April 2020 UPDATE - I hope you and your families are staying as safe and as healthy as possible during this coronavirus pandemic. It is a very trying time for everyone. None of us have ever been through something like this before but given that we are all in this together, I know that together we will get through it.

At MNBC we are working diligently to respond to the evolving nature of the pandemic, easing the burden on our Communities, and helping those who are feeling the strain of the COVID-19 crisis.

In March, MNBC provided $3,000 to each MNBC Community to enable each Community to look after the most urgent needs that had arisen as a result of the pandemic. We have heard incredible success stories related to the initial $3,000 in COVID-19 emergency funding that we provided and how communities have made the largest impact possible with these limited resources. We thank all of our volunteers in each of our communities for their hard work, sacrifice, and commitment in looking after the needs of our Métis people during this very trying time.

Today, I am pleased to inform you that the MNBC Board of Directors has approved the distribution of $7,000 in additional funding immediately to Métis Chartered Communities province-wide to support the ongoing needs of our most vulnerable community members. Community leaders and their Boards know the needs of their communities best and can decide how to best support their most vulnerable populations, regardless of age, with these funds.

We have also just approved $350,000 in emergency funding to the five Métis Children and Family Service Providers to help them over the next three months to ensure that they are able to meet the extraordinary needs that are arising with Métis children and families who they are working with on a daily and weekly basis. Our children are our future, and through this pandemic, we want to ensure that they receive the help they need through the Métis Service Providers. Thank you to all the work that our Service Providers are doing.

In addition to providing the funding described above, here is what MNBC’s staff has been focused on:

**Distribution of Goods**
MNBC’s Ministry of Health successfully secured some quantities of *hand sanitizer, disinfectant, and gloves*, and staff are in the process of arranging for delivery directly to our Métis Chartered Communities province wide.

**Senior/Elders Calling**
In response to our phone calls, MNBC staff have heard back from well over half of the 1,700 Seniors over 70 years of age on our Citizenship list. They have expressed how happy they are to be contacted and thankfully, have reported that, for the most part, they are doing quite well. Thank you to all of those Communities who have assisted with calling.
Newsletter
MNBC’s Ministry of Health is generating weekly Newsletters. We hope you find the information in the Newsletter, and on the MNBC COVID-19 webpage, helpful.

Survey
To understand the needs of our Métis people under 70 years of age, MNBC will be launching a Provincial Needs Assessment Survey next week. Please watch for the survey link through our various communication streams.

We are very appreciative of the hard work that MNBC’s staff members are undertaking to assist our Métis Citizens and Community members during this very trying time. At MNBC, we are here to help you and as we move forward, we will be responding to the needs of our Communities and our Citizens as much as we can.

If you require support with COVID-19 related issues, please email covid19@mnbc.ca for assistance. If you would like to email me directly, please do so at cmorin-dalcol@mnbc.ca. I always welcome your input.

The MNBC Board is meeting by conference call on a regular basis to consider the latest developments in the fight against COVID-19 and the needs of our Métis people. As the National Métis Minister of Health, I am staying in regular contact with senior health officials within Indigenous Services Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada, with other Métis leaders and with our team at the Métis National Council to help ensure that the needs of the Métis Nation and our Métis people are looked after.

As I said at the beginning, we are in this together, and we will get through it together. We hope you and your loved ones stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

President, MNBC

About MNBC
Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents nearly 90,000 self-identified Metis people in British Columbia. Of that, over 19,000 are provincially registered Métis Citizens. The Métis National Council, the Provincial Government of British Columbia and the Federal Government of Canada recognize MNBC as the official governing nation for Métis in British Columbia.