



July 12, 2023

President Margaret Froh
Métis Nation of Ontario
66 Slater St, Suite 1100
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H1
MargaretF@metisnation.org

Dear President Froh,

I am writing on behalf of Métis Nation British Columbia to encourage you to meaningfully engage with First Nations in Ontario to address concerns they have raised regarding Bill C-53, *An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*.

Métis Nation British Columbia is firmly committed to our efforts as the government for Métis people in British Columbia, and as a Governing Member of the Métis National Council (MNC), to achieve full recognition of our inherent rights. We are also actively seeking to engage in respectful dialogue with First Nations in British Columbia to uphold their inherent rights and treaty rights, and work collaboratively on shared challenges, inequities, and priorities to uplift all Indigenous peoples.

As evidenced by recent correspondence, protests, and commentary, the concerns expressed regarding Bill C-53 are having repercussions for our relationships with First Nations in British Columbia. The concerns are also related to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Registry and the six additional communities in Ontario deemed by MNO to be historic communities. This issue must be sincerely addressed as prescribed in the MNBC moved resolution adopted at the 2021 MNC General Assembly to establish an expert panel to review the MNO communities, and reaffirmed at the 2022 MNC General Assembly. Métis Nation British Columbia therefore strongly requests that MNO also begin work to satisfy the resolution passed by the MNC General Assembly.

Engaging meaningfully with First Nations and sincerely addressing the resolution passed at the MNC General Assembly are both critical for ensuring a strong, collaborative, and resilient Métis Nation. We trust you will consider these requests with the urgency that is warranted and expected from the Métis Nation and citizens.

Pishshapmishko,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lissa Dawn Smith".

Lissa Dawn Smith,
President
Métis Nation British Columbia