

# JOSEPH GERELUK, LAW OFFICE

Barrister & Solicitor  
401 1011 Fort Street  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8V 3K5

Telephone: (250) 380-1423      Facsimile: (250) 380-0920

---

June 27, 2012

CANADA  
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CHARTERED COMMUNITIES, METIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA  
METIS CITIZENS  
METIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

## **Re: Métis Nation British Columbia – Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia**

I am legal counsel for the Métis Nation British Columbia the governing body of and for the British Columbia Métis Nation.

A copy of a letter, dated June 21, 2012 (the “June Letter”) with an attached legal opinion with respect to the state of affairs of the Métis Nation British Columbia and its secretariat, the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (the “Opinion”) has been provided to me.

It is not the policy of the Métis Nation British Columbia to respond to letters written by fringe groups such as the author of the June Letter. However the deliberate inaccuracies in the June Letter and the flaws and errors in the Opinion upon which it is based must be addressed as it has the potential to cause harm to the Métis citizens of British Columbia.

A letter addressed to Ms. Mason, Barrister and Solicitor, the author of the Opinion, informing her of the inaccuracies and errors evident in the Opinion is being forwarded to her law firm with a copy to her supervising partner. It is clearly unfortunate that Ms. Mason, who has clearly based her Opinion on information provided to her by Mr. Henry, the self appointed President of the fringe organization under whose name Mr. Henry wrote and disseminated the June Letter, allowed herself to be manipulated by the likes of Mr. Henry. I trust that the appropriate action to correct the errors and flaws in the June Letter will be undertaken by Ms. Mason or her law firm.

In the June Letter (paragraph 1) Mr. Henry with deliberation, incorrectly and erroneously writes that the British Columbia Métis Nation is “an organization known as the Métis Nation British Columbia and also by its previous and alternate name, the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (MPCBC)”.

In fact the MNBC, being the governing body of the Métis citizens of British Columbia is not and has never been known as or the alternate of the MPCBC as suggested. The MNBC arose as the governing entity of the Métis citizens of British Columbia separate from and subsequent to the MPCBC that has been in existence since 1996 but has held and continues to hold a purely administrative role as the secretariat of the MNBC.

The MNBC is deliberately and specifically not registered in the British Columbia Corporate registry to emphasize and affirm the right of British Columbia Métis citizens to exercise self government. The Métis citizens overwhelmingly acknowledged and ratified a distinct constitution specific to and in recognition of the rights, claims and desires of the Métis Nation British Columbia. Pursuant to that constitution, the MNBC maintains its status as the governing body for and of the Métis citizens while fully recognizing and acknowledging the laws of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

It should be noted that Métis citizens have been and are identified as Métis citizens through a process involving historical data collected by the MNBC Registry Office. The Registry process is privacy protected, ancestrally driven and results in the distribution of a unique, Métis identification card.

As stated above, the MPCBC is the secretariat that carries out the administrative duties of the MNBC. It is and has been registered as a British Columbia Society since 1996, the bylaws of which have been amended to ensure that the MPCBC is a function of the MNBC.

Consequently, the statement by Mr. Henry that the MNBC is simply another name or an alternate for the MPCBC is to belittle the proud heritage of the Métis citizens of British Columbia and a wrongful and inappropriate denial of their right and entitlement to self government as confirmed and ratified by the Métis peoples of British Columbia at Annual General Meetings since 2000.

Mr. Henry, the former CEO of the MNBC who was dismissed from his employment with the MNBC for cause, is well aware of the status of the MNBC and the MPCBC. It was Mr. Henry who assisted in drafting the provisions of the MNBC Constitution and the surrounding legislation under which the MNBC governs the Métis Nation.

It appears that in order to manipulate his attempts at discrediting the MNBC, Mr. Henry has failed to inform Ms. Mason that a Society known as the Métis Nation *in* British Columbia has been in existence since 1994 or had inadvertently or deliberately provided that information to her. That society has no relationship to the MNBC or the MPCBC. The members of that society may or may not be Métis citizens and that society has demonstrated a purpose and reason for existence being to detract from the good work the Métis Nation British Columbia has performed and the status it maintains.

The make-up, purpose and reason for existence of the Métis Nation *in* British Columbia is very similar to the purpose and reason for existence of the BCMF whose President is

un-elected and who exhibits no obvious purpose except to denigrate the MNBC by whatever means possible, whether by spreading false information, attacking the personal integrity of the leaders and/or such other disingenuous means.

It is somewhat disturbing that Mr. Henry has failed or neglected to inform his legal counsel that her opinion is wrongly based on a society that has nothing to do with the MNBC or the MPCBC. He further exacerbates the issue by distributing the opinion on the pretext that it is based on true fact, which it is not.

As to the good standing of the MPCBC I can assure you that I have filed all necessary documentation at Corporate Registry to maintain the MPCBC in good standing. The appropriate documents, while recently filed were only recently required, being the Annual Report for the AGM held in September, 2011 and the change of director that occurred in February, 2012.

Therefore, when Mr. Henry claims that his legal counsel has confirmed that the MNBC/MPCBC is registered as a society, he is wrong. Only the MPCBC is registered as a society. He is also in error to suggest that the MNBC/MPCBC has not been in good standing for some time. Finally, it is clear that if the Opinion articulates anything it speaks to an apparent failure by Mr. Henry to act honestly and sincerely in advising his legal counsel that her Opinion concerning the MNBC is flawed, being based on an entity without any relationship or connection to the MNBC.

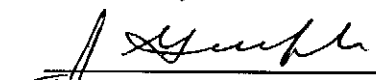
The balance of the June Letter and the requested Opinion is simply an effort to claim or infer that the MNBC is facing bankruptcy. Any inference or suggestion to that effect is wrong and without merit.

Certainly, the MPCBC, like many other societies and organizations, is enduring financial restraints. However, the MPCBC and the MNBC have and will continue to maintain a high level of support for the Métis peoples of British Columbia. The accomplishments of the MPCBC and the MNBC over the preceding 16 years is evident and should be acknowledged as outstanding.

I wish to thank you for your review and consideration of the contents of the above and trust that all parties hereto will continue to maintain a beneficial relationship.

Thank you,

Yours truly

  
Joseph Gereluk,  
Barrister and Solicitor