



BC Métis Federation  
300-3665 Kingsway  
Vancouver, BC, V5R 5W2

March 8, 2019

Honourable Katrine Conroy  
Minister, British Columbia Children and Family Development

Honourable Carolyn Bennett  
Minister, Crown - Indigenous Relations

**Via Email**

Re: Notice to Federal and Provincial Ministers

Ref:CWD1903

Dear Honourable Bennett and Honourable Conroy,

In recognition of the inter-generational harm and trauma caused to Indigenous Peoples through the enactment of colonial policies and practices, and the importance of reuniting indigenous children with their families and communities from whom they were separated; the BC Métis Federation hereby and once again gives official notice of our laws, inherent rights, customs, and traditions, for the benefit of Métis children in our community.

The BC Métis Federation has the inherent right of self-government which includes jurisdiction in relation to child and family services over members of our community and BC Métis Federation law pertaining to these rights.

You are receiving this repeat notice in light of the recent introduction of Bill C-92 and its inexorable movement towards enforcing the retroactive rights for Indigenous Peoples to return their children to their communities. The BC Métis Federation is in the process of undertaking the review of, and, when deemed in the child's best interests, the return of all children taken from our community by the British Columbia Director of Child, Family, and Community Services and the British Columbia Director of Adoptions.

Should the Federal and Provincial Ministers wish to engage in a cooperative agreement, the BC Métis Federation Governing Board welcomes you to meet and discuss such an agreement to address and enable equal provisions for BCMF children in order to help support predictable, stable, needs-based and secure long-term positive outcomes for our BC Métis Federation Children and their families.

The original notice of inherent jurisdiction of BC Métis Federation children, and subsequent law according to Indigenous custom, took effect on March 29, 2018 in the form of the *BC Métis Federation Child Protection Declaration* under authority of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the *Constitution of Canada Act 1982 s. 35*.

“Famii Aansaamb”

As per: *BC Métis Federation Child Protection Declaration* enacted March 29, 2018

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith" followed by a stylized flourish.

Keith Henry, *President* BC Métis Federation

cc: BCMF Board of Directors