

January 26, 2026

Margaret Pfoh, Chief Executive Officer
Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA)

Re: AHMA - MNBC MoU - “Community-driven” claims must be accountable, not performative

Dear Ms. Pfoh,

I’m writing on behalf of the BC Métis Federation (BCMF) regarding AHMA’s recent announcement of a Memorandum of Understanding with Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), and MNBC Minister Patrick Harriott’s claim that this collaboration will deliver “community-driven, Métis-specific solutions” for housing needs across British Columbia.

In BC’s Métis context, “community-driven” cannot be asserted in a media release. It has to be demonstrated through clear methodology, documented relational engagement, transparent consent pathways, and measurable accountability to Métis communities across the province.

The historical pathway of provincial erasure that makes this urgent

BCMF’s Métis housing research in our recent “Métis at Home” project makes one thing unavoidable: Métis housing vulnerability in BC cannot be separated from a long pathway of provincial erasure and exclusion. For decades:

- Métis were routinely absent from provincial planning and service design: Métis perspectives were missing from ministry discussions, service plans, and public debate, while government repeatedly acknowledged it knew little about Métis and mixed-ancestry populations in BC.
- After 1982, BC’s nuanced Métis reality was often substituted out for a one-dimensional “Red River / Prairie diaspora” frame, positioning Métis in BC as late-comers or interlopers, which became a convenient rationale for denying Métis rights and responsibilities.
- In the early 2000s, the province explicitly recognized the need for accurate, region-specific Métis data and collaborative databases, then failed to build the mechanisms.

Li taan paasii. Li taan ki vyayn.

From our past. For our future.



- In 2006, the province developed a First Nations health plan with actions and local control, but no equivalent local Métis action plan.
- Also in 2006, the province signed an exclusive Métis Nation Relationship Accord with MNBC, reinforcing a sociologically exclusive approach that functionally sidelines other representative bodies and excludes the diversity of Métis historical experiences in British Columbia, especially Pacific Northwest Métis histories and kinship networks.
- The predictable outcome has been heightened anti-Métis sentiment and an unsafe environment, where Métis are questioned, dismissed, or treated as trespassers in their own province.

This is the reality your MoU enters. And it's why vague claims about "community-driven" work without demonstrated engagement risk repeating the exact harms Métis people are trying to escape.

The core concern is that identity politics can become an eligibility filter. If AHMA's approach treats one organization as *the* proxy for Métis legitimacy, it creates an access problem. This stands to discriminate against housing access for all Métis, both those with roots in the Prairies and those with historical roots in the Pacific Northwest, by turning identity politics into an eligibility filter. That is not decolonizing practice. It is administrative gatekeeping.

What BCMF did, and what was ignored

BCMF's Métis at Home work was community-led and relationship-based. We supported local researchers, worked through community feedback loops, and produced practical recommendations to improve Métis safety and access in housing systems, including actions to address anti-Métis racism, build Métis advisory structures, and create Métis-led education inside the sector. Over the years, the province has received recommendations and even participated in anti-racism engagement with our communities, yet meaningful follow-through has repeatedly failed to appear. Métis people are still left navigating systems that speak partnership while practicing exclusion.

What we are asking AHMA to do now

If AHMA intends this MoU to improve Métis housing outcomes for all Metis in BC (not just announce them), we request AHMA take these steps immediately:

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1. Define “community-driven” in operational terms.

Provide the engagement method, governance model, and accountability mechanism: who is engaged, how consent is gathered, how dissent is handled, and how outcomes will be audited.

2. Commit to non-discriminatory Métis access.

AHMA must ensure Métis people are not forced to prove legitimacy through affiliation with a single provincial organization to access local housing pathways or supports.

3. Establish a Métis Housing Working Circle that reflects Métis diversity in BC.

Include Métis communities and representative bodies beyond a single centralized voice, including Pacific Northwest Métis historical realities alongside Prairie-rooted Métis families living in BC.

4. Name anti-Métis racism and erasure as housing-system risks.

Build safeguards into training, program design, and partnership practices so Métis aren't treated as a political controversy rather than a rights-bearing people.

5. Meet with BCMF within 30 days.

We request a leadership meeting to share the Métis at Home findings and to ensure AHMA's implementation does not reproduce exclusion through legitimacy shortcuts.

BCMF is prepared to collaborate in good faith. But we will be equally clear: Métis people in BC cannot afford another cycle where legitimacy is assumed, local engagement is undocumented, and exclusion is repackaged as “Métis-specific solutions.”

Thank you,

Keith Henry President

cc: BC Métis Federation Board