

The Métis Nation emerged during the fur trade in Northwestern Canada during the 18th century following the mixing of Indigenous women and European fur traders. The resulting ethnogenesis of this time led to the establishment of the distinct people known as the Métis People. A unique culture, tradition, language (Michif) and way of life defined the Métis Nation along the fur trading routes that span the Métis Homeland - which includes communities throughout the Prairie Provinces (Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba), as well as contiguous parts of Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and northern parts of the United States. It should be noted that not every person of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry is Métis. Consistently throughout history, the Métis people have acted collectively to protect and fight for their rights, lands, and ongoing existence as a distinct Indigenous People and nation within the Canadian federation. The Métis represent one of the three distinct Indigenous Peoples as recognized in the Canadian Constitution.

It is well known that Indigenous Peoples are at the forefront of Climate Change impacts due to the historical marginalization and dispossession and displacement from their traditional lands and waters. All of humanity is now facing a climate crisis. By affirming and learning from Indigenous Knowledge systems to care for a respond to changing landscapes, a path forward - together - is possible.

The intent of this session is to touch on the cross-cutting themes of adaptation futures as it relates to Nature Based Solutions (how we listen and work in reciprocity with the land, waters, and skies), Equity and Justice, and Climate Resilient Development. However, the Métis Nation is dedicated to Climate resilience through Cultural Continuity, and rethinking how the western world defines adaptation. We hope to impart the wisdom of our ancestors into climate responses. In working with Indigenous communities, and making room for self-determined adaptation efforts, communities, policy makers, and advocates can look beyond the immediate impacts of climate change and embolden nations to preserve cultural heritage, strengthen community cohesion, and build resilience against climate change.

Western methodology of measuring climate impacts and addressing future risks such as flooding, wildfire, drought, invasive species fail traditional focus on infrastructure loss and damages and financial costs to society. The Métis Nation is exploring new measurements of climate change impacts and risks, allowing them to re-prioritize adaptation efforts. Through this Wananga Workshop, the Métis Nation would like to conduct a presentation on some of their regional findings of reimagining the metrics used for risk and vulnerability assessments, and use the remaining time for participants to do 5 breakout sessions, each led by a member of our delegation. Delegates will walk participants through a community focused climate risk in their regions, and brainstorm what adaptation activities would be most relevant and respectful to the surrounding community. The Métis Nation will provide handouts for participants to return home with this exercise to implement in their respective communities.

Breakout Themes:

Individual Actions

Resource Management

Building Healthy Relationships with the Land

Emergency Preparedness/Management

Food Security and Sovereignty

The Breakout group themes will help guide the participants, and each exercise will aim to develop and regionally focused adaptation strategy for climate impacts relating to the theme.

PARTICIPANTS

Participant 1

Full Name: Jennifer Pylypiw

Organisation: Métis National Council (MNC)

Bio:

Jennifer Pylypiw is the Senior Policy Advisor on Climate Change at the Métis National Council (MNC). As a technical representative of the Métis National Environment Technical Committee, Jennifer works at the national and international policy level on climate adaptation, mitigation and implementation of climate policy and programs from a Métis specific lens in service to the regional Governing Members of the Métis Nation.

Participant 1 Contribution:

Jennifer Pylypiw is the climate change policy lead for the Métis National Council. The MNC is one of the three National Indigenous Organizations of so-called Canada. Since 1983, the MNC has represented the Métis Nation nationally and internationally. It receives its mandate and direction from the democratically elected leadership of the MNC Governing Members. Specifically, the MNC reflects and moves forward on the desires and aspirations of these Métis governments at the national and international levels.

Métis National Council Website

Participant 1

Full Name: Andres Filella

Organisation: Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta (MNA)

Bio:

Andres Filella is the Director of the Environment and Climate Change department of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta. Andres is a technical representative from the MNA's Environment and Climate Change Department and has expertise in climate adaptation, mitigation, emergency management and response and implementation of climate policy and programs from a Métis specific lens at the regional level. Working at the regional level directly with Métis citizens within Alberta, Andres and his team focus on the unique position of Métis people in climate solutions, ensuring

policies and programs in climate change and environment are culturally safe, sensitive and relevant.

Participant 2 Contribution:

In 1928, Alberta Métis began organized to advance Métis self-determination and self-government in the province, leading to the creation of the Métis Nation of Alberta. In November 2022, Métis Citizens overwhelmingly ratified a constitution to establish the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. In September 2023, the first election under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution was held. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government is now the government of the Métis Nation within Alberta and is recognized as such by the Government of Canada through a self-government agreement signed between the parties in 2023. As the director of the MNA Climate Change and Environment Department, Andres will bring the regional perspective of Alberta Métis citizens to this exercise, and support participants in the evaluation and implementation of community focused climate action.

Participant 3

Full Name: Ali Greenslade

Organisation: Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta (MNA)

Bio:

Ali Greenslade is the Engagement Coordinator and Policy Analyst for the Environment and Climate Change Department of MNA. As a technical representative of the Métis National Environment Technical Committee, she has expertise in climate adaptation, mitigation, emergency management and response and implementation of climate policy and programs from a Métis specific lens at the regional level. Working at the regional level with Métis citizens within Alberta, Ali ensures policies and programs in climate change and environment are culturally safe, sensitive and relevant.

Participant 3 Contribution:

In 1928, Alberta Métis began organized to advance Métis self-determination and self-government in the province, leading to the creation of the Métis Nation of Alberta. In November 2022, Métis Citizens overwhelmingly ratified a constitution to establish the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. In September 2023, the first election under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution was held. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government is now the government of the Métis Nation within Alberta and is recognized as such by the Government of Canada through a self-government agreement signed between the parties in 2023. Ali will bring the regional perspective of Alberta Métis citizens to this exercise, and support participants in the evaluation and implementation of community focused climate action.

[Otipemisiwak Métis Government Website](#)

Participant 4

Full Name: Danielle Gendron

Organisation: Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

Bio:

Danielle Gendron is the research and data management specialist in the Research, Rights and Policy Branch of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Danielle's work is focused on

environment and climate change programming including work around climate change adaptation. Danielle has expertise in climate adaptation, mitigation, and response and implementation of climate policy and programs from a Métis specific lens at the regional level. Working at the regional level with Métis citizens within Ontario, they ensure policies and programs in climate change and environment are culturally safe, sensitive and relevant.

Participant 4 Contribution:

In 1993, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was established through the will of Métis people and Métis communities coming together throughout Ontario to create a Métis-specific governance structure. Prior to 1993, Métis had been involved in pan-Indigenous lobby groups and organizations. The MNO was not created to represent all individuals and communities that claim to be Métis, but those individuals and communities that are a part of the Métis Nation. Danielle will bring an intersectional lens to climate change policy and programing, and support participants in building holistic engagement protocols and implementation inspired by his successes with the Métis Nation of Ontario.

[Métis Nation of Ontario Website](#)

Participant 5

Full Name: Laura Desaulniers

Organisation: Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

Laura Desaulniers is the Environmental Advisor tfrom the MNO's Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch. Laura has expertise in climate adaptation, mitigation, emergency management and response and implementation of climate policy, as well as the intersections of climate change and supporting healthy relationships to the land. Laura supports engagement and program creation from a Métis specific lens at the regional level. Working at the regional level with Métis citizens within Ontario, Laura ensures policies and programs in climate change and environment are culturally safe, sensitive and relevant.

Participant 5 Contribution:

In 1993, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was established through the will of Métis people and Métis communities coming together throughout Ontario to create a Métis-specific governance structure. Prior to 1993, Métis had been involved in pan-Indigenous lobby groups and organizations. The MNO was not created to represent all individuals and communities that claim to be Métis, but those individuals and communities that are a part of the Métis Nation. Laura works at the intersection of climate change and care of the land and will bring a regional perspective of Ontario Métis citizens to support and guide participants in create community centered, anti-silo'd climate action, policies and programs.

[Métis Nation of Ontario Website](#)

