

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

Ministry of Lands & Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

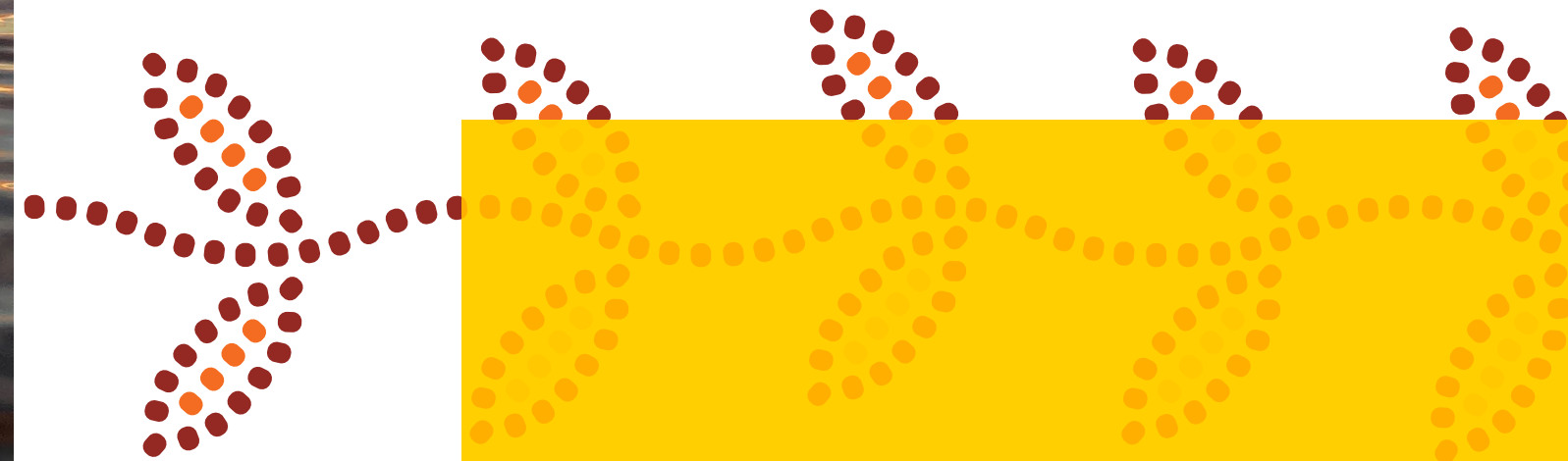
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY REPORT

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY REPORT



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Forward by Minister of Lands & Resources, Agriculture, and Environment | 4 |
| Executive Summary | 5 |
| Our Vision | 8 |
| How This Strategy is Structured | 9 |
| Métis Resilience and Worldview | 10 |
| Our Values | 14 |
| Nature Stewardship | 16 |
| Project Spotlight: The Métis Guardians Program | 18 |
| Energy and Infrastructure | 22 |
| Project Spotlight: Home Efficiency Initiative | 25 |
| Emergency Management | 27 |
| Project Spotlight: Emergency Preparedness Kit Giveaway | 31 |
| Health and Climate | 34 |
| Project Spotlight: Il Bufloo Back to Batoche | 36 |
| Economic Development | 40 |



Forward by Minister



Boon Maataayn,

As someone who has based his life's work on and in the environment, I share in the same climate concerns as our citizens.

As such, it gives me great pleasure to present the MN-S Climate Change Strategy. This is a detailed, well-researched document designed to help address some immediate threats facing our surroundings and provide the basis for future conversation about how to proceed long-term.

As stewards of the land, Métis have long lived in harmony with nature, guided by a profound respect for its gifts. Today, as our planet faces an urgent environmental crisis, the need for preservation has never been greater.

I hope you find the MN-S Climate Change Strategy informative, thought evoking, and actionable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darcy Lepowick', with a long, sweeping underline.

Darcy Lepowick

MN-S Minister of Lands & Resources, Agriculture, and Environment



Executive Summary

Climate change is a very real threat to Métis people and the lands we depend on in Saskatchewan. Rising temperatures, shifts in species migration patterns, increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity are disrupting our traditional way of life and ability to exercise our inherent rights. Our citizens are often the first to notice and experience the negative effects of changes in the environment because of the intimate connection we share with the natural world. It is apparent to us that the planet is rapidly approaching a point of no return, and we must do our part in taking immediate and bold action to help save it.

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) Climate Change Strategy reflects the MN-S government's commitment to responding to the urgent issues posed by climate change. This strategy aims to emphasize the importance of establishing self-determined priorities in addressing climate change with a Métis perspective at its core. In collaboration with our citizens including Elders, youth, traditional land users, industry experts and leadership, we will guide strategy implementation with transparency and accountability and invest in our future, together. It is our goal to focus efforts and resources on initiatives that generate long-term benefits, reduce costs for families, and honour our Métis values.

The MN-S Climate Change Strategy is centered on the following five priority areas, each with specific objectives to support Métis citizens and communities:

1. Nature Stewardship:

- Monitor, protect, and conserve traditional and culturally significant lands, waters, plants, and animals.
- Support community-led nature stewardship efforts.
- Restore MN-S citizens' connection to the land.

2. Energy and Infrastructure:

- Improve access to and control of reliable, affordable, and renewable energy sources for MN-S citizens and communities.
- Reduce emissions from the built environment across the MN-S Homeland.
- Support the MN-S government and citizens in the transition to zero-emission vehicles.

3. Emergency Management:

- Integrate Métis knowledge and land management techniques into all stages of the emergency management cycle.
- Enhance Métis-led early warning and emergency response systems.
- Strengthen community connections and resilience in the face of emergencies.

4. Health and Climate:

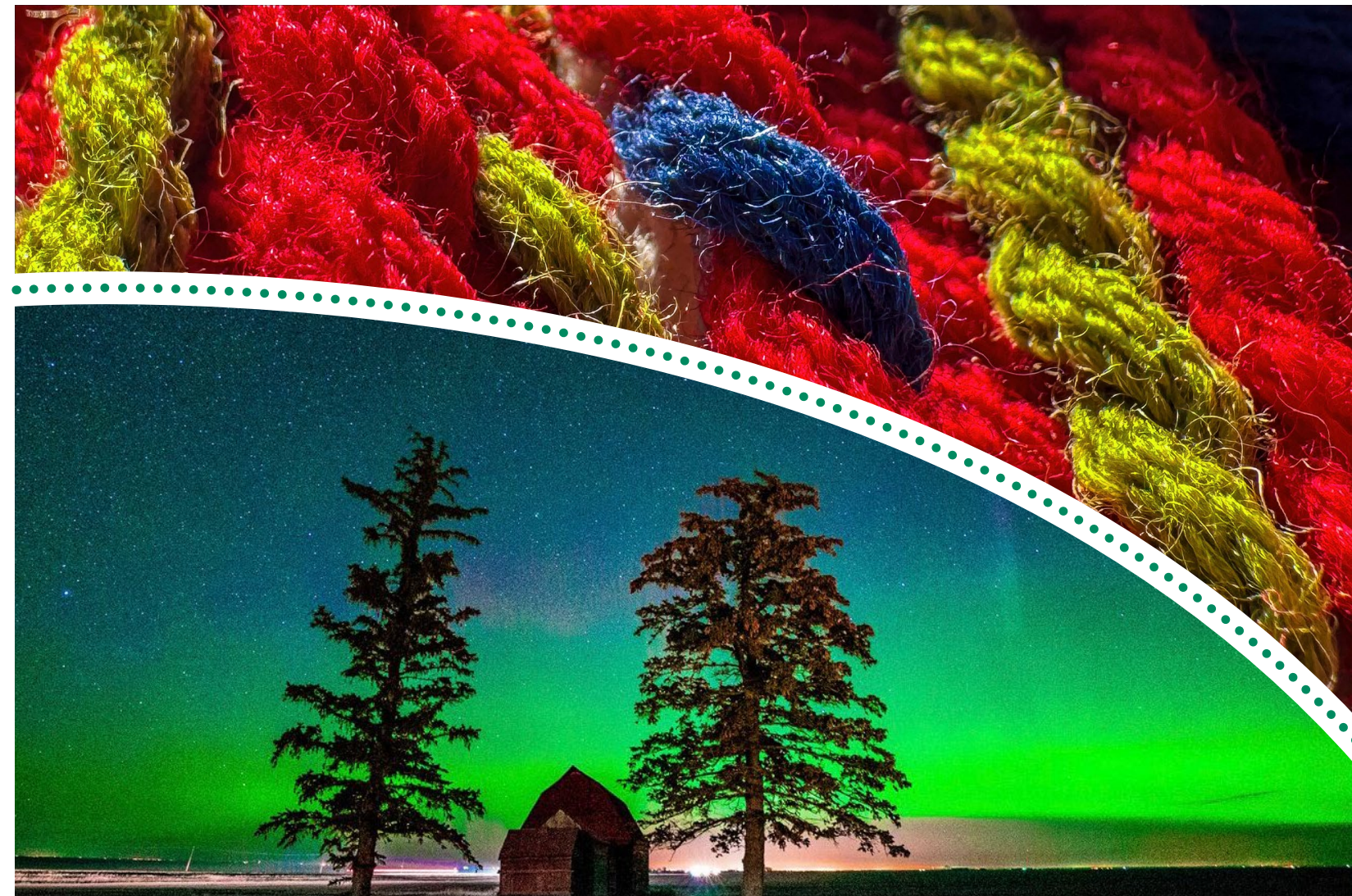
- Support the mental health of MN-S citizens as they deal with the impacts of a changing climate.
- Improve access to and sovereignty over sustainable, local, and culturally rooted foods and medicines.
- Monitor and prioritize the holistic health of the Nation as it relates to the broader environment.



5. Economic Development:

- Empower Métis businesses and communities to thrive in the low-carbon economy.
- Provide citizens with access to education and training programs that promote good jobs in clean industries.
- Equip Métis citizens and communities with the knowledge, resources, and inclusive consultation processes to respond to climate impacts on their lands.

The successful implementation of this strategy will require tangible actions that educate and build capacity within our communities, support strong relationships and partnerships, and drive investment into distinctions-based programs and services that respect our Métis history. Although these priorities are in alignment with what we've been hearing from our citizens, we are responsible for ensuring local context is considered. The pathways we will follow to achieve our strategic objectives will evolve over time based on the needs, interests, and concerns of the people we represent.





Our Vision

We weave connections rooted in Métis values of reciprocity and respect, working alongside others to advance our climate change goals which encompass nature stewardship, energy and infrastructure, emergency management, health and economic development.

How This Strategy is Structured

The structure of this document is based on the Métis sash. Sashes were worn by the Métis as an expression of cultural pride and while it originated with the French Voyageur culture, the Métis have refined and innovated the sash, embracing it as a powerful symbol of national identity. Sashes are traditionally finger woven without the use of tools. The sash weaver takes many disparate threads and braids them together, combining the individual threads into a woven garment that is greater than the sum of its parts. Some Métis believe that different colours of thread represent ideas or values. Through the work of the weaver, each thread becomes an inseparable part of a cohesive whole.

This strategy takes our relations to the many things that sustain our lives and weaves them into a climate change strategy for the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan government in the same way the weaver creates a sash. Each braid of the sash represents a thematic area in the strategy, and each thread represents a relationship to the environment. The weaving of the sash throughout this strategy represents how the nation can mend, strengthen and embrace Wahkootowin (“all our relations”) to adapt to climate change and mitigate its worst effects.

Métis Resilience and Worldview

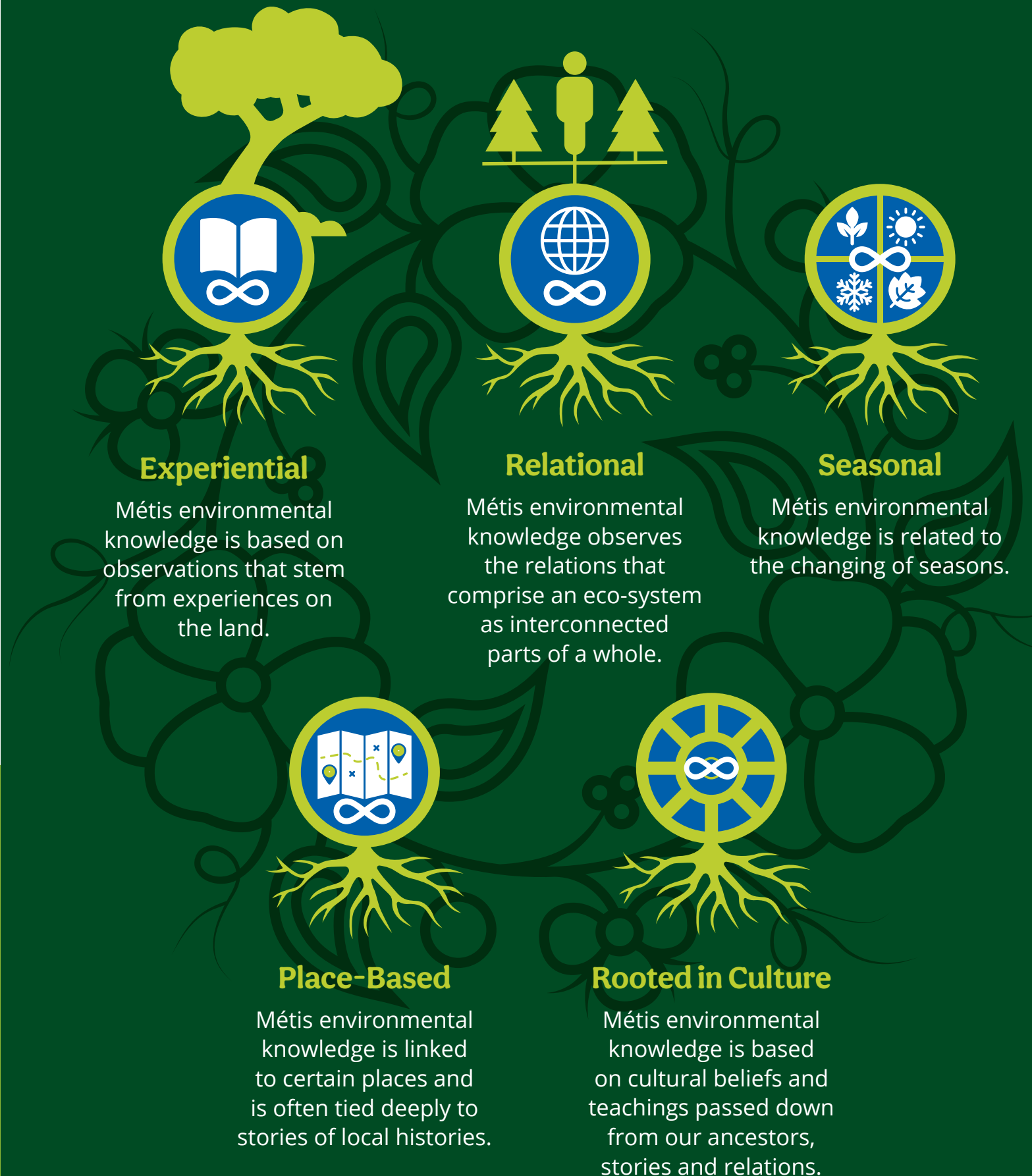
A worldview is a collection of beliefs that structures how an individual comes to know the world around them. This strategy is written from a Métis worldview, one that shares perspectives, beliefs, and philosophies with both Western and other Indigenous ways of knowing.

The Métis worldview is closely linked to how Métis people have lived in relationship with nature for generations. It is rooted in interconnectedness and respect for lands, waters, wildlife, and connection to other Métis knowledge systems, culture, and languages. Through traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and plant harvesting, Métis land-users have had opportunities to observe, interact with and theorize about the environment in ways that others may have not. Often referred to as “environment knowledge systems”, these are accumulated wisdom, practices and skills that have been passed down through the teachings of our Elders.

Métis environmental knowledge systems take many forms.

A community of fishermen may have knowledge of fish spawning points, invasive species, and eco-system threats that effect the waters and species they work with every day. A berry harvester may remark that a mild winter and an intense summer have yielded smaller and less dense blueberries than the year previous, while a hunter down the road may notice that the animals that rely on those berries for food are smaller due to a lack of nutrition.

Métis environmental knowledge systems have the following characteristics:

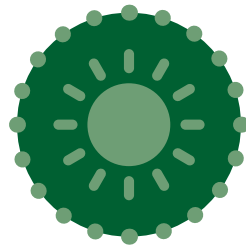


These knowledge systems are how Métis people come to know the world, and they offer insightful perspectives on climate change and other environmental issues. They underpin our long-established understanding of the cycles of nature that inform how and where to access the best resources each season has to offer. The Métis have relied on the seasonal cycles for many generations by combining traditional harvesting activities with agrarian practices. As we continue to experience drastic shifts in the climate there is great potential for the seasonal round to be impacted and upset.

The spring is a period that symbolizes new beginnings and rejuvenation. Métis harvesters focus on hunting for migratory birds such as ducks and geese. Large game like deer, elk, or moose are nursing their young, while black bears and small predators are pursued. Spring is also a time for catching spawning fish, including northern pike, walley and sturgeon. Métis farmers begin to sow and plant crops on their land while gardeners dig in moist soil to start a vegetable plot. Birch bark is collected for canoe building and other household items. During these months, those who still practice traditional burning techniques use fire as an important tool to manage landscapes, promote biodiversity, and reduce wildfire risk.

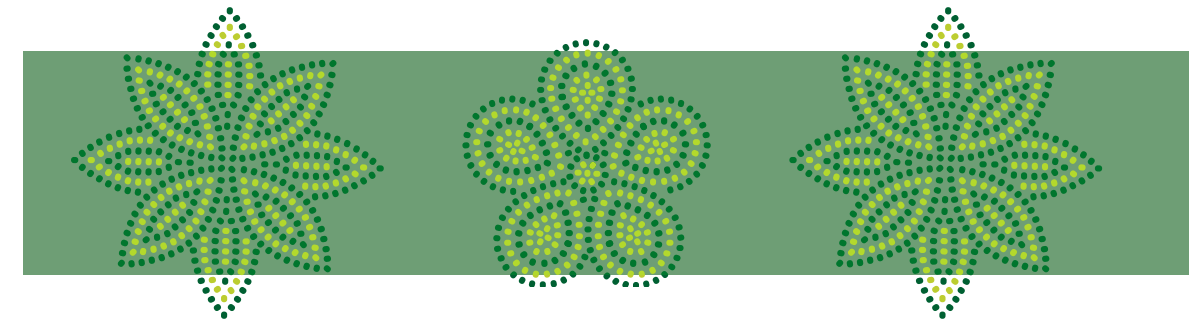


Spring



Summer

Summer is a time of gathering and growing for Métis people. The picking of blueberries, Saskatoons, cranberries, and chokecherries occurs. It is a season where wild rice and crops are growing, waiting to be harvested towards the end of the summer. Throughout August the first of the vegetable varieties are ready to be eaten, dried and preserved for future use. For some, this is also when herbal teas and medicines are foraged for physical health and spiritual practice.



For many Métis people fall is a busy time of winter preparation. Hunters are seeking to catch big game and net fish to process and stockpile for the long winter months. Autumn also marks the harvest of crops, wild rice and native berries. Many northern Métis rely on cutting and hauling wood to heat their homes and cabins prior to the first frost. In some communities, celebrations may occur to honour and celebrate the land and its bounty.



Fall



Winter

Winter symbolizes a time for rest, renewal, and reconnection. At this point in the seasonal round a successful year of hard work and preparation should result in a full freezer and pantry. During the winter months ice fishing and trapping continue with snowmobiles, snowshoes and dog sleds being used as an alternative form of transportation. It is traditionally a period for the Métis to practice creative arts through storytelling, playing music and making crafts, providing an opportunity to gather with family and community.





Our Values

Métis culture balances individual freedom and kinship. In Michif, the word **Wahkoohitiwin** (“all my relations”) describes the relationships that ground the individual. These relationships between individuals, communities, peoples, plants, animals, lands, waters, and countless other relations are rooted in reciprocity and responsibility. Another Michif word, **Kaa tipaymishooyaahk**, describes self-ownership. It is a cultural value that allows for individual freedom, promotes self-reliance, and encourages each Métis to pursue his or her own path through life. This strategy balances both values in the context of climate change. It acknowledges that freedom is not possible without reciprocity, nor is reciprocity without freedom.

A full description of the values that inform this strategy can be found below:

| Value | Story | How the value relates to this strategy |
|--|-------|--|
| Wahkoohitiwin Reciprocity & Kinship | | Our relations with each other and the surrounding environment are reciprocal. |
| Kaa tipaymishooyaahk Self-direction | | Métis people are leaders in climate action and have a voice in governance and decision-making processes. |
| Kiiwookayhk The visiting way | | The Strategy incorporates the views, beliefs, and lived experiences of Métis citizens across Saskatchewan. |
| Lii Zistwayr Story | | Rooted in Indigenous storytelling traditions. |
| La Taysr Stewardship | | Encourages greater responsibility in the protection of our traditional lands, waters, and animals. |
| Miyoopimaatishihk Well-being | | Reconnection with nature will improve our physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being. |





NATURE STEWARDSHIP

To be good stewards for our more-than-human relations while caring for the places which Métis people depend on for cultural expression, connection to nature, and exercise of rights.

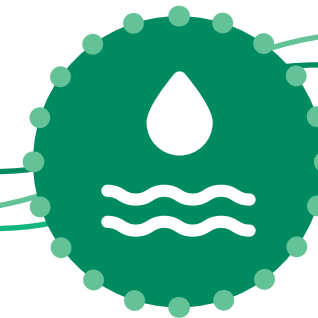
As Métis people, our connection to land, water, plants, and animals guides our traditions, livelihoods, and ways of life. The health of nature reflects the health of our communities. But today, we are seeing changes that remind us of the importance of stewarding the environment. Climate change is affecting the natural world in ways we cannot ignore. Warmer seasons, unpredictable weather, and shifting ecosystems are altering the lands and waters we depend on. Plants and animals that have always been part of our lives are being impacted, and some are disappearing from areas where they once thrived.

These changes bring challenges to how we live, hunt, fish, and gather. We as Métis people have significant concerns about these changes, with worry that they will erode the ability for our communities to remain viable, but they also call us to act with care and responsibility for the land. By strengthening our role as stewards, we can protect what is important to us while adapting to the changes we face. In doing so, we honour our ancestors, who cared for these lands, and ensure they remain healthy for the children of our Nation. Through nature stewardship, we can respond to the impacts of climate change while upholding the values that have always defined us as Métis people.



Lands

Culturally significant lands are protected



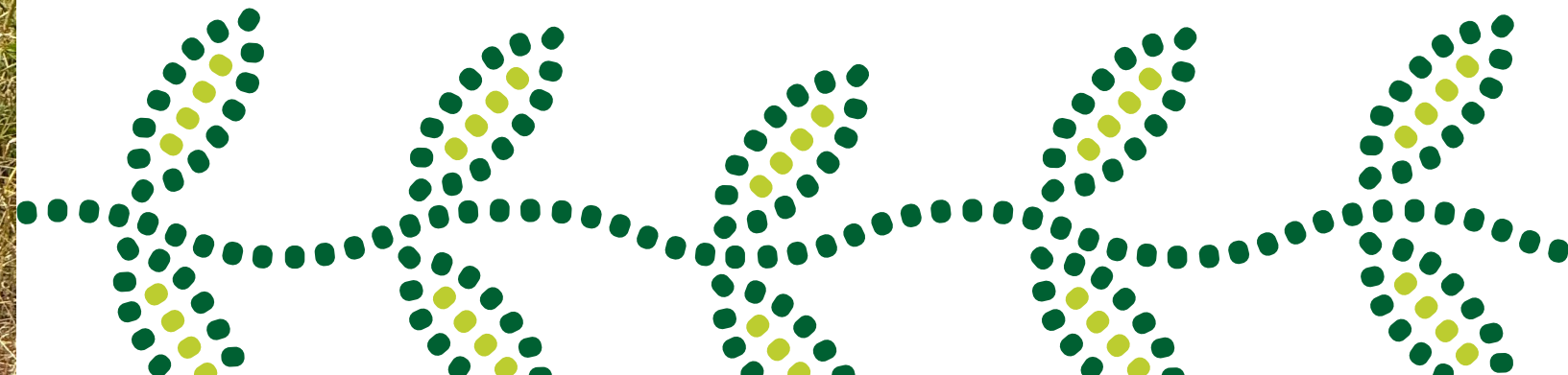
Water

Lakes and waterways, along with the drinking water we rely on, are conserved



Plants & Animals

Habitat stewardship for keystone species



The braid of nature stewardship is woven with the following threads:

1. Monitor, protect, and conserve traditional and culturally significant lands, waters, plants, and animals.
2. Support community-led nature stewardship efforts.
3. Restore MN-S citizens' connection to the land.

Past achievements in Nature Stewardship:

The MN-S has already begun work towards these objectives through the following initiatives:

- **The Métis Guardians Program:** Building local capacity so that Métis citizens can be stewards of the land in their communities.
- **Li Muskeg Ni Pishkaapahtaynaan (“Protect Our Muskegs”) Project:** Promoting education and advocacy for the protection of Saskatchewan’s muskegs, a culturally and biologically significant ecosystem for the Métis.
- **“2 Billion Trees” Program:** Planting trees to support climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, and Métis land stewardship.
- **IPCA Engagement and Scoping:** Working with communities to identify traditional and culturally significant lands to protect.



Project Spotlight: The Métis Guardians Program

In March of 2024, MN-S announced the Métis Guardians Program, an initiative to reclaim responsibility and authority over the stewardship and conservation of traditional land, water and animals.

Since launch, the program has supported over 30 citizens in becoming on-the-ground knowledge keepers who play an essential role in restoring plant and animal species, managing protected areas, monitoring development projects, collecting data, water quality analysis, and creating land-use plans.

Honouring the relationship between Indigenous peoples and their lands, Guardians are guided by, and lean upon, the integration of both Western science and Indigenous ways of knowing.

The program also encourages connecting Elders with youth to foster the intentional transfer of knowledge and wisdom.

MN-S intends to build on past work in this area through the following actions and initiatives:

Action 1: Expand community-based stewardship efforts

- Engaging with communities to identify climate-related threats.
- Expanding data collection and monitoring related to the use of lands, waters, plants and animals.
- Involving Métis Harvesters in the conservation process. Integrating monitoring work, training, and Guardians programming into the structure of IPCAs.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Communities, Métis Harvesters, Federal Government, Provincial Government, Industry Partners

Action 3: Advocate for direct and long-term, sustainable funding that supports Métis-led nature stewardship initiatives

- Communicating budget needs for advancing Métis-led nature stewardship efforts with funders.
- Building capacity for MN-S government and Métis communities to represent Métis interests on boards and governing bodies related to land, water, and conservation.
- Advocating for funding to support long-term, large-scale conservation initiatives.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Communities, Land Owners/Users, Federal Government, Indigenous Governments, NGOs

Action 5: Plan for responsible land use that balances economic priorities with duties of stewardship

- Creating a comprehensive framework for land use and acquisitions.
- Developing plans that balance economic interests (i.e., ecotourism) with conservation and restoration efforts.
- Exploring carbon and biodiversity markets to generate revenue that can be reinvested into future endeavors.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Citizens, MN-S Ministries and Departments, Regional Directors, Locals, Land Users, Land Use Planning Professionals

Action 2: Develop Métis Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)

- Collecting traditional land use information through site assessments, baseline studies, and monitoring.
- Engaging with local communities and other stakeholders to develop IPCA strategies.
- Determining the objectives, boundaries, management plans, and governance structures for potential IPCAs.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Communities, Land Owners/Users, Federal Government, Indigenous Governments, NGOs

Action 4: Promote weaving traditional knowledge, monitoring, and conservation through a Métis lens

- Fostering the exchange of Métis knowledge through guided experiences, events, gatherings, and educational resources.
- Creating high quality multimedia resources that weave Métis knowledge with western scientific data and theory.
- Conducting interviews and creating tools for the intentional transfer of location specific Métis knowledge related to wildlife, lands, and the history of climate change.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Knowledge Keepers, Multimedia Partners, Scientists



Action 6: Support long-term water security across the province

- Involving, consulting, and engaging Métis citizens and communities in decisions around governance of watersheds, lakes, and waterways.
- Integrating water security with emergency management practices.
- Working with communities to monitor risks to drinking water safety and accessibility.
- Conducting vulnerability and risk assessments to predict, prevent, and mitigate water security emergencies.
- Building relationships with water security governing bodies.

Potential Implementing Partners:

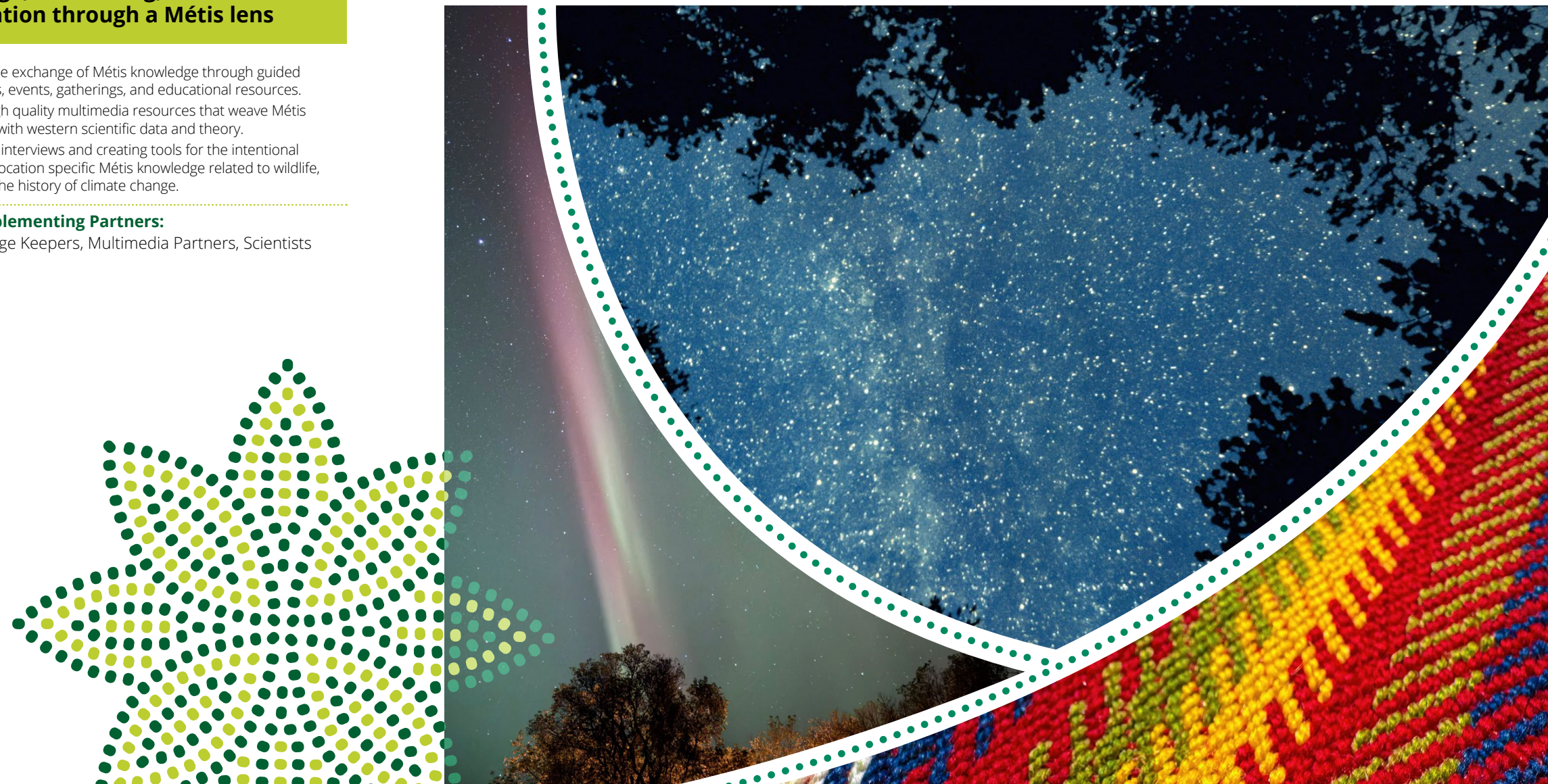
Water Security Agency, SaskWater, Métis Communities, Canada Water Agency

Action 7: Provide environmental services on IPCA Lands

- Developing plans for environmental stewardship on IPCA lands.
- Implementing methodologies for measuring carbon sequestration and other environmental benefits.
- Restoring damaged ecosystems and biomes, focusing on at-risk areas like muskeg, grasslands, and boreal forests.
- Building relationships with partners willing to pay for environmental services conducted on IPCA lands.

Potential Implementing Partners:

External Consultants, NGOs (i.e. Ducks Unlimited), Provincial Government, Federal Government



ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

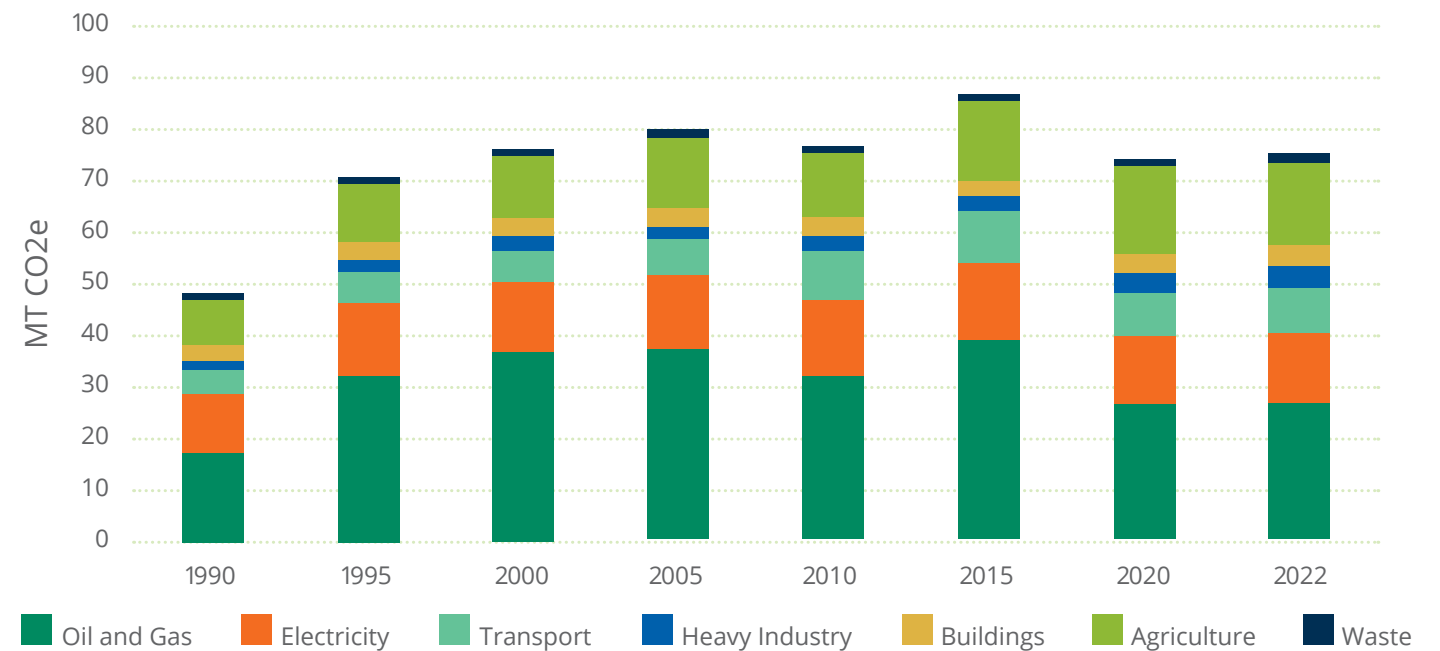
To lead the way in sustainable energy and modern infrastructure, cultivating self-reliance and sparking economic growth. By weaving clean energy with resilient design, we will forge a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship, innovation, and prosperity, lighting the path for all Métis citizens.



Energy and infrastructure are at the heart of how we live, work, and connect as Métis people. These systems power our homes, support our communities, and link us to one another. But more frequent extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and shifting environmental conditions are testing the strength and reliability of our energy and infrastructure. These realities challenge us to rethink how we use energy and design infrastructure to better align with a sustainable future.

Saskatchewan's emissions per capita are the second highest in Canada at 64.4 tonnes of CO₂e — over 250% above the national average and our per capita energy demand is also among the highest¹. The graph below breaks down the emissions profile of various sectors in the province over time.

GHG Emissions for Saskatchewan by Sector²

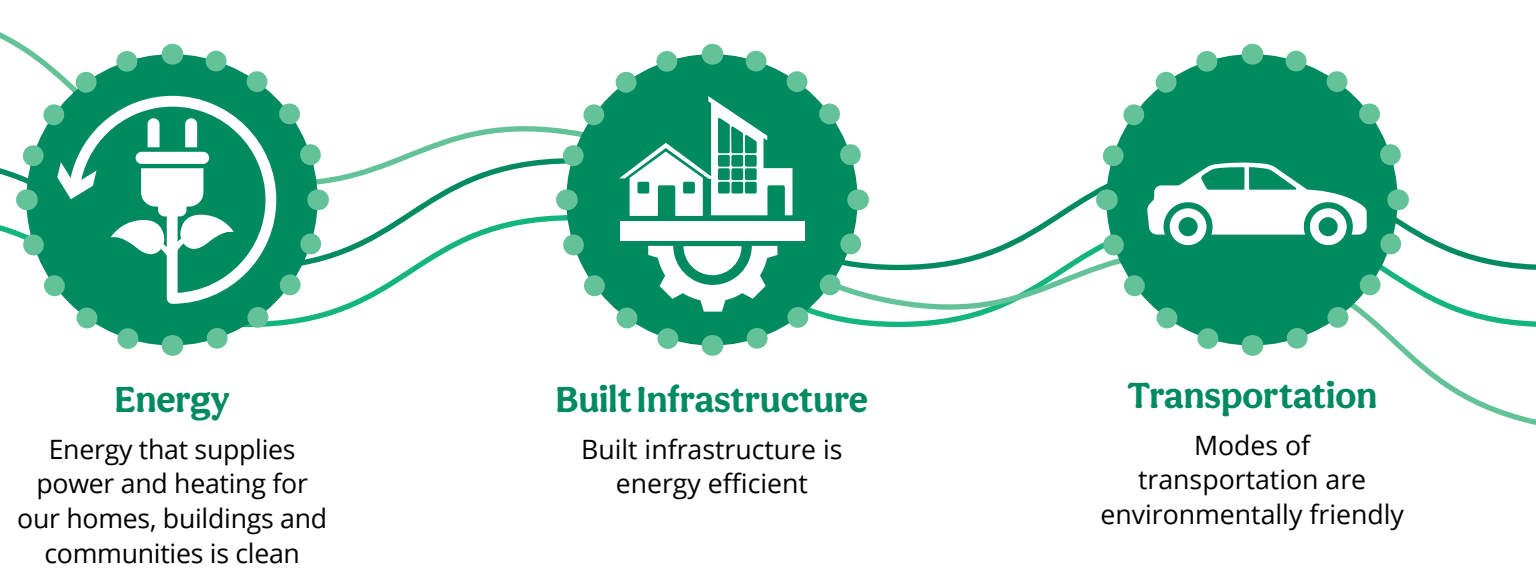


¹ Canada Energy Regulator. (2022). Provincial and Territorial Energy Profiles – Saskatchewan. Retrieved from: <https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-markets/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles-saskatchewan.html>

² Canada Energy Regulator. (2022). Provincial and Territorial Energy Profiles – Saskatchewan. Retrieved from: <https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-markets/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles-saskatchewan.html>

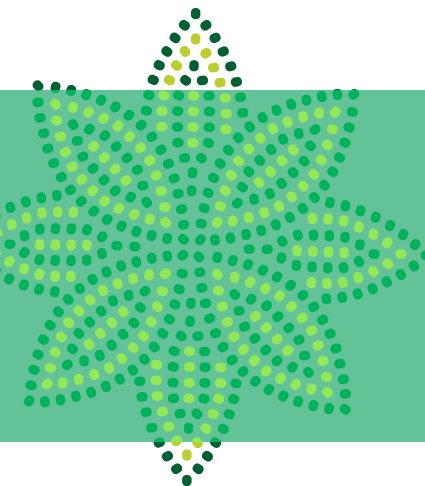
Métis Nation–Saskatchewan recognizes that climate change is undermining our energy security. There are more instances of power outages, concerns about energy reliability, damaged equipment, and rising costs for families, especially our most rural and remote citizens. These difficulties highlight the need for developing locally appropriate low-carbon renewable energy solutions that are spurred by innovation and modernization. By improving energy efficiency, transitioning to clean sources of power generation, and investing in resilient infrastructure, MN–S can position the Nation as leaders in the clean energy transition.

The braid of energy and infrastructure is woven with the following threads:



We have identified the following objectives to take the lead in responding to the climate impacts being seen across these threads.

1. Improve access to and control of reliable, affordable, and renewable energy for MN–S citizens and communities.
2. Reduce emissions from the built environment across the MN–S Homeland.
3. Support the MN–S government and citizens in the transition to zero-emission vehicles.



Past achievements in Energy and Infrastructure:

MN–S has already begun work to advance these priorities through the following initiatives:

- **Home Efficiency Initiative:** A one-time grant for homeowners to perform energy efficiency retrofits to their primary residence.
- **Seven Stars Energy Project:** Partnership with Enbridge and five other nations to develop a 200-megawatt wind energy project southeast of Weyburn.

Project Spotlight: Home Efficiency Initiative

In partnership with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Environment Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the MN–S Ministries of Housing and Lands and Resources, Agriculture, and Environment rolled out the Home Efficiency Initiative.

The program was designed to encourage and support Métis citizens with completing energy efficiency initiatives for their homes through a one-time indirect grant. Eligible activities and amounts are described below.

| \$100,000 or less Gross Annual Household Income | | | More than \$100,000 Gross Annual Household Income |
|---|--|---|---|
| <div style="text-align: center;">✓ South & Central Up to \$12,000</div> | <div style="text-align: center;">✓ Northern Up to \$15,000</div> | <div style="text-align: center;">Insulation, Windows/Doors, Air Sealing, Space & Water, Heating, Resiliency Measures, Thermostats</div> | - |
| <div style="text-align: center;">✓ Up to \$15,000</div> | | <div style="text-align: center;">Renewable Energy - Solar Installation</div> | <div style="text-align: center;">✓ Up to \$15,000</div> |
| <div style="text-align: center;">✓ Up to \$15,000</div> | | <div style="text-align: center;">Roofing Upgrades - for Solar Installation Only</div> | - |

MN-S intends to build on past work in this area through the following actions and initiatives:

Action 1: Reduce emissions from MN-S operations

- Establishing an emissions baseline across the MN-S.
- Implementing energy efficiency and conservation measures to reduce emissions from MN-S building operations.
- Ensuring all new MN-S buildings incorporate renewable energy generation and the highest energy efficiency standards.
- Electrifying the MN-S fleet.

Potential Implementing Partners:

External Consultants, SaskPower

Action 3: Support the development of Métis-led renewable energy projects

- Supporting MN-S Locals and Regions with renewable energy resource mapping and feasibility studies.
- Build meaningful partnerships to better participate in renewable energy projects.
- Creating a Métis Power Authority.

Potential Implementing Partners:

SaskPower, Independent Power Producers, Renewable Energy Professionals, Federal Government, Provincial Government

Action 2: Support Métis citizens in accessing clean and affordable water, air, and energy in their homes

- Increasing energy literacy amongst Métis citizens.
- Determining additional housing support needs of local communities.
- Expanding home efficiency initiatives that help MN-S citizens learn about, afford, and implement systems that reduce energy consumption and improve comfort.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Energy Advisors, Housing Professionals, Contractors, Federal Government, Provincial Government

Action 4: Support Métis citizens in the transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs)

- Developing programs and educational resources to guide the transition to ZEVs.
- Ensuring citizens have access to low- and zero-emissions modes of transportation.
- Encouraging development of an EV charging station network across the province.

Potential Implementing Partners:

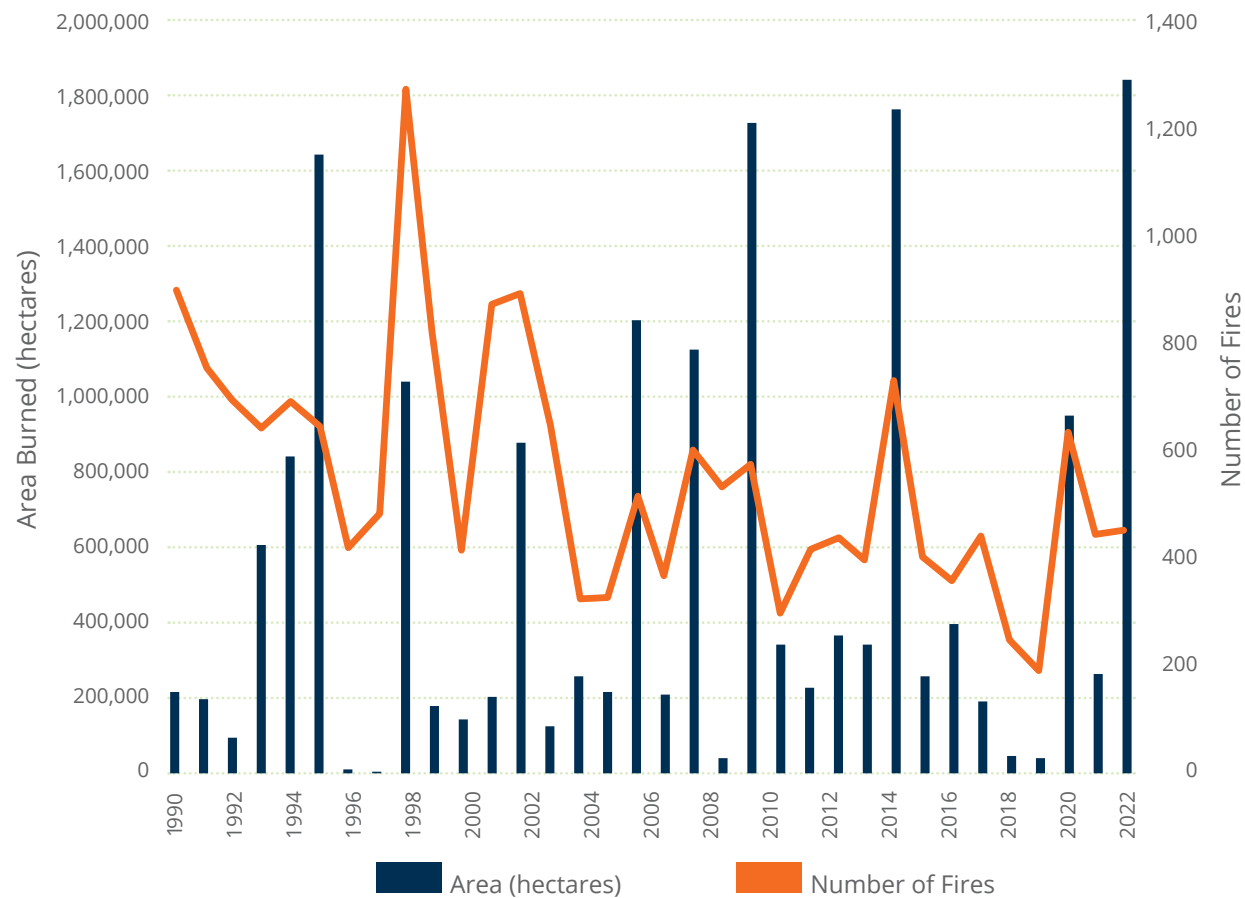
Federal Government, Provincial Government (Highways), Municipal Governments, ZEV and Charger Suppliers and Installers

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

To celebrate Métis community resilience, land management practices, and location-based knowledge while creating strong emergency management systems that care for, protect, and advocate for Métis citizens, including our Elders, our young, and our most vulnerable.



As climate change intensifies, Métis people recognize the immediate need to enhance our emergency management capabilities to protect our communities and culture from more frequent and severe emergencies, such as wildfires and extreme weather events. Droughts, floods and other environmental dangers are disrupting and displacing Métis people at an alarming rate. Our communities, often located in areas vulnerable to climate-related risks, face unique challenges that require tailored emergency management strategies. Wildfires, once a natural part of our ecosystem, now pose an existential threat to human lives, community dynamics, and economic participation. As per the data below from the National Forestry Database, the number of forest fires reached its peak in 2023 with more than 1,800,000 hectares of area burned³.

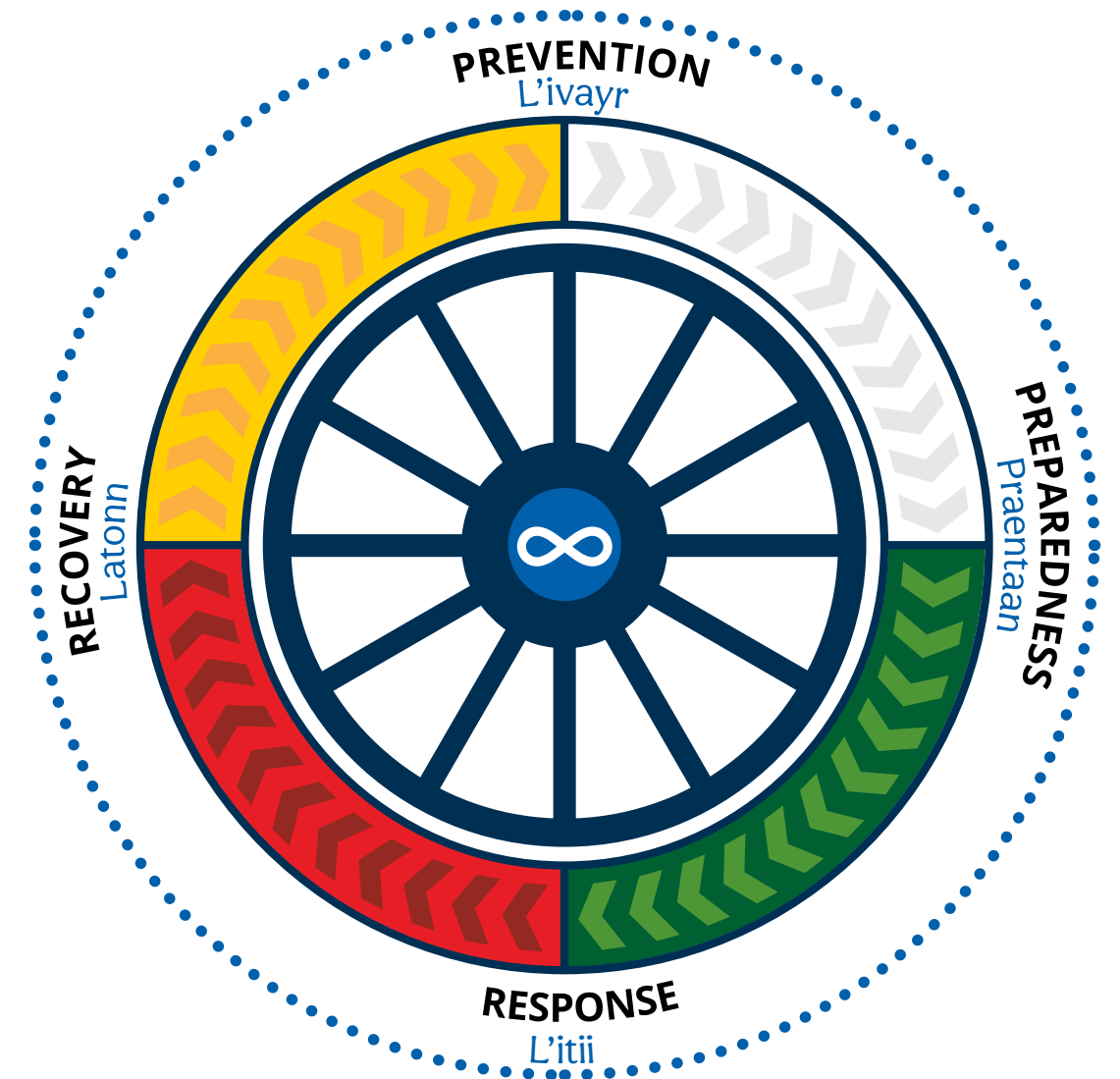


Métis Nation–Saskatchewan is committed to developing comprehensive emergency management plans and protocols that draw on both traditional knowledge and modern practices. Through investment in community-based emergency preparedness, early warning systems, and response capabilities, we aim to build resilience across our Nation. As we navigate this new reality, the voices and experiences of our people will guide our efforts.

³ National Forestry Database. (2023). Forest area burned and number of forest fires. Retrieved from: <http://nfdp.ccfm.org/en/data/fires.php>



A comprehensive emergency management approach seeks to support citizens through the entire life cycle of an emergency. It focuses not only on immediate response but on prevention of events where possible, preparing for events that are unpredictable in their timing and effects, response to those events when they do occur, and finally to support in the recovery and revitalization of the community after major disasters or emergencies take place.



PREVENTION
(L'ivayr)

Identify and remove or reduce hazards

PREPAREDNESS
(Praentaan)

Build capacity to anticipate, respond to, and recover from emergencies

RESPONSE
(L'itii)

Measures taken to prevent and reduce adverse effects of emergencies

RECOVERY
(Latonn)

Measures taken to recover from an emergency

Informed by these principles, the emergency management braid in our climate change strategy includes the following threads:



Community

Communities on the frontlines of climate-related emergencies are safe

Fire

Wildfire risk is reduced and better managed

Extreme Weather

Extreme weather events have less impact

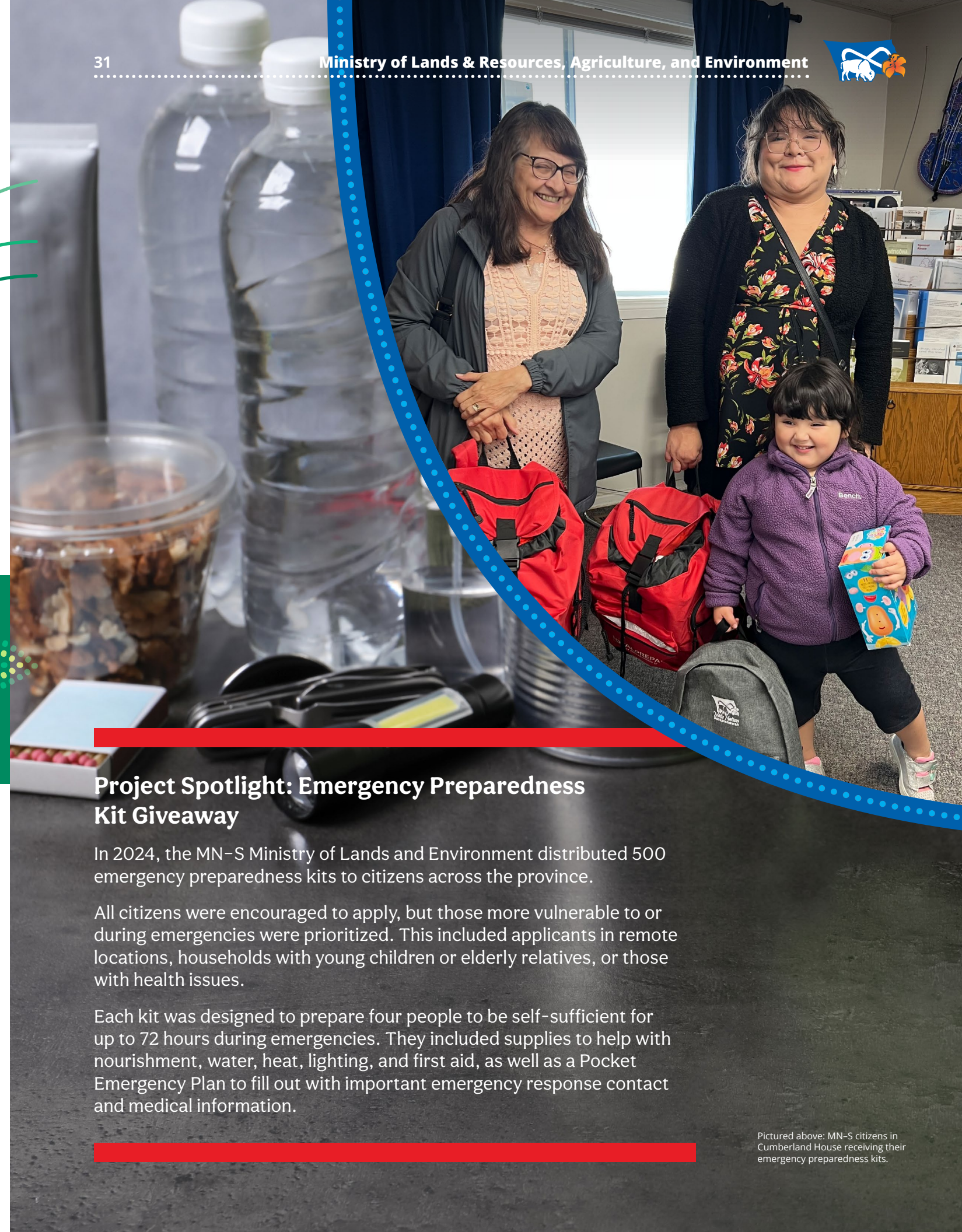
The following objectives are identified as priorities for Emergency Management:

1. Integrate Métis knowledge and land management techniques into all stages of the emergency management cycle.
2. Enhance Métis-led early warning and emergency response systems.
3. Strengthen community connections and resilience in the face of emergency.

Past achievements in Emergency Management:

The MN-S has already begun work to advance these priorities through the following initiatives:

- **Emergency Preparedness Kit Giveaways:** Emergency kits distributed across the province.
- **Climate-Driven Hazard Assessment:** Engaging with communities to develop a stronger understanding of current and future risks caused by climate change.
- **2025 Back to Batoche Evacuation Site:** Providing culturally-appropriate and comprehensive wildfire evacuation response to individuals displaced by the 2025 wildfire season.



Project Spotlight: Emergency Preparedness Kit Giveaway

In 2024, the MN-S Ministry of Lands and Environment distributed 500 emergency preparedness kits to citizens across the province.

All citizens were encouraged to apply, but those more vulnerable to or during emergencies were prioritized. This included applicants in remote locations, households with young children or elderly relatives, or those with health issues.

Each kit was designed to prepare four people to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours during emergencies. They included supplies to help with nourishment, water, heat, lighting, and first aid, as well as a Pocket Emergency Plan to fill out with important emergency response contact and medical information.

Pictured above: MN-S citizens in Cumberland House receiving their emergency preparedness kits.

MN-S intends to build on past work in this area through the following actions and initiatives:

Action 1: Increase Métis representation in emergency management decision-making processes

- Building partnerships with emergency management governing bodies, municipalities, and other key stakeholders in the emergency management space.
- Building capacity for the MN-S government and Métis communities to meaningfully participate in emergency management decision-making.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Provincial and Federal Safety Agencies, Municipal Governments, Métis Communities

Action 3: Equip community members with the knowledge and skills they need to plan, lead and respond in emergencies

- Supporting communities with developing land use plans on future developments.
- Investing in community resiliency initiatives through training and capacity building.
- Co-developing preparedness and emergency response strategies.
- Sharing information about hazards and risk in accessible and engaging formats.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Provincial and Federal Safety Agencies, Municipal Governments, Métis Citizens

Action 5: Understand the risk of emergencies and needs for our citizens and communities

- Conducting vulnerability and risk assessments to determine community risk levels, identify likelihood of threats, and assess potential damages to economic livelihoods, critical infrastructure, and culture.
- Engaging communities on emergency management needs and priorities.
- Leading research studies to examine the opportunities and limits of successful adaptation efforts.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Metis communities, External Consultants

Action 2: Develop and implement plans, procedures, and services for wildfire emergencies

- Creating MN-S interministerial strategic emergency management plans.
- Supporting communities with training and implementation of Incident Command System frameworks.
- Investing in wildfire prevent measures like fuel management.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Provincial and Federal Safety Agencies, Municipal Governments

Action 4: Advocate for direct long-term, sustainable funding that supports Métis participation in emergency management

- Communicating budget requirements for advancing Métis-led emergency management efforts with funders.
- Building capacity for MN-S government and Métis communities to represent Métis interests on emergency management boards, governing bodies, and technical working groups.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Provincial Government, Federal Government

Action 6: Weave traditional and cultural activities into emergency management practices

- Working with cultural burning knowledge holders to implement cultural burning practices to preserve biodiversity.
- Partnering with other Indigenous Nations across North America and the world to share wisdom, best practices and resources related to cultural burning.
- Developing demonstration sites on IPCA lands to test and study the biodiversity and fire suppression effects of cultural burning.
- Conducting traditional land use studies on areas at risk of wildfire.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Knowledge Holders, Land Users, NGOs



Action 7: Improve public infrastructure for communities at risk of emergency

- Gathering in-kind resources to construct facilities that can temporarily house Métis citizens displaced by natural disasters.
- Advocating for improvements to critical infrastructure such as roadways that are essential to public safety and well-being.
- Weaving public infrastructure needs into vulnerability and risk assessments.

Potential Implementing Partners:

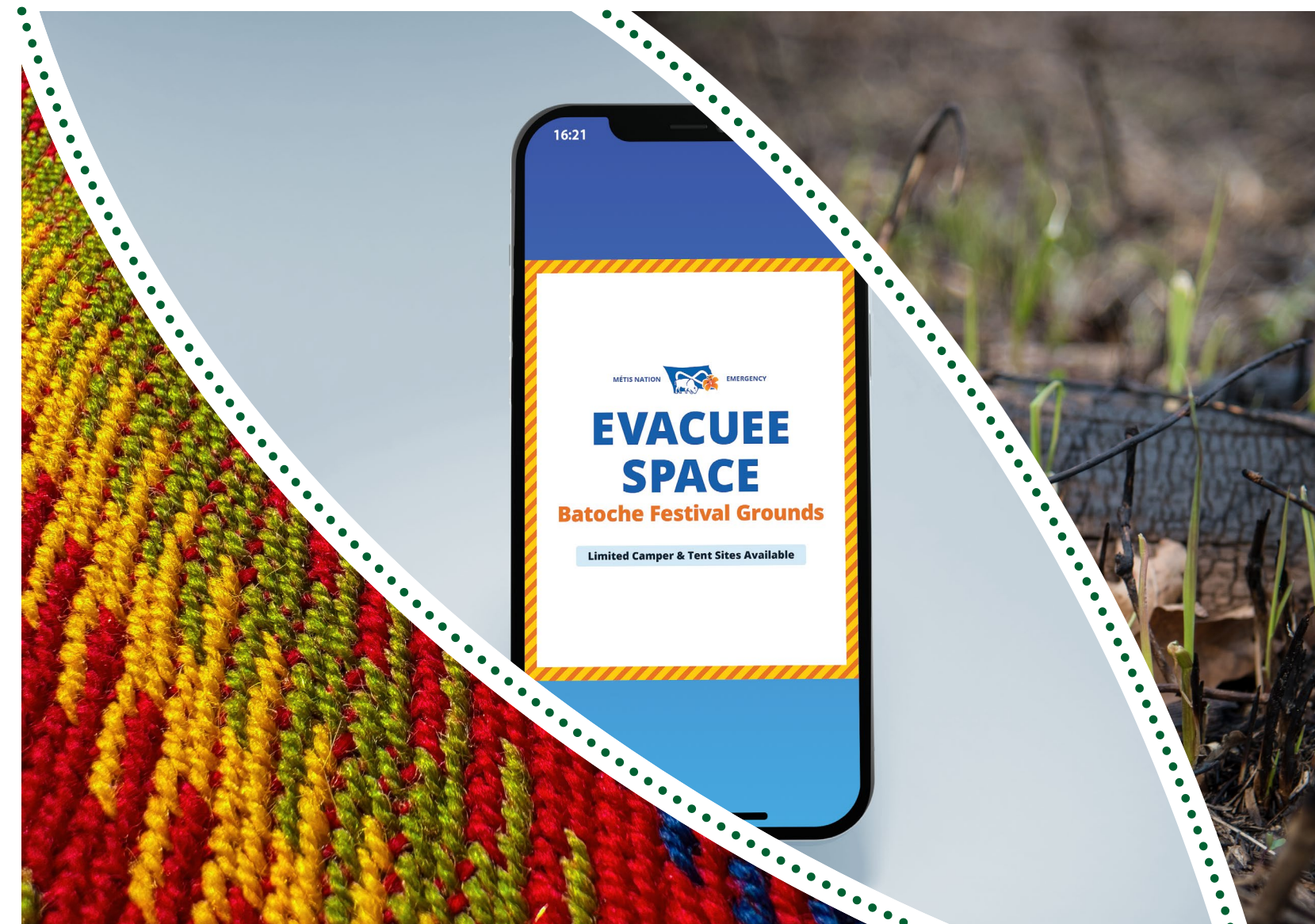
Provincial Government (Ministry of Highways), Federal Government, Municipal Governments

Action 8: Conduct post-emergency recovery

- Providing capacity and financial resources to assist with community restoration after a natural disaster.
- Offering health and mental health services to reduce long-term impacts. Post-event recovery coordination.
- Preparing after-action reviews to improve operational opportunities for future incidents.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Provincial Government, Federal Government, Municipal Governments, Métis Communities





As Métis people, we recognize that our health is deeply interwoven with the environment and the ecosystems that surround us. But as climate change continues to disrupt the natural world, our citizens' physical health, mental wellness, and traditional food systems are at risk. Volatile weather and environmental degradation is disturbing the patterns of regular life, often leading to feelings of loss and distress. The impacts of extreme heat and poor air quality are increasing the potential for negative physical health outcomes for our young and elderly. There is also grave concern over access to and sustainability of traditional foods and medicines which are becoming more scarce and affecting food safety and security. As we face the impacts of a changing climate, we must draw upon this integrated perspective to address the complex health challenges before us.

The health and climate braid in our climate change strategy includes the following threads:

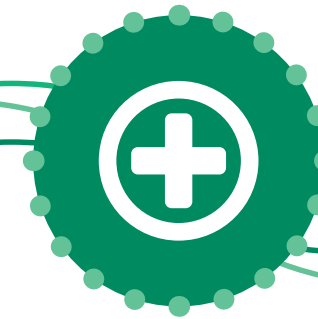
HEALTH AND CLIMATE

To address the health of Métis people in a way that fosters connection between mind, body, spirit and emotion, considering the positive effects of a healthy environment and ecosystem.



Mental Wellness

Mental well-being of citizens is prioritized



Holistic Wellness

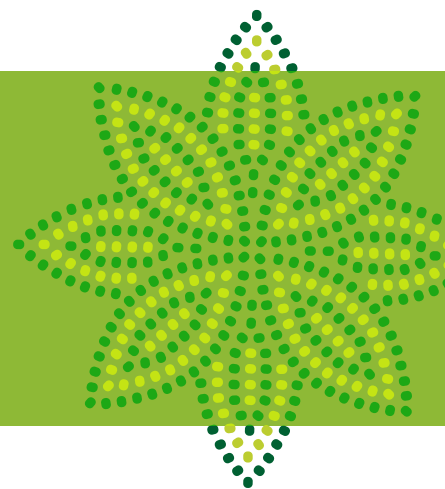
The holistic health of the Métis Nation is monitored and nurtured



Food Systems

Traditional food systems are climate-resilient

1. Support the mental health of MN-S citizens as they deal with the impacts of a changing climate.
2. Monitor and prioritize the holistic health of the Nation as it relates to the broader environment.
3. Improve access to and sovereignty over sustainable, local, and culturally rooted foods and medicines.





Past achievements in Health and Climate:

MN-S has already begun work to advance these objectives through the following initiatives:

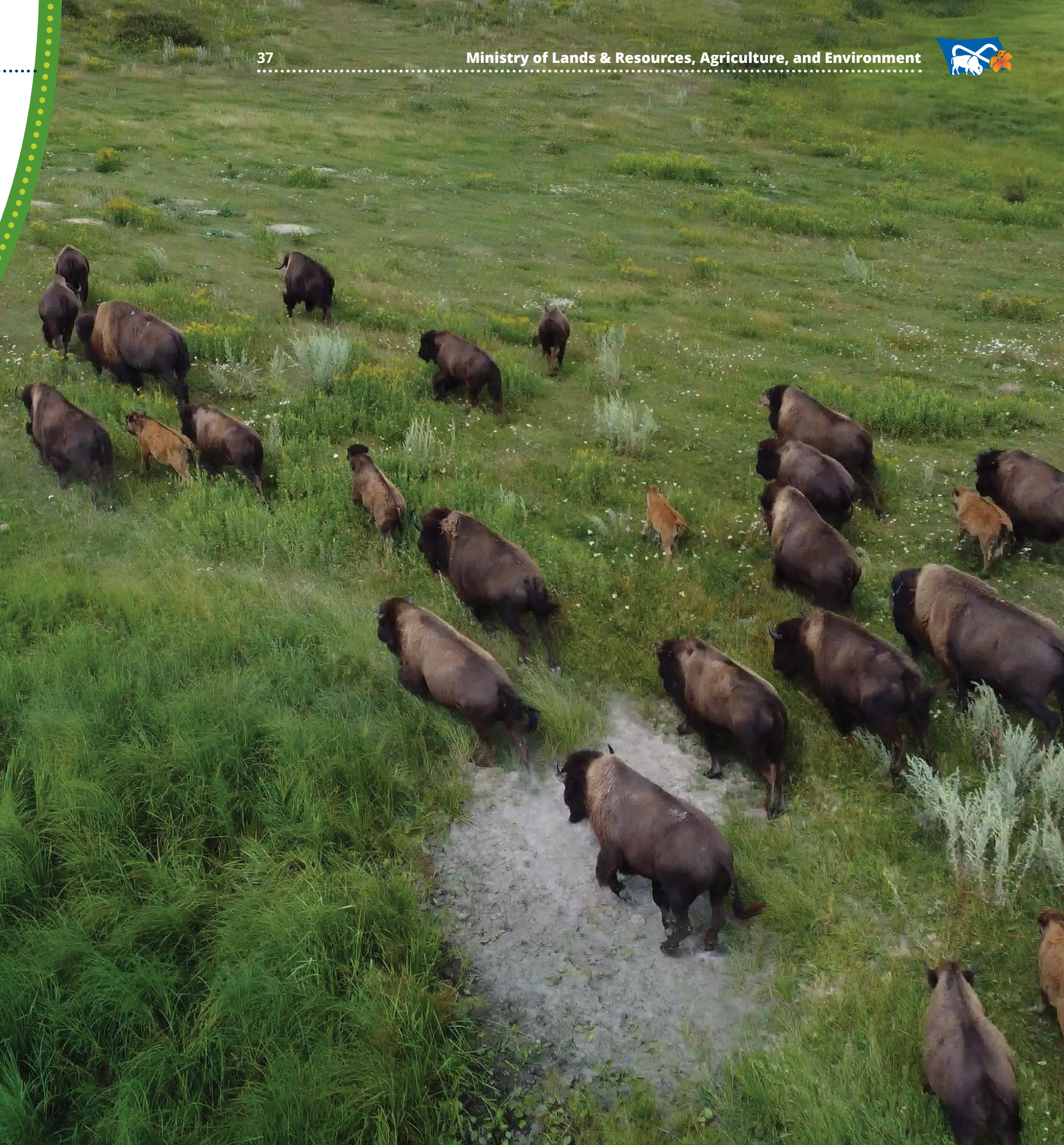
- **Back to Batoche Buffalo Pasture:** Buffalo were reintroduced to the Batoche festival grounds to conserve natural and cultural heritage.
- **Wellness Through Our Lands:** Funding for Métis Regions and Locals to deliver culturally appropriate, trauma-informed community-based healing and wellness services.
- **Mental Health and Addictions Program:** Offers Métis culturally specific mental health and addiction supports for adults, youth, and families, including a toll-free line and a 24-hour crisis line.

Project Spotlight: Il Bufloo Back to Batoche

The buffalo have always been a keystone species for the Métis in Saskatchewan. Traditionally, they provided food, clothing, tools, and economic prosperity for many.

In 2023, 25 Plains bison were transferred from Grasslands National Park to MN-S lands at the Back to Batoche festival grounds. The purpose of this transfer was to strengthen Métis communities' connections to their identity and land.

Long-term, MN-S has a vision to grow the buffalo herd, explore its potential as a food source, and develop education opportunities for youth, Elders, and communities. Their presence on the land has great effects for biodiversity as their patterns of behaviour and grazing affect the ecosystem, fostering diverse plant and animal life.



MN-S intends to build on past work in this area through the following actions and initiatives:

Action 1: Develop tools that connect wellness to environmental health

- Training mental health and health professionals at MN-S to assist citizens who have been impacted by emergency and environmental loss.
- Co-developing programs and services that encourage mental well-being through land-based healing.
- Adopting tools that research and monitor climate change impacts on health and well-being.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Health Canada, Regional Health Authorities

Action 3: Educate citizens on the skills and practices necessary for food security

- Promoting MN-S culture camps for land-based skills that promote food security through harvesting.
- Developing a gardening program that encourages community gardening, private gardening and urban gardening.
- Hosting a webinar series focused on food security and food preparation skills rooted in traditional Métis knowledge.
- Increasing access to and awareness of traditional Métis foodways.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Harvesters

Action 2: Increase access to nature for physical and mental health benefits

- Creating partnerships to provide Métis with access to green space in urban centres.
- Providing public access to MN-S lands and cultural spaces. Creating opportunities for citizens to connect with nature as a part of culture, identity, and well-being.
- Providing services that get young people interested in traditional land use activities.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Federal Government, Provincial Government

Action 4: Construct a culturally rooted food system

- Researching existing food assets to create inventories and food system plans.
- Exploring new pathways for Métis agriculture including bison farming and produce. Working with Regions and Locals, industry, and public sector partners to develop business cases for food system initiatives.
- Embracing principles of the “circular economy” to reduce food waste and redistribute excess food.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Harvesters, Food processing and distribution industry partners



Action 5: Integrate food security into emergency management activities

- Providing supports for food security, such as food boxes and meal stipends, to address short term food insecurity during evacuations.
- Including food security in vulnerability and risk assessments.
- Monitoring and addressing potential risks to food security for Métis populations in Saskatchewan.
- Integrating health, mental health, and dietary needs with emergency management practices.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Provincial Government, Municipal Government

Action 7: Monitor and mitigate the physical impacts of climate change on MN-S citizens

- Monitoring vector-borne and zoonotic diseases.
- Studying direct health impacts from climate change events such as extreme heat or air pollution.
- Working with government partners to advance climate health actions and evidence-based policies.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Guardians, Federal Government, Provincial Government

Action 9: Use MN-S lands to demonstrate food security projects

- Developing a food forest on the Batoche festival grounds.
- Integrating food security projects on MN-S lands and IPCAs into local and regional food systems planning.
- Designing and building greenhouse infrastructure to strengthen food security and sovereignty.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Harvesters, NGOs, Academic Institutions

Action 6: Develop a framework for Métis Health and climate change policies rooted in Métis ways of knowing

- Developing models of Métis health and well-being that analyze the intersection of individual and environmental health.
- Working with other Ministries to develop a report that will inform future programming and service delivery.

Potential Implementing Partners:

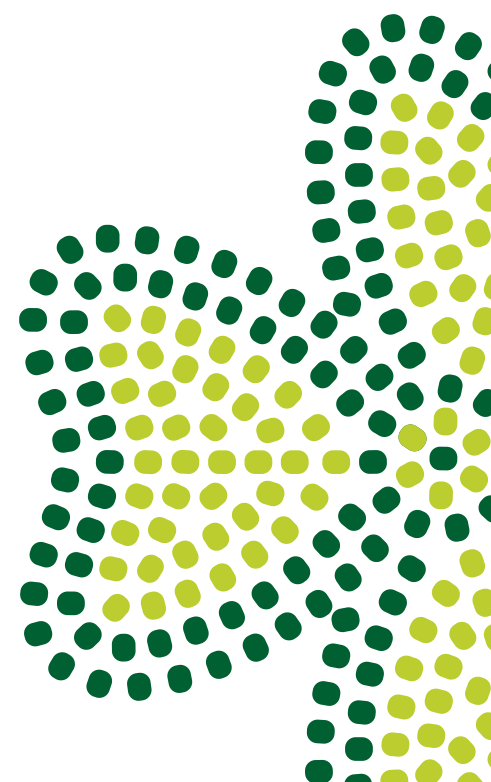
Ministry of Health, Métis Knowledge Holders

Action 8: Monitor, strengthen, and protect cultural food sources in Saskatchewan

- Developing and implementing monitoring methodologies for harvesters to report on the health of fish, berries and game.
- Raising awareness around threats to human and wildlife health (i.e. chronic wasting disease, fish parasites) through high quality communications and resources.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Harvesters





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

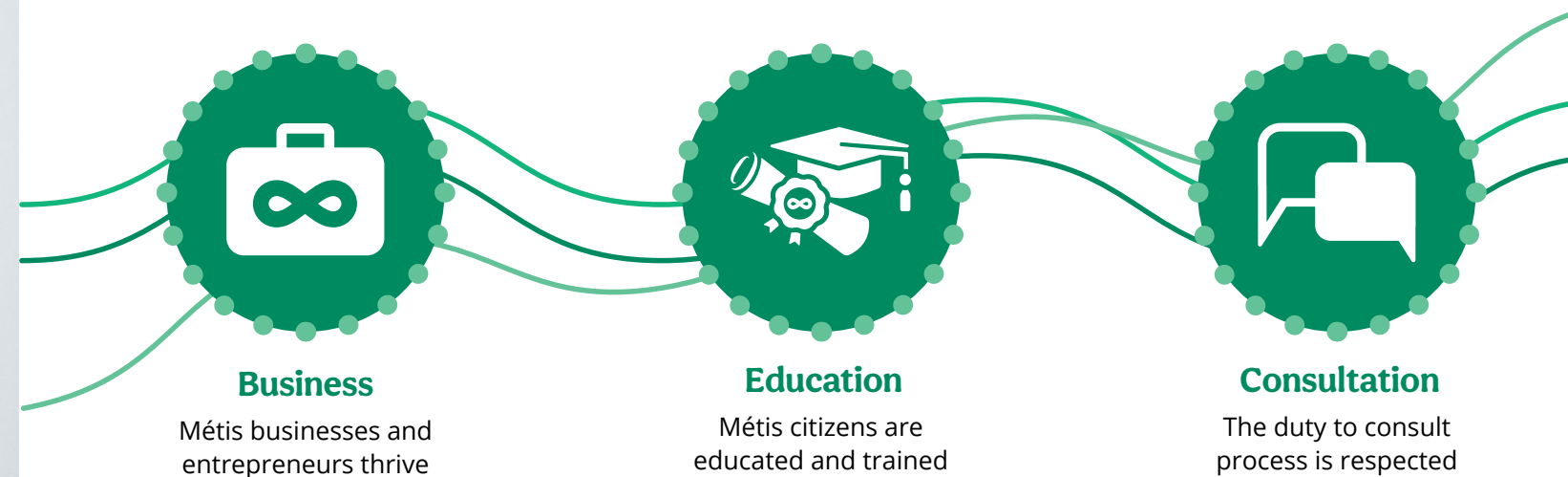
To champion the ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit of the Nation, providing opportunities for Métis people and businesses to not just participate in, but lead in the sectors, roles, and enterprises necessary to adapt to climate change.

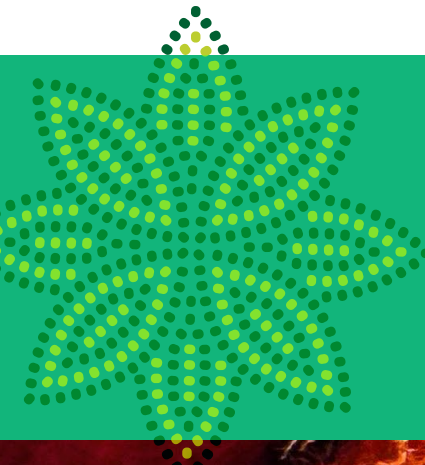
As climate change transforms the world, MN-S recognizes the critical need to adapt and seize new opportunities for its citizens. The impacts of a changing climate are felt in our lands and in the livelihoods that sustain our communities and industries, including resource extraction, agriculture, and land-based activities that are being disrupted, requiring investment in innovative approaches to economic development and sovereignty.

Inclusive consultation processes are also essential for ensuring that the economic and environmental well-being of Métis people are accounted for in matters that affect their lives, livelihoods, and lands. The voices of our citizens must be recognized and respected if we are to meaningfully work with partners to co-develop mutually beneficial outcomes.

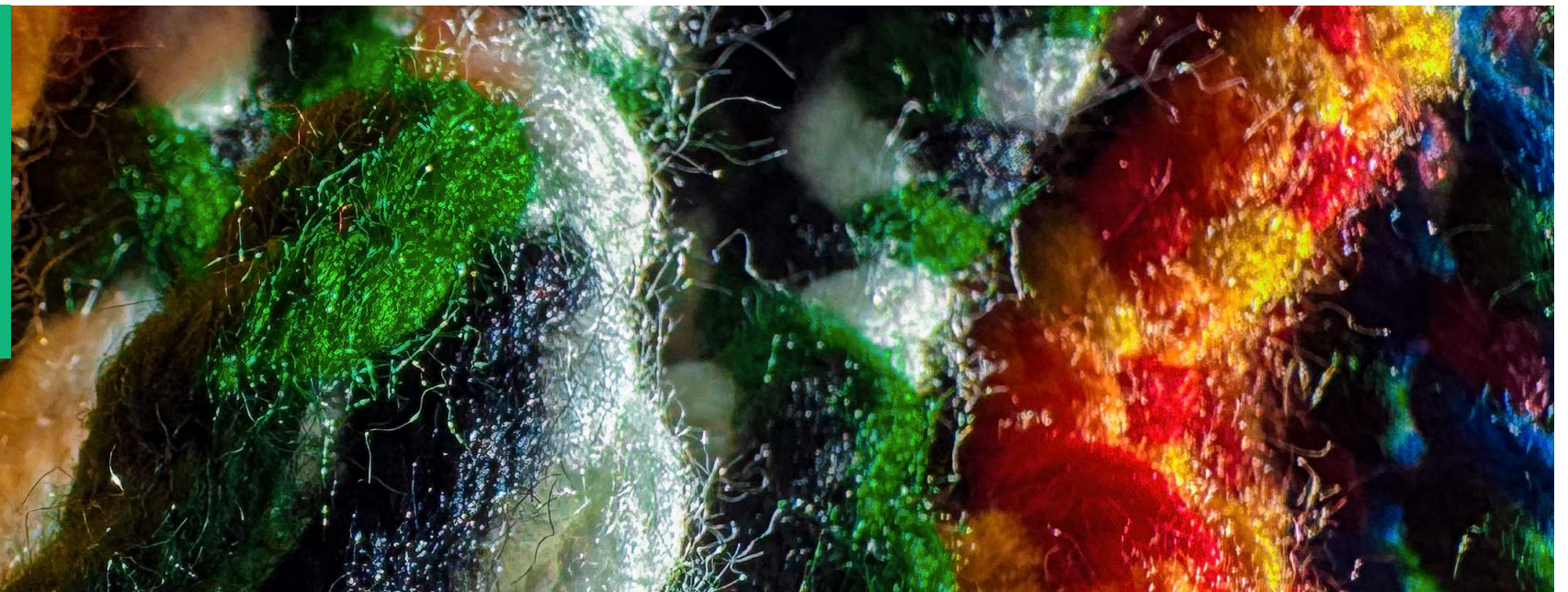
The global shift to a low-carbon economy is opening doors to new economic systems which present Métis businesses and entrepreneurs with a chance to innovate and grow in emerging markets. At the heart of this transformation are our youth who will lead us into a future shaped by both difficulties and potential. Investing in education and training programs will equip Métis citizens - especially young people - with the skills to thrive in these industries, ensuring that they can build meaningful careers that align with Métis values of stewardship and resilience.

The economic development braid includes the following threads:





1. Empower Métis businesses and communities to thrive in the low-carbon economy.
2. Provide citizens with access to education and training programs that promote good jobs in clean industries.
3. Equip Métis citizens and communities with the knowledge, resources, and inclusive consultation processes to respond to climate impacts on their lands.



MN-S intends to build on past work in this area through the following actions and initiatives:

Action 1: Create jobs in emerging industries for MN-S citizens

- Co-developing a Sustainable Jobs program and Sustainable Jobs Action Plan.
- Ensuring Métis and Indigenous staffing quotas are implemented for low-carbon economy initiatives.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Private industry, Federal Government, MN-S affiliates, Métis training, education and economic development institutions

Action 2: Support Métis businesses with developing climate mitigation and adaptation plans and strategies

- Engaging with Métis businesses to learn more about their needs in a changing economy.
- Supporting businesses with environmental, sustainability, and governance (ESG) strategies and planning.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis businesses

Action 3: Establish a sovereign climate adaptation fund that can finance community-led projects

- Engaging with Métis communities to understand their climate priorities and capacity for leading projects.
- Removing barriers for communities to access funds for community-led projects.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis communities, Federal Government, Philanthropic Organizations, Private Partners

Action 4: Empower and educate our youth to participate in environmental sciences research, clean energy, and emergency management

- Delivering educational programs, services, and events related to climate change.
- Working with the Provincial Métis Youth Council to develop appropriate programming that meets the needs of our young people.
- Work with academic institutions to create pathways to sustainability careers for Métis youth.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Provincial Métis Youth Council, Provincial Ministry of Education

Action 5: Create resources for communities and citizens to better participate in the consultation process

- Developing a community-led education program involving duty to consult workshops and webinars.
- Creating a comprehensive resource package for local staff and ambassadors.
- Integrating traditional land use data into consultation processes.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Locals

Action 7: Advance Métis Research on environmental science, environmental policy, clean energy, and climate adaptation

- Working with Saskatchewan Universities and technical colleges to advance equitable partnerships, research programs, and institutions.
- Sharing research advancements with Métis citizens.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Universities, Technical Colleges, Métis Citizens

Action 6: Invest in revenue generating projects to fund Métis-led environmental services

- Investing in projects that can generate revenue through participation in carbon markets.
- Creating capacity for environmental monitoring, research and land management planning in the Métis government.
- Generating revenue by offering environmental consulting services to external stakeholders.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Private Industry

Action 8: Offer consultation services for Locals

- Establishing consultation agreements with rights bearing communities.
- Working with Locals and duty to consult committees on strategic approach pre project development.
- Providing technical, environmental, and legal advice during the consultation process.

Potential Implementing Partners:

Métis Locals, Land Users, Provincial Government



310-20th Street East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Canada S7K 0A7

metisnation.sk.com