

# Lesson 9:

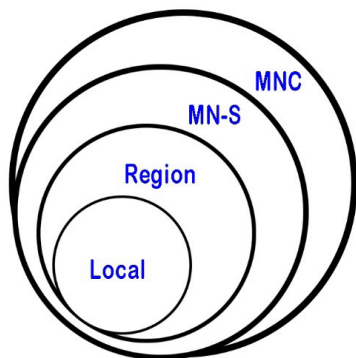
# Métis Nation - Local, Regional, Provincial and National Governance

## 1. Possible Inquiry Questions:

1. What are Métis Locals and Regions?
2. How are Métis locals and regions similar and different to municipal and provincial governments?
3. How is Métis National Council similar or different to First Nations and Federal Government?
4. What services is Métis Nation - Saskatchewan provide?
5. What processes are followed in Local and Regions meetings?
6. How are children's interests addressed by Locals and Regions?
7. What are some of the strengths/challenges of the model of governance used by the Métis Nation?
8. How are Métis locals similar/different to First Nations Bands? Municipal governments?
9. If you had to choose a way to make laws and govern a place, what system of government might you choose and why?

## 2. Background Information for the Teacher:

Research a Métis Local near you and see if they have a website, social media page, and determine the MN-S Region to which they belong. You may choose to print this information if you do not have access to technology in class.



\*A gap exists in the current curriculum, as it does not recognize Métis regions or locals within the organization of the municipal decision-making processes for Métis people.

### ARTICLE 5: REGIONS (Constitution of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan)

1. There shall be twelve (12) Regions set out in Schedule A of this Constitution.
2. The Regions shall be governed by a Regional Council composed of the Presidents of the Locals within the respective Regions along with a regionally elected representative who shall be the Chairperson of the Regional Council, as well as the Region's representative on the Provincial Métis Council of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.
3. The Regional Council shall have the responsibility of making all appointments to the Institutions and Affiliates at the Regional and Provincial levels. In the event that the Regional representative is not so appointed, he/she shall be an ex-officio member of all Regional Institutions and Affiliates.  
(amended June 26, 1997)

4. The Regional Council shall establish regional administrative offices.
5. The Regional Council shall be responsible for programs and services decentralized to that level.
6. The Regional Council shall enact a Constitution, which is not inconsistent with this constitution, and such Regional Constitutions shall be registered with the Head Office.
7. The Regional Council may incorporate with the appropriate government department.
8. The Regional Council may seek the necessary finances and resources to carry out its programs, services, objectives and duties, and where so requested the Provincial Métis Council shall assist in securing these necessary finances and resources.
9. The Regional Council shall assist their Local Communities in preparing to assume Métis self-government, which includes land, where this is an objective.
10. The Regional Council shall provide direction to their representatives on the Provincial Métis Council with respect to all matters, including the aims, objectives and aspirations of the Organization, and for their respective Regions. (Amended June 26, 1997)
11. Where a vacancy is created for any reason, including death or resignation, the Regional Council shall elect from the members of the Council an interim Regional representative who shall serve until a by-election has been held and the vacancy filled.

<https://métisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/MN-S-Constitution-2008.pdf>

### **ARTICLE 7: LOCALS** (Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan)

1. The Locals shall be the basic unit of the Organization in each community.
2. The Locals shall be made up of a least nine members.
3. New Locals can be admitted by the Regional Councils provided this decision is ratified by the Métis Nation

Legislative Assembly and the requirements herein are met.

4. Locals can be dissolved by the Regional Councils provided this decision is ratified by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and the requirements herein are no longer met.
5. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall adopt rules pertaining to the admission and dissolution of Locals.
6. Each Local shall be governed by an elected leadership as determined through the Constitution of the Local, which may include terms of one to three years and elections may be by ballot box or conducted at a General Assembly of the Local membership. a) Each Local shall submit the names of their elected leadership to the Métis Nation- Saskatchewan Head Office within thirty (30) days of their election. (amended January 2004)
7. Any Métis who is sixteen (16) years of age or over and is a member of the Local shall be entitled to vote or seek office.

8. Each Local shall be enact a Constitution which is not inconsistent with this Constitution, including the establishment of portfolios, committees or other bodies required to address community and other issues, and such Local Constitution shall be registered with the Regional and Head Office of the Organization.
9. The Locals shall provide yearly updates of their membership to the Regional and Head Office, separating those members who are under sixteen (16) years of age from those sixteen (16) and over.
10. The Locals shall be responsible to prepare the Communities for the assumption of Métis self-government, which includes land, where this is an objective.
11. The Locals may incorporate with the appropriate government department
12. The Locals may seek necessary finances and resources to carry out their programs, services and objectives and where so requested the Provincial Métis Council of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall assist in securing these necessary finances and resources.

<https://Métisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/MN-S-Constitution-2008.pdf>

### 3. Key Vocabulary:

Métis Locals • Métis Regions

### 4. Focus/Supplementary Outcomes:

Power and Authority (PA) 4.1 - Analyze the relationship between governance institutions in Saskatchewan and the quality of life of people in the province.<sup>1</sup>

Indicators of Learning:

- (b) Illustrate the organization of the municipal or band decision-making process, including the name of the sitting mayor, reeve, or chief. <sup>2</sup>

**PA4.4** - Demonstrate an understanding of the Métis governance system.

- (a) Research the structures of governance of Métis people in Saskatchewan (e.g. Métis local, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan)

### 5. Timeline: Approximately 1 hour

<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

### 6. Materials:

- Métis Region map
- Chart of Responsibilities (municipal, provincial, federal)
- Computer or printed out materials
- Projector
- Whiteboard
- Markers
- Pen/pencils
- Paper

### 7. Motivational Set:

Show students the map of Métis Regions - <https://metisnation.sk.com/governance/#regions>

Remind students that they have seen this map in lesson - “Who Governs the Land”

### 8. Process:

Refer students to the chart in the of school board, municipal, provincial, federal and First Nations responsibilities that you started in previous lessons.

Do we disagree with our original thoughts?

- Should things be switched?
- Are there one we know for sure are correct?

Refer to the column for the Métis Nation and ask if students know some of the services and responsibilities of a Métis Region. More than likely, they will not know or use examples from the municipal government side. Explain that while Métis Regions have some of the same responsibilities, the municipal governments already provide most of these services and question again the responsibilities of the Métis regions.

From here, add images that depict the responsibilities of Métis Regions and Locals (See Teacher Resources) from the MN-S Constitution and place them on the other side of the board in your own This will allow students to draw comparisons between municipal governments and Métis Regions and Locals.

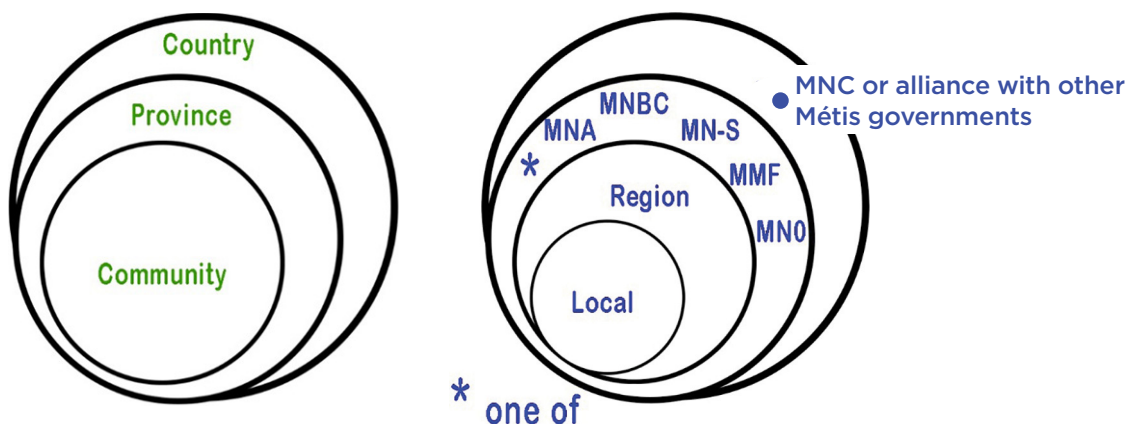
Return to the Region map and explain that these Regions each contain Locals that compare to wards, or smaller jurisdiction, in municipalities.

As students have been lead through the first two levels of Métis governance, they will now need to understand the federal level of Métis governance. Utilizing the same map of Canada from the lesson on provincial governments, ask students what they think the next step or one bigger step of government. When they guess all of Canada, utilize the smart, white or chalkboard to draw a graphic that demonstrates municipal government is under the jurisdiction of provincial government, which is all under the jurisdiction of federal government.

Municipal government (city, region, community) >  
 Provincial government (province) >  
 Federal government (country)

Note that locals are not geographically determined within a community but ideologically determined by people who want to group together regardless of where they live in the community.

New Locals may emerge and old Locals may disband. Regional boundaries may also change.



Then, demonstrate the same graphic using Métis levels of governance.

Métis Locals > Regions > Métis Provincial Government (MNBC, MNA, MN-S, MMF, MNO) > Métis National Council (MNC) or affiliations with other Métis governments.

Do a website inquiry with students as a class. (Print out beforehand if technology is unavailable).

Explore - (Métis Nation, n.d.)

Be sure to check out the Métis historical timeline, the FAQ section and the governance section. Make sure you are familiar with the resource to break down tough words and concepts for the students.

As a class, have students research a Métis Local or Region near you, using technology or a pre-made resource (see “Background Knowledge for Teacher) and research the activities and services each provides to the Métis. This should include the name of the current president of the Local and the Regional Director for your region.


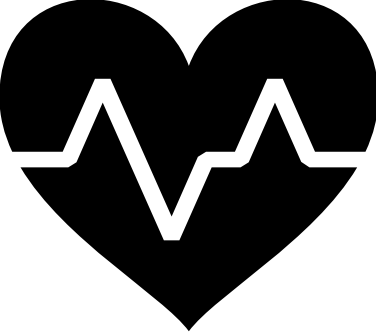


### 9. Assessment Options:

- Exit slip: “What are Métis Locals and Regions?”
- Critical Thinking reflective writing: “How are Métis locals and regions similar and different to municipal governments?”
- Quick oral report on Métis Locals and Regions.
- Write a newspaper article about Métis Locals or Region near you.
- Provide time for students to work on the graphic organizer in the Student Assessment Handbook.

**10: Teacher Resources:**

Motivational Set - Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Services Pictures

(print, laminate and then sort on a large chart)

<p><b>Child and Family Services</b></p> 	<p><b>Health</b></p> 
<p><b>Environment</b></p> 	<p><b>Justice</b></p> 



**Early Learning Child Care and Education**



**Post-Secondary Education**



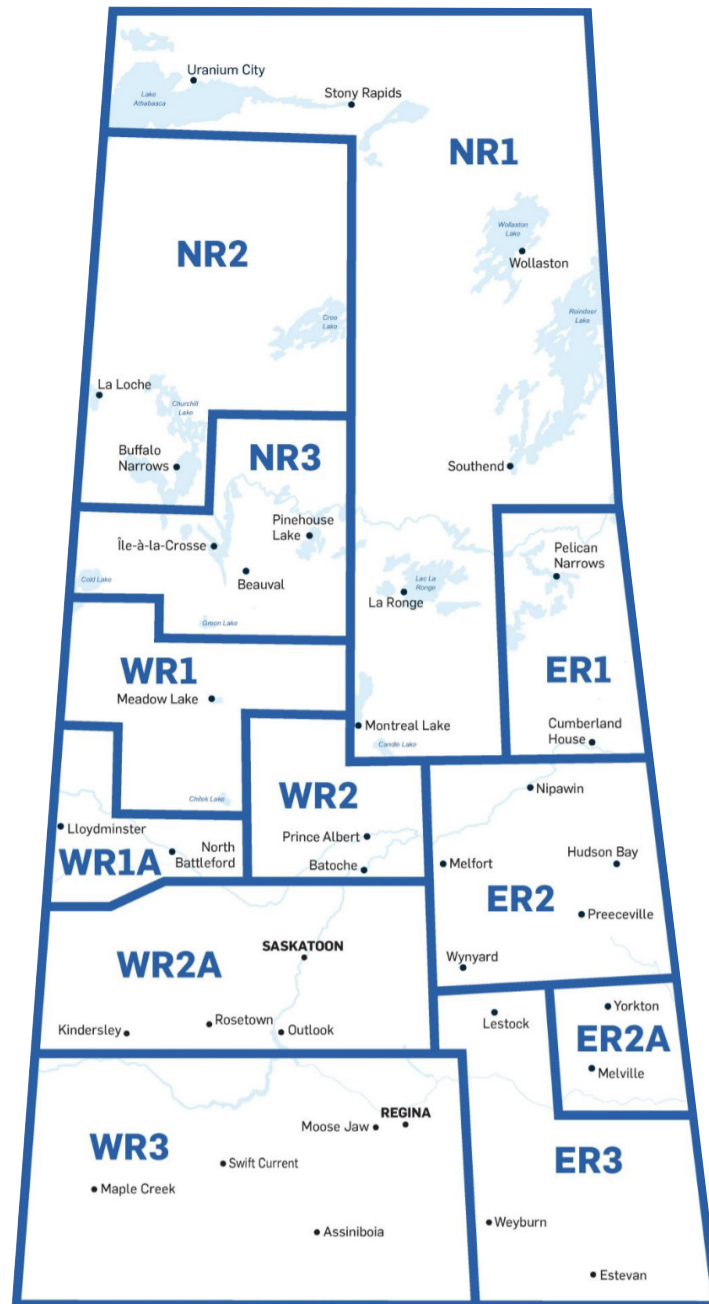
**Housing and Infrastructure**



**Culture and Heritage**



## Metis Nation-Saskatchewan



### References:

Métis Nation. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www2.métisnation.ca/>

Métis Nation Saskatchewan. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://métisnation.sk.com/>