

APPENDIX 1

WHO ARE THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT SOME PERSONS, WHOM SELF-IDENTIFY AS "MÉTIS", ASSOCIATE WITH TO REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS?

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS - There are a number of national aboriginal political organizations who state that they represent and give an advocate voice to the interests of Métis specifically, Métis women specifically and or Métis within an "Aboriginal" context. What follows, in order of when they were founded historically, is what these organizations have to say about themselves:

1971 - CONGRESS of ABORIGINAL PEOPLE (CAP)

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, (CAP), was founded in 1971 as the *Native Council of Canada*, with an initial goal to "re-establish recognition of our constituents as Aboriginal people, and to obtain fundamental Aboriginal and human rights for them."

The goals of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples are targeted to achieving social and economic equity for its constituents in housing, health care, education, employment and economic development. A key component of CAP's mandate continues to be advocacy for Aboriginal and treaty rights for Métis and non-status Indian people.

- The Inuit are represented by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK);
- Aboriginal women, by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC);
- The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) serves the interests of on-reserve Indians;
- The Métis National Council (MNC) represents some Métis people.

Yet, there remains a large gap in program and service delivery once individuals leave their on-reserve communities, or in the case of the Métis, if they cannot trace their ancestral lineage back to what the MNC term as the "Métis homelands" in Western Canada. The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the organization that advocates on behalf of the "Forgotten People", those who are otherwise voiceless at the National level.

CAP Affiliates

- Aboriginal Affairs Coalition of Saskatchewan
- Alliance Autochtone du Quebec Inc

- Aboriginal Council of Manitoba
- Federation of Newfoundland Indians
- Labrador Métis Nation
- New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council
- Native Council of Nova Scotia
- Native Council of Prince Edward Island
- Ontario Coalition of Aboriginal People
- United Native Nations Society

(Source: Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Web-site - www.abo-peoples.org)

1974 - NATIVE WOMEN ASSOCIATION of CANADA (NWAC)

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is founded on the collective goal to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations and Métis women within First Nation, Métis and Canadian societies.

NWAC is an aggregate of thirteen Native women's organizations from across Canada and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1974. Much like a "Grandmother's Lodge", we as aunties, mothers, sisters, brothers and relatives collectively recognize, respect, promote, defend and enhance our Native ancestral laws, spiritual beliefs, language and traditions given to us by the Creator.

Membership - From Newfoundland to British Columbia, Prince Edward Island to the Yukon, First Nations and Métis women have gathered regionally to form thirteen **Provincial and Territorial Member Associations (PTMAs)**. PTMAs regularly report to the Board of Directors and meet annually at the Annual General Assembly. The hard work and dedication of PTMA representatives is vital to the success of NWAC. These women are our connection to Aboriginal communities:

1. Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories
2. Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council
3. Mother of Red Nations Women's council of Manitoba Inc.
4. Ontario Native Women's Association
5. Quebec Native Women Inc.
6. New Brunswick Aboriginal Women's Council
7. Newfoundland Native Women's Association

8. Nova Scotia Native Women's Society
9. Aboriginal Women's Association of Prince Edward Island
10. Alberta Aboriginal Women's Society
11. Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation

(Source: Native Women's Association of Canada web-site -www.nwac-hq.org)

1983 - MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL (MNC)

In March 1983, the Métis Nation separated from the Native Council of Canada (now known as the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples) to form the Métis National Council - its own Métis-specific representative body. It receives its mandate and direction from the democratically elected leadership of the Métis Nation's governments from Ontario Westward (Métis Nation of Ontario, Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia).

The Métis National Council reflects and moves forward on the desires and aspirations of the Métis Nation governments at a national and international level. Overall, the Métis National Council's central goal is to secure a healthy space for the Métis Nation's on-going existence within the Canadian federation.

For example we now have a national definition of Métis for citizenship within the Métis Nation that has been adopted by all Métis governments from Ontario westward. Based on this definition we continue to push forward on the establishment of a Métis Nation Registry.

What is the MNC definition of "Métis " Métis Nation" and "Métis Homeland?"

"Métis" - On September 27, 2002, the Métis National Council adopted the following as its national definition - "Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation."

"Métis Nation" -The Métis people constitute a distinct Aboriginal nation largely based in western Canada. The Métis Nation grounds its assertion of Aboriginal nationhood on well-recognized international principles. It has a shared history, common culture (song,

dance, dress, national symbols, etc.), unique language (Michif with various regional dialects), extensive kinship connections from Ontario westward, distinct way of life, traditional territory and collective consciousness.

"Métis Homeland" -The Métis Nation's Homeland is based on the traditional territory upon which the Métis people have historically lived and relied upon within west central North America. This territory roughly includes the 3 Prairie provinces (Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan), parts of Ontario, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, as well as, parts of the northern United States (i.e. North Dakota, Montana).

Métis Rights - Powley Case - As well the MNC is continuing its work to ensure the harvesting rights of all Métis Nation citizens are recognized and protected. On September 19, 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada delivered its landmark decision in R. v. Powley which recognized and affirmed the existence of Métis as a distinct Aboriginal people with existing rights protected by s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. This landmark case is central to the Métis National Council's agenda, as are the other on-going Métis rights litigations

2008 Métis Nation Protocol /Accord The Métis Nation has also recently engaged a new multilateral process with Canada and the provinces from Ontario westward in order to begin addressing rights-based issues and other priorities for the Métis people. The Métis Nation Protocol will build on past efforts to advance and secure the place of the Métis Nation in Canada.

1999 - WOMEN of the MÉTIS NATION - Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) is the more recently incorporated body of the formerly known MNC Women's Secretariat. The Métis National Council and each of its Governing Members have established representative structures for Métis women within their governance structures. The Métis National Council's Métis Women's Secretariat was established in 1999 and consists of one representative from each of the Governing Members who are the Métis Nation's governments from Ontario Westward (Métis Nation of Ontario, Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia).

The Women of the Métis Nation is the national voice for Métis women and is officially mandated by the government of the Métis Nation to lobby, advocate and represent the Métis women's agenda and perspective. The Women of the Métis Nation is a body within the Métis Nation governance structure and retains a seat at the Métis Nation cabinet and on the Métis National Council Board of Governors.

(Source: Métis National Council web-site - www.metisnation.ca)