



Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement

Métis Government recognition in Ontario at last

On June 27, 2019, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Canada signed a historic Métis self-government agreement. In this agreement, Canada recognizes what the Métis have always known—that the Métis communities represented by the MNO have an inherent and constitutionally protected right to self-determination and self-government.

The agreement establishes—for the first time—a path to the full and formal recognition of a Métis government in Ontario. The MNO will be embarking on an extensive engagement process with its citizens and communities to develop a constitution that will be the foundation for our Métis government.

While the hard work is far from over, this agreement represents a momentous step forward. **The MNO has been working towards the recognition of Métis rights and self-government in Ontario for the last 25 years.** Canada has now recognized that the MNO represents its Métis citizens and communities in their pursuit of self-government, and have agreed on a path forward.

Métis Nation
of Ontario 





Since its creation, the MNO has been the government for Métis people in Ontario, advancing their rights, interests and aspirations

1993 MNO Founded

The **MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose** affirms a commitment to advance Métis rights, self-government and self-determination



Guided by the *Statement of Prime Purpose* a series of resolutions passed at MNO AGAs over the years, the MNO pushed Canada and Ontario on advancing self-government and establishing a process to address outstanding claims

1993-2017 AGAs



The MNO is successful in the watershed Powley case where the Supreme Court recognizes Métis Section 35 rights and claims and urges that negotiations with the Métis begin

2003 Powley Case

MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement to Advance Reconciliation is signed on Dec. 11, 2017--the historic Agreement set out a process to advance self-government negotiations

2017 MNO-Ontario-Canada Framework

2016: The Isaac Report makes recommendations on the need for negotiation processes with Métis on rights, outstanding claims and grievances



MNO establishes a negotiations committee tasked with representing Métis citizens during meetings with Canada to advance priorities including self-government



MNO works with Canada on Métis Government Recognition Agreement which recognizes MNO as an Indigenous government and locks in a mandate to negotiate Métis self-government based on the inherent right

2019 Self-Government Agreement

CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT
Métis citizens and communities discuss what kind of government they want. Métis self-government will require direct and extensive engagement. Work begins on constitution-building, the development of laws and transitioning from a not-for-profit to a fully functioning government

BUILDING & RATIFYING A CONSTITUTION
The constitution must be built and ratified. Before adoption, all Métis right-holders will be heard again through a province-wide referendum

The Next Steps ...

THE SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT WHAT WILL IT DO?

The Self-Government Agreement does two key things:

1

Recognizes that the Métis Communities represented by the MNO have the inherent right of self-government, and that the MNO has been authorized by these Communities to implement this right. *This is the first time in history that this has been explicitly acknowledged by Canada.*

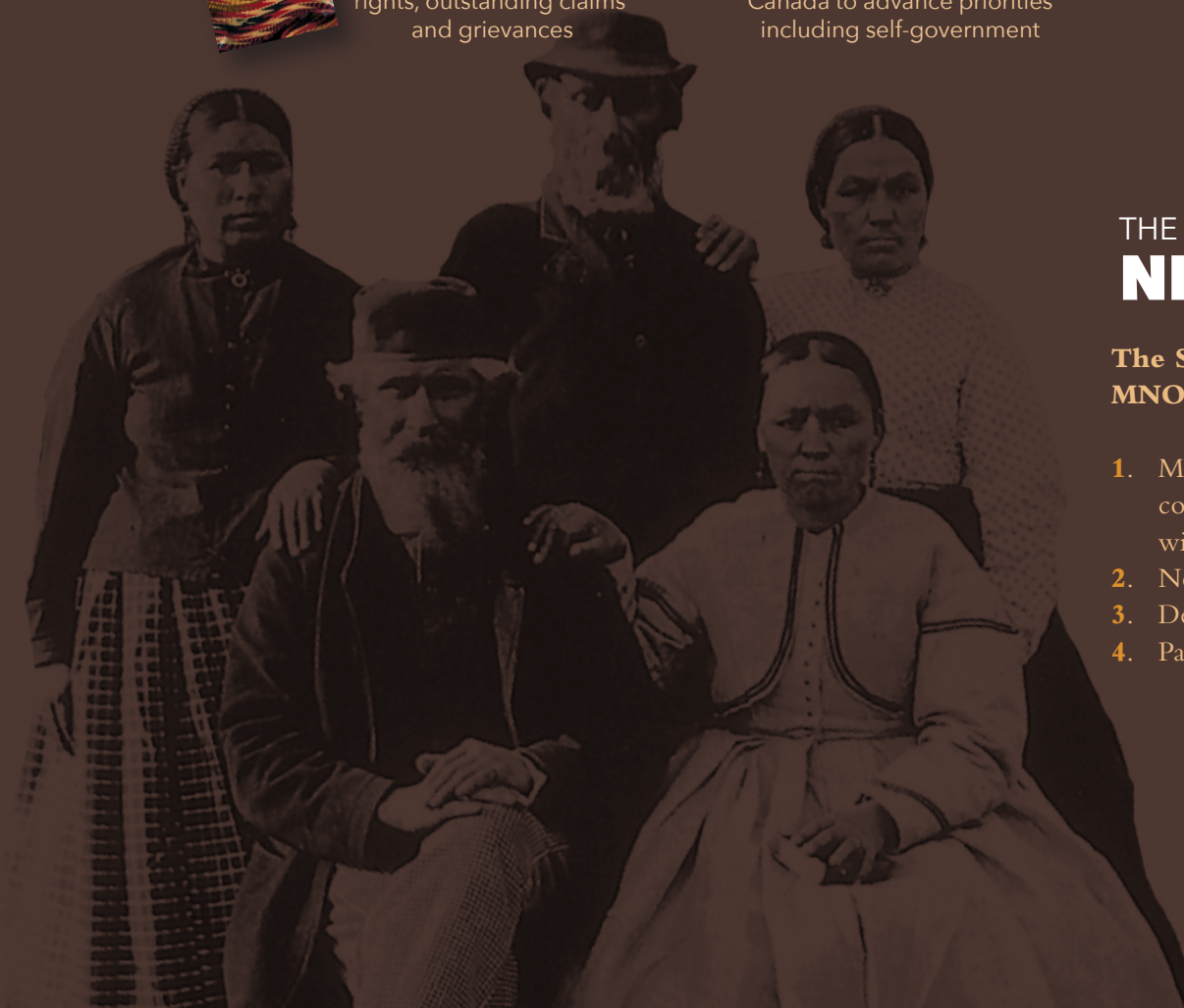
2

The Self-Government Agreement sets out the process for the MNO to become a recognized "Métis Government". The MNO has always asserted and acted as a government for its citizens, but the Self-Government Agreement provides a path to formal recognition of this by Canada.

THE SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT NEXT STEPS

The Self-Government Agreement sets out the process for the MNO to become a fully recognized Métis Government:

1. MNO will embark on an extensive engagement process with citizens and communities to develop a constitution and ratify it through a province-wide referendum;.
2. Negotiation of fiscal and intergovernmental implementation agreements;
3. Development of a transition plan; and
4. Passage of federal implementation legislation.



The story and struggle for recognition of the Métis in Ontario has deep roots.

Métis communities grew and flourished around the Upper Great Lakes and along waterways and fur trade routes of what is now Ontario long before confederation. Since its creation in 1993, the Métis Nation of Ontario has always focused on advancing Métis rights and Métis self-government. Through this agreement, we move forward with Canada as our partner on a respectful government-to-government basis. This is true self-determination, and it is our right as Métis people.



TIMELINE

PRE-CONFEDERATION TO SELF-GOVERNMENT

early 1800s: Distinctive Métis communities emerge around the Upper Great Lakes, and along the waterways and fur trade routes of what is now Ontario with their own cultures, identities and traditions. As settlers moved in, Métis continued to assert themselves and their rights.

1845: An Order in Council recommended “the Commissioner of Crown Lands to survey a Town Plot and Park Lots at Sault Ste. Marie, giving the occupants [Métis] a title to such lots...” While the survey occurred, official title for the Métis did not materialize.

1849: A group of Métis and Anishinaabeg protest the Québec Mining Company at Mica Bay in response to intrusion on their traditional lands. This spurred negotiations of the Robinson Huron Treaty, from which Métis were excluded.

1840-50s: Members of the historic Georgian Bay Métis community petition for lands due to increasing settler encroachments.

1850: The Métis at Sault Ste. Marie advocate for inclusion in the Robinson-Huron Treaty and for protection for Métis lands.

1875: The Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty 3 is signed by Nicholas Chatelaine, on behalf of the “Halfbreeds of Rainy Lake and River”, the only known adhesion to a treaty negotiated and signed by a Métis community, as Métis.

1905: Several “half-breed” families at Moose Factory petition to the government for scrip to be issued to them.

Mid-late 1900s: Métis in Ontario advocate for Métis rights and interests through various pan-Indigenous organizations.

1982: The *Constitution Act, 1982* is adopted, including section 35 which provides that Métis rights rights, are to be “recognized and affirmed”.

1993: The Métis Nation of Ontario is founded with the *Statement of Prime Purpose* as its foundational document, which commits the MNO to advancing Métis rights and self-government in Ontario.

2003: The Supreme Court releases the landmark *Powley* decision, affirming that the Métis community in Sault Ste. Marie and environs have Métis harvesting rights in their traditional territory protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

2004: MNO and Ontario sign a Harvesting Agreement that relies on MNO’s Harvester’s Card system.

2008: MNO and Ontario sign a five-year Framework Agreement committing them to jointly pursue reconciliation in a variety of ways.

2013: The Supreme Court’s Manitoba Métis Federation decision, declared that Canada breached the honour of Crown in failing to implement the land-related promises to the Manitoba Métis Community in section 31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870*.

2016: The Supreme Court of Canada releases the Daniels decision, declaring that Métis are included as “Indians” within section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. Canada can no longer justify the exclusion of Métis from federal negotiations on the basis that it lacks jurisdiction.

2017: MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation sets out a negotiations process for a core self-government agreement.

2017: After an extensive and rigorous review of historical reports The MNO and Ontario announce six historic Métis communities in Ontario, in addition to the one recognized by the Supreme Court in *Powley*.

2018: MNO and Ontario conduct an independent review of the MNO Harvester’s Card system, which concludes that MNO has a credible system for identifying Métis rights-holders; and, MNO and Ontario sign *Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting*, which relies on the MNO’s Harvester’s Cards system.

2019: MNO and Canada sign the Self-Government Agreement.

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