral role of Métis in the development of Canada, as well as to provide more educational and research opportunities through the use of resources provided by the Society. There are many initiatives under way.

1. A Métis Resource Centre is scheduled to open by the end of August 2001 at the MNA Inglewood Building in Edmonton. There will be Métis artifacts and displays housed in the Centre. The Centre will also develop a library and genealogical archives.
2. A traveling museum has been making stops at places throughout Alberta. The museum, which includes Métis historic displays and artifacts, is housed in a trailer so that it can be mobile and therefore more accessible. In two days at Jasper National Park, 1,500 tourists visited the mobile exhibit while in Stony Plain 650 students from five schools learned about Métis history thanks to the traveling museum.
3. The Society is currently developing a Web site that is close to completion. The Web site will be devoted to Métis history, lifestyle, geography, culture and language.
4. A Michif language project was started by the Society this past year. The intent of the project is to compile and research the traditional language of the Métis. This research will be made available in the Métis Resource Centre.
5. The Ewan Moberly Homestead Restoration Project was created to acknowledge and celebrate the rich history of early Métis homesteaders in Jasper, Alberta. The site contains a dwelling restored by using the same techniques its original Métis occupants would have used. The building was restored and stabilized through a training initiative jointly funded by Jasper National Park and the Métis Nation of Alberta. Tourists in Jasper National Park are now visiting the site, which was completed in December 2000.
6. The Society is also involved in the development of the proposed Métis Culture and Heritage Interpretive Centre at Riverview Farms near Smoky Lake, Alberta. The Métis





Nation currently holds the option to purchase 512 acres of property in the area to develop the Centre. Visitors will be able to experience how Métis lived long ago. Red River Carts will shuttle visitors around the site, which will include log cabins and interpretive displays. The site is located on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River where a boat launch will be built so that visitors can ride in York Boats and birch bark canoes, modes of travel used by Métis during the fur trade.

### **Métis Millennium Voyage**

The Métis Millennium Voyage identified 61 Métis historical sites in the province of Alberta. Along with Métis heritage-based significance, these selected sites may have economic and tourism potential. The MNA will be exploring development possibilities for these sites. The Métis Millennium Voyage began with “Back to Batoche” in 2000 and will continue with annual projects hosted in turn by each MNA Region.





**Métis Nation of Alberta**

# FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The MNA head office operates under two process agreements: (a) the Tripartite Process Agreement between Canada, Alberta and the MNA (established in 1992), and (b) the Framework Agreement between the MNA and the Province of Alberta (renewed in 1999).

The general objectives of these agreements are to allow the MNA some level of access to federal and provincial programs in terms of devolution, delegated authority or contractual arrangements. In addition, they provide the MNA input into government policies and decisions affecting the lives of Métis people. As partners to the agreements, the government signatories are required to provide an advocacy role in terms of inter-departmental coordination and horizontal management among all those departments who have a mandate to act on Métis issues.

However, the MNA has identified a number of issues with each of these agreements with respect to their inherent limitations. For example, underfunding has been a key issue, considering the MNA has access to only \$200,000 for tripartite process and \$600,000 for the bilateral process (Framework sectors). As well, the process fail to provide a forum to address Métis rights issues such as harvesting, lands, resource sharing etc. The MNA continues to emphasize the need to address these issues through on-going discussion and dialogue with its provincial and federal partners.

## TRIPARTITE PROCESS AGREEMENT – CANADA/ALBERTA/MNA

For the 2000-01 fiscal year the MNA has conducted the following work under the Tripartite Process Agreement:

### **Homelessness**

The Tripartite Unit facilitated Métis participation in the development of community-based urban homelessness strategies, as well as consultations with Métis communities to identify their priorities. In addition, a comprehensive Métis-specific homelessness strategy was developed and submitted to government for consideration. Specific projects and initiatives have been established. (See Homelessness within Programs, Services and Institutions Section)





### **Enumeration**

Discussions were held with the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat of the Privy Council Office to determine federal support for an enumeration process for the MNA. As well, the MNA participated within the MNC's Aboriginal Peoples Survey Committee.

### **Education**

A Métis Education Foundation was established to provide post-secondary Métis students with grants, bursaries, scholarships and loans. (See Education within Programs, Services and Institutions Section)

### **Rural Strategy Initiative**

Consultations were undertaken with the six regions to determine the potential and needs of rural communities. This information was incorporated as part of the rural economic development initiatives.

### **Justice**

An Aboriginal Correctional Officer Pre-Employment Training Initiative was explored.

Consultation workshops were held in each of the six regions to look at the feasibility of introducing community-based correctional programs and services available through Section 81 and 84 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act. A final report was forwarded to Correctional Service Canada outlining the community response and an approach that would serve the needs of the Métis and other Aboriginal offenders.

Exploratory work was undertaken to develop youth and adult justice diversion initiatives in Edmonton and Calgary, as well as the possibility of enhancing the capacity of the Métis Judiciary Council as a vehicle for developing a restorative justice model.

### **Economic Development and Tourism**

A Strategic Economic Development Plan was developed through the Economic Development and Tourism Sector that outlines a strategy for moving Métis people from basic entry-level employment and services to high tech opportunities. This plan also outlined the potential partnerships that would be developed with industry and business.

### **Aboriginal Language Initiative**

Funding was provided through Canadian Heritage to facilitate the support for appropriate Michif language preservation, protection and teaching projects at the community level. (See Culture and Heritage within Programs, Services and Institutions Section)

### **Health**

Funding was received from Health Canada to develop a Diabetes Program (\$300,000 over three years) to address the needs of the Métis people. Funding was also received to develop a program to address FAS/FAE (\$180,000 over three years) and to hold 12 informational workshops in the six regions on HIV/AIDS (\$20,000)





### **Childcare Initiative/Early Childhood Development**

Efforts are being made to achieve parity in terms of Métis access to childcare services and childcare funding through the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy. A Daycare Initiatives Needs Assessment Report with recommendations for action was prepared and submitted to PCO and HRDC - Ottawa.

### **Strategic and Administrative Processes**

In addition to project specific activities, the Tripartite Unit was involved in a number of strategic and administrative processes that included the following:

1. Facilitated two-week strategic planning sessions for the MNA Provincial Council;
2. Developed the “Blueprint to Métis Governance” document and facilitated discussions on governance options with Provincial Council;
3. Appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Governance;
4. Negotiated AHRDA annual targets and renewal agreements;
5. Assisted in AHRDA Annual Report;
6. Explored communication options and developed relationships with the Métis Settlements General Council;
7. Established the Labor Market Newsletter;
8. Established leveraged cost under the Employment Assistance Services;
9. Participated and provided input into the Métis Nation Agenda national forum;
10. MNC Protocol Agreement with the Government of Canada;
12. MNA response to the Alberta Aboriginal Policy Framework;
13. Federal/Provincial/Territorial/Aboriginal meetings under SUFA;
14. The MNC technical team of the Aboriginal Peoples Survey questionnaire;
15. The conceptual development of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy for Alberta and its integrated services model;
16. Hosted the MLA Reception Night;
17. Negotiated access to practical arrangements under the Framework & Tripartite Process Agreements;
18. Developed the MNA Policy Framework;
19. Developed partnerships in programs and service delivery with First Nations, government and the private sector;
20. Supported “Back to Batoche Voyage 2000;” and,
21. Developed “Métis in Motion” publication

### **Métis Nation Agenda**

The MNA continues to be an active participant within the MNC’s Métis Nation Agenda process with the federal government.

Within 2000/01, the MNA undertook specific consultations on the Métis Nation Agenda and prepared a final report from these initiatives which was submitted to the MNC.

For more information on the Métis Nation Agenda process see the MNC’s section on “Métis Rights”.





### **Urban Aboriginal Strategy**

The MNA is currently in the process of identifying appropriate infrastructure and options for the efficiency and improvement of Aboriginal services in Edmonton and Calgary. To this end, they have formed partnerships with appropriate departments and authorities that are willing to discuss program delivery and administration for Aboriginal entities to achieve substantive improvement in areas of housing, education, employment, social development and economic opportunity for Métis urban dwellers. Given that it is not always feasible to have Métis and First Nation services offered separately, a merging of the two outlets would increase efficiency and could result in additional and improved services.

In partnership with First Nations, governments and service delivery organizations urban “single window” initiatives will be established in Edmonton and Calgary to improve access to federal and provincial programs/services. Three-year plans are under development for both cities. The options extend from a one-window concept (Métis/First Nations) in a single domain (Aboriginal labour market training), to other Aboriginal service delivery partners addressing a variety of services. Such initiatives would be guided by a joint governing body representative of the stakeholders and would be charged with designing effective programs responsive to client, community and business needs, and developing annual work plans for the delivery of such services.

## **BILATERAL PROCESS FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT - ALBERTA/MNA**

The Métis Nation of Alberta has signed a Framework Funding Agreement (FA) with the province of Alberta. The goal of the FA is to promote and facilitate the advancement of Métis people by providing a framework for parties to work cooperatively in partnership to develop and implement mutually acceptable methods of addressing the needs and aspirations of Métis people, and to preserve their identity and cultural heritage. The Agreement comprises a series of sectors that include: Advanced Education and Career Development; Economic Development and Tourism; Education; Family and Social Services; Municipal Government and Housing; and Intergovernmental and International Affairs, among others.

A joint committee comprised of the Premier of Alberta and his officials, and the President of the MNA and her officials oversee the implementation of the Agreement. Sector sub-committees made up of representatives of the various provincial departments and the MNA address the implementation of the Agreement at the sector level. Each sector sub-committee must develop work plans to act on the goals identified in the sector framework document. The work plans of the sector sub-committees are integral to the success of the FA. For the 2000-01 fiscal year the MNA has conducted the following work under the Bilateral framework Agreement:

### **Education Sector**

In April 1999, following the signing of the FA, Alberta Education requested that, as part of an outcomes-based project for the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Métis Nation assist the department with a provincial review of Aboriginal education policies, legislation and regulations. The purpose of the review was to determine and define the role, responsibility and jurisdiction of Alberta Learning in the education of Métis, First Nations and Inuit students, and to establish direction in legislation, policy and regulation in the delivery of pro-





grams and services to Aboriginal learners. A contract was signed on August 23, 1999. Under this agreement, Alberta Learning will have the opportunity to call on the Métis Nation on an ongoing basis on matters dealing with Métis people and the education of their children, such as curriculum reviews, policy development and advisory/working committees of the department. Community consultations were held and key recommendations included the establishment of a Métis Institute of Learning, a Métis Education Fund, an Aboriginal Teachers Training Program, sufficient funding for support services for Aboriginal students liaison workers, native counselors, teachers aides, elders in residence, and increased and continuing involvement of Métis people in the development of education policy in Alberta.

### **Family and Social Services Sector**

The mandate of the Sector Committee on Alberta Family and Children Social Services is “to develop, promote and enhance the Métis way of life in the Province of Alberta . . . to maintain programs for the cultural, social, economic and political advancement of Métis people and to represent the interests and well-being of Métis people.”

Through the Sector Committee, the MNA has established linkages with regional and headquarters officials of the Ministry of Children Services. This formal relationship ensures that Métis have equitable access to social services, that services respond to the needs of Métis families and children, that there is Métis intervention in the resolution of disputes and that Métis play a role in social service policy development.

In cooperation with the Minister Responsible for Children’s Services, the MNAA is working on amending Alberta’s Child Welfare Act to include reference to Métis children within the Act. The inclusion of “Métis children” in the Act will establish a legal premise for the Métis community to work in the best interests of the child and will give effect to the policies contained in the legislation. A Métis Child Legislation Committee has been established to review social services and child welfare legislation in Alberta and neighboring provinces. The Minister of Children’s Services will table the request to define “Métis Child” in the Child Welfare Act to the Standing Policy Committee in the legislature’s spring session.

Without this legislative change Métis children may remain on the periphery of services while being one of the over-represented groups in Alberta’s child welfare system. The Métis Children and Family Services Society is mandated to implement policies and programs of the Family and Social Services Sector.

### **Community Development and Housing Sector**

Community Development and Housing is one of the sectors of the MNAA/Alberta Framework Agreement (FA). This bilateral sector works in tandem with Municipal Affairs and Housing under the Canada/Alberta/MNAA Tripartite Process Agreement (TPA). While the TPA provides a forum to identify Métis needs/issues, the FA focuses on outcome-based community projects to address sector identified needs.

A sector sub-committee comprised of representatives from the MNAA and the Ministry of Alberta Community Development (ACD) is responsible for planning and implementing sector work plans, which encompass community-based activities in all regions. Goals for the current year include addressing Métis homelessness and those at risk of homelessness.





Efforts will be focused in Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray. Support will be provided directly to communities.

Addressing adequate and affordable housing needs of Métis in rural Alberta is a priority of the Sector. Preserving and protecting Métis historical and cultural resources is also an element of the plan. Sites such as Buffalo Lake, Boss Hill and Tail Creek will be evaluated for historical designation. Other segments of the plan include creating an awareness of policies and programs of the ACD within Métis communities, promoting community-based management of social housing projects, and providing advisory, issue management and coordination services of the Sector to Métis communities across the province. The MNA's goal is to develop a community-based affordable home ownership program for Métis people. Pilot home ownership projects totaling \$340,000 have been approved for a number of northern Alberta localities where the housing shortage has reached crisis proportions. The roles, responsibilities and scope of activities of this new Sector have expanded significantly due to the recent transfer of the Housing Division to the Ministry of Community Development.

### **Municipal Affairs Sector**

The Ministry of Alberta Municipal Affairs (AMA) is a sector of the FA. While the Ministry of Community Development and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs Sectors work under a single sub-committee each has its own work plan. Métis populations in rural and northern communities, such as Cadotte Lake, Kathleen, Imperial Mills and Trout Lake have been declining and threatening the sustainability of the municipality. Comprehensive consultations will be undertaken with communities to determine the extent and causes of depopulation and the manner in which this trend can be reversed.

### **Agricultural, Food and Rural Development Sector**

The Agricultural, Food and Rural Development Sector (AFRD) is an addition to the current Framework Agreement. The AFRD will address the needs of Métis farmers and ranchers. Assessing community need, issues, and concerns will be the first phase leading to support for outcome-based projects. Consultations covering a broad range of topics related to the industry will be held in Métis farming communities. The current work plan is under negotiation.

The MNAA will ensure that Métis people in rural communities in Alberta are afforded the opportunity of full inclusion in the affairs of the Nation and are benefactors of the services and programs available throughout the province. The MNAA will explore gaps in the active organization of rural communities and the provision of services to these areas.

### **Economic Development and Tourism Sector**

In the economic development sector, a proposal has been submitted to Western Economic Development and Alberta Economic Development for seven economic development officers under the Western Economic Partnership Agreement (WEPA). A concerted effort is being made to link Métis entrepreneurs with Business Link, Business Information Centres and Community Futures Development Corporation. The MNAA has developed a Strategic Economic Development Plan for Alberta's Métis. The objective of the plan is to chart the Métis course to sustained self-sufficiency and active participation in Alberta's economy.

