



Le Metis

President's Message

This past Sunday, I attended the opening ceremonies of the North American Indigenous Games taking place this week in Regina. I am so proud of all the athletes and recognize the hard work they've done, and the dedication they have, that brought them to this level of competition. They are all winners by being there and participating in the games. Team Manitoba has over 60 Metis athletes at the games, along with their coaches and trainers.

I was honoured to see the Metis athletes of Team Manitoba fly the Metis Nation flags and the MMF Government flag. They waved these high above their heads. Their pride in the Metis Nation and their Metis identity was clearly evident and the Metis could not be missed when they came into the stadium. We were all excited to be there. I wish them good luck in their competitions. I thank their coaches, trainers, families and others for the support they have given.

On Saturday this past weekend, I was at Batoche for the honouring and remembrance of our Metis Veterans and the unveiling of the Metis Veterans Memorial. As I said on this week's Metis Hour, this was a beautiful, awe-inspiring, and moving experience. It is very important that we recognize our Elders and our Veterans. Without their teachings and sacrifices for their families, nation, and country, we would surely be living in a different world today.

The Metis have been called the "Gens libres" as well as "Otipemisiwak." We are the free people and the people who own themselves. Our Metis Ancestors have always stood for freedom and rights, not only for our own community but also for others. Louis Riel and our other Metis Leaders, in the creation of Manitoba, created the first Bill of Rights in Canada and established a province that was to respect the language, religious, education, and other rights of its citizens. It is the legacy we protect today.

Across our Homeland, the Metis Veterans stood strong in 1816, 1870, and 1885, before and during the building of Western Canada. Abroad, the Metis fought in the South African War, World Wars I and II, as well as the Korean, and, for some, the Vietnam War. Although they stood side-by-side with their brothers-in-arms, upon their return the Metis were not dealt with like other veterans. They did not receive their lands or other supports that were expected and granted to others. In effect, the Metis were told to go back to our trap lines.



President David Chartrand, LL.D

As you recall, the year 2011 was specially recognized by the Metis Nation to pay tribute to the Metis Veterans. We must remember not just for one year but every year. Our Veterans were young people, 17, 18 or 19 years old in most cases, and fought for people they didn't know and for a country that did not treat them as equals or with respect before or after the conflicts. Many left but many didn't come home. When they came back there was a promise. We will take care of you. But the promise was not kept.

Treated with clear disrespect, it is time our country fully and properly recognize our Veterans and their families' sacrifices. We must continue to fight for this recognition. Japanese-Canadians have been compensated for their incarceration and losses during the war. First Nations Veterans have received payments in recognition for their wartime experience. Our Metis Veterans have received little to nothing.

Our Metis Veterans upon returning home, faced these challenges, advocated for Metis nationhood, identity and rights, and started our Metis Governments. We must always honour our veterans. They fought for protection of our community and for recognition and protection of human, civil and aboriginal rights. They fought to make sure the Metis Nation flag would fly alongside that of Canada - our negotiating partner in Confederation.

I want to thank Mr. Leonard Morin for his leadership role in ensuring the Veterans Memorial at Batoche was realized and a success. I also want to thank the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Executive Director Jordy McCaffrey and the staff and Board of Directors for their work and for hosting the unveiling. I also thank Metis and non-aboriginal governments, companies, and individual funders who contributed to its creation. And, most of all, I humbly thank our Veterans for protecting our Nation, our Country, and our Way of Life.

Meeqwetch,

 *President David Chartrand, LL.D*

Summer Camps at Riel House at National Historic Site of Canada

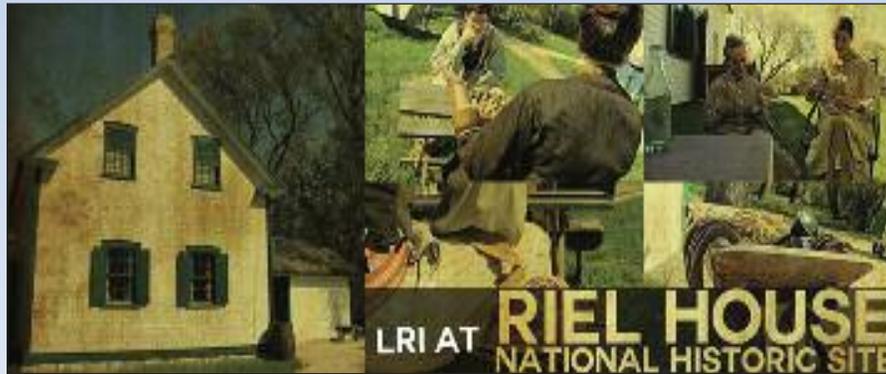
Have you ever wanted to live like an old fashion Métis, build a Red River Cart, cook your food over a fire, learn to jig, design and sew your own clothing? This year you can try all of these things and many more at Riel House! You will travel back in time to the 1800's and enjoy a fun filled day of traditional Métis activities!

Métis Clothing July 24th 2014:

A day for kids to learn about fabric arts and discover some new skills such as sewing. They will make a pair of Métis mittens, weave a small sash and design their own Métis vest.

Carpentry August 7th 2014:

Woodworking was an important chore on the Riel farm; this day will be focused on the construction of the house, the traditional



Métis river lots and Red River Cart all of which kids will have a chance to build.

Métis Foods August 21st 2014:

A hands-on day where kids will learn all about the importance of the Riel's garden and the different type of traditional Métis foods. They will make some bannock, butter and they will also be able to cook their own stew with freshly picked vegetables

from the garden.

**Every day will include an "amazing race" treasure hunt, physical activity games, dressing up in historical clothing as well as a tour of Riel house and its gardens.

Day Camp Details:

Times: Drop off: 8:30-9:00am
& Pick up 5:00-5:30pm
Rates: \$35.00 per child,
per day camp

Please Note: Every child must bring their own lunch and snacks (must be nut free). Please make sure every child has a water bottle, sun screen, hat and weather appropriate clothing. Day camps will run rain or shine (will only be cancelled in the occasion of severe thunderstorms)

**If it is very hot outside, there will be some sprinkler time and water games, please pack a bathing suit and towel.

Day Camp Registration:

Registration for summer camps is now open, spaces are limited, so make sure to register early!

We offer two ways to register, please contact Julie Desrochers:
By phone: (204) 984-9480 or by
e-mail: rielhouse@mmf.mb.ca

Métis Veterans Memorial Monument Unveiled in Batoche

The historic significance of Batoche makes it the ideal location for a memorial to generations of Métis soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice for Canada.

Back to Batoche 2014 was marked with the culmination of years of effort by the Métis Nation to honour its military veterans by the unveiling of the Métis

Veterans Memorial Monument on July 19.

The event was attended by a number of proud Métis veterans and their families. Speeches were presented by MMF President David Chartrand, Métis National Council President Chartier and Minister of Veteran Affairs, Steven Blaney among other dignitaries.

Saskatchewan based, Gabriel Dumont Institute has been working towards establishing the monument that honours all Métis who served in both world wars, the Korean War and the South African War.

"It is our duty to remember and honour the brave men and women who serve Canada so selflessly," said Steven Blaney, minister of veterans affairs. "Our veterans have fought for our freedom and these memorials are symbols of their accomplishments and sacrifices."

The memorial is located in the Métis Veterans Memorial Gardens, which also features 25 five-foot trees planted in a U-shape with a flower garden in the centre.

The Batoche National Historic Site, 64 km southwest of Prince

Albert, commemorates the village of Batoche, settled in about 1870 by Métis people who came from Manitoba. It was selected by Louis Riel as the headquarters of the "provisional government of Saskatchewan," and later became the final battlefield in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. That history is safeguarded today with the restoration of many original buildings and an annual Back to Batoche celebration that brings thousands of people to the area. The cemetery draws people of Métis heritage from across the country in search of their roots.



President David & Leonard Morin at the Veterans Memorial at Batoche.

