



October 24, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) is the voice for Métis women at the National level. We feel it is important to bring forward a statement to assist in clarifying the role of LFMO and highlighting our mandate, goals and objectives as well as recent activities that support the concepts of the organization. Our organization is revisiting its' Strategic Plan and enhancing the supportive role that we have in ensuring the Métis Nation and the governing members is our vehicle of self-governance.

As you will see that LFMO does not provide direct service nor do we seek out opportunities to be a delivery agent of programming. We support and put forward the ideology that our Métis Nation governments are the best mechanism for bringing forward and delivering on the needs of the Métis people.

LFMO operates in a democratic, transparent and fiscally accountable manner, we influence public policy and decision making related to concerns and aspirations of Métis women at all levels of Indigenous and Canadian government. Operating as a secretariat of the Métis National Council since 1999, LFMO was incorporated in 2010 at the organization's inaugural meeting.

The LFMO Board consists of the elected Métis women spokesperson that is recognized by each of our Métis Governing bodies. At this time those are:

1. Victoria Pruden, Métis Women of British Columbia Chair – Vice President of LFMO
2. Marilyn Lizee, New Dawn Métis Nation of Alberta Métis Women President – Secretary LFMO
3. Tammy Mah, Les Filles des Madeleine – Métis Nation of Saskatchewan President
4. Anita Campbell, Infinity Métis Women – Manitoba Métis Women Spokesperson – Treasurer LFMO
5. Sharon Cadeau, Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council – Spokesperson

Our mission is to ensure that Métis women from across the homeland are safe, connected, empowered to help create the conditions for healthy, vibrant and productive communities throughout the Métis Nation.

We are guided by six strategic goals:

- i. Build a strong, successful and responsible organization whose voice is heard throughout the Métis Nation;
- ii. Be caretakers of traditional knowledge and the voice of Métis women;
- iii. Ensure that the perspectives of Métis women are included in community economic development;
- iv. Foster culturally appropriate learning environments and lifelong learning to improve the educational outcomes for women and all Métis learners;
- v. Help Métis people lead healthier lives and help create the conditions for healthy and vibrant communities; and
- vi. Advocate on behalf of Métis women.

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Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak has been involved with many initiatives to further our strategic goals such as:

- Participating in the Permanent Bi-lateral Mechanism table;
- Emergency meeting on First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Child and Family Services;
- Métis Nation Summit on Child and Family Services;
- Federal, Provincial, Territorial (FPT Forum for Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women);
- Métis-specific Gender-Based+ Analysis;
- 62nd Session on the Status of Women, United Nations Head Quarters;
- Advisory Committee for the Multi-Partner Oil Spill Research Initiative;
- Indigenous Women's Leadership Conference;
- The National inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;
- Development of a Pan-Canadian Awareness Campaign to end violence against Indigenous women;
- Creation of a "Trauma-Informed toolkit".

If you require any further clarification, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the mandate, goals, objectives and our activities in detail with you. I forward this to you to assist in understanding the role of our organization in moving forward to create relationships that encourage and support the Métis Nation.

With respect



Melanie Omeniho
President
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak
Women of the Métis Nation