



Thank you for the invitation to be part of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly at Fort William Historical Park. While I am unable to join you in person, I am pleased to send my warm greetings for this important occasion.

Thank you to the Métis Nation of Ontario, President Margaret Froh, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Thunder Bay & District Métis Council, President Wendy Houston, Elders, youth, and people from across the province who came together to this gathering.

Today is an important expression of Métis democracy, leadership, and community. It is an opportunity for citizens to come together, share perspectives, make decisions, celebrate culture, and help shape the future of Métis self-governance in Ontario.

The Métis Nation of Ontario has made significant progress in advancing the priorities of its members through programs and services that support housing, health, education, employment, language revitalization, environmental stewardship, and cultural preservation.

The Federal Government is proud to support many of these efforts through investments in Indigenous and Métis languages and cultures, environmental conservation, mental wellness programming, and other community-led initiatives. We also remain committed to advance reconciliation through the recognition of Métis rights and self-determination.

The self-governance agreements implemented in the Métis Nation of Ontario highlight the importance of self-determination and representation of Métis people. The ongoing process is an important step as Métis citizens determine how their government will continue to evolve and serve future generations.

Here in Thunder Bay, the Thunder Bay & District Métis Council plays a vital role in supporting citizens and strengthening connections between families, youth, and Elders. This helps ensure that Métis culture, traditions, and community leadership continue to thrive.

To everyone gathered here today, thank you for your commitment to your communities and to the future of the Métis Nation.

I wish you a productive Annual General Assembly, thoughtful discussions, and a wonderful celebration of Métis culture, heritage, and achievement.

Thank you.

The Honourable Patty Hajdu

Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario