



FACT SHEET & KEY MESSAGES

- The Chiefs-in-Assembly are gathering in Thunder Bay, ON, for their Annual Chiefs Assembly. **They are collectively requesting that you contact your MP about the Metis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement, which is to be introduced June 19, 2023, to oppose passing the bill by unanimous consent.**
- The MNO insists that this legislation only pertains to their section 35 right to self-government (e.g. citizenship, elections, and administration) and therefore will not impact First Nations. However, this obscures the truth, as the recognition of the 2017 “historic Metis communities” in Ontario has already been dramatically impacting First Nation rights. The MNO has continued to assert broad entitlements to First Nations' lands and resources, asserting access or ownership to First Nation lands, entitlement to treaty benefits, impact benefit agreements, etc. Canada's recognition creates a platform for the MNO to continue to advance these illegitimate claims.
- First Nations in Ontario have repeatedly been denied any opportunity to even discuss the issue with Canada. First Nations have serious concerns about this legislation and its impacts on our rights. Minister Miller and the Liberals are trying to silence the legitimate concerns of First Nations about the proposed legislation by taking the unprecedented and undemocratic step of trying to force it through the House and Senate without any debate. First Nations have the right to be heard in subsequent sessions. First Nations should not be silenced.
- Canada is ignoring substantive concerns and evidence put forward by First Nations, such as the [report](#) published by the Wabun Tribal Council in Fall 2022 and the Robinson-Huron Waawiindamaagewin [report](#) published in Spring 2023. These reports provide clear evidence MNO's recognition of several communities relies extensively on changing the identities of First Nations individuals in the past into Métis simply because they are mixed race, not because they identified with an existing Métis community. Many of their “metis root ancestors” and their descendants are status Indians, living on reserve, speaking their Indigenous language, etc.
- First Nations have attempted on multiple occasions to raise concerns with Canada about its secretive process in creating and legitimizing the 2017 “historic Metis communities” in Ontario. Unlike *R. v. Powley*, which occurred within the existing judicial system and was therefore subject to a transparent, rigorous process, Canada is now bulldozing forward.