



Le Metis

President's Message

Recently, I attended two MMF Regional Assemblies in Dauphin and Lorette. I was pleased by the great turnout at the meetings. Over the coming month I will be attending more. At both meetings there was much excitement and great interest. And, there was good dialogue and many well-considered questions. The topic that has our people on the edge of our seats is the MMF Land Claim.

After waiting over 140 years and after 30 years of battle in the Courts, on Friday March 8th, 2013 the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the injustice committed against the Manitoba Metis. On that day I quoted our great Metis Leader Louis Riel: "There were two societies who treated together. One was small, but in its smallness had its rights. The other was great, but in its greatness had no greater rights than the rights of the small..."

The Supreme Court's decision is about the solemn promise made in the 1870 Manitoba Act to provide 1.4 million acres of land to our children to give them a head start before newcomers swamped them. This solemn promise was not kept. Our lands were lost through the delay and inaction of the Canadian Government. The Metis children were swindled and their land stolen. The Metis were displaced and dispersed throughout and beyond our Homeland.

To the Metis, this solemn promise is part of a treaty. Attributed as his memoirs, Louis Riel wrote that the "Government had not properly fulfilled its obligations in the treaty with the Manitoba Metis." He continued on to say that "the Manitoba Metis never had any satisfaction. The Government neither protected them nor gave them justice" and that the Metis leaders had seen the Ottawa Government "trample underfoot the 1870 treaty."

We, the Manitoba Metis, are the Founders of Manitoba and Canada's Negotiating Partner in Confederation. The Federal Government was our partner. As we all know, after making the treaty, Canada left the table without keeping its promises. Now we expect the Government to come back to the table. This has been called the unfinished business of Confederation. It is now time for the partners to work together to finish this equitably and honourably.

The logical first step, which common sense would indicate should be relatively quick and easy, is compensation of the MMF's litigation costs for taking our case to the Supreme Court. The Court had ordered Canada to pay costs throughout to the MMF. The MMF made a submission to Canada detailing our costs since I became President. After eighteen months, Canada has yet not given the MMF a serious offer. Hiding behind



President David Chartrand, LL.D

a complex civil tariff model, Canada says it will pay only a fraction of actual costs. All we want is what is rightfully ours.

We requested federal government Ministers to get involved, but this has resulted in the MMF being shunted between departments, with no one willing to take responsibility for ensuring our litigation costs are properly reimbursed. As well, after having been requested by the federal government to submit a proposal for funding to do the necessary preparation for negotiations, we submitted our proposal over seven months ago. There has been no response. Within this government we are a political football.

At last year's 2013 AGA, we received commitments from the two major federal party leaders of the parties not currently in power – Liberals and NDP – in which both stated when elected to power, as the federal government, they would negotiate and settle the MMF land claim. Settling our claim is a constitutional promise that must be kept. If the current federal government does not keep the promise, then it will be the next. Unfortunately, as the saying goes, "justice delayed is justice denied." But this much is clear: We will get justice.

On Monday, this week, the MMF Ministerial Cabinet met. At our meeting it was decided to move the MMF Annual General Assembly (AGA) to November 15th and 16th in Winnipeg.

This change presents a great opportunity. The AGA's second day is the special day on which the Metis celebrate the life and achievements, and mark and remember the death, of our great Metis Leader Louis Riel. This will be a day in which the AGA delegates will make the procession, and indeed for many a pilgrimage, to the St-Boniface resting place of Louis Riel. After nearly 130 years, he continues to be an inspiration for the Metis Nation and for all those who struggle for Justice.

Upon closing, I offer my prayers those who have passed on and my condolences to those who have lost a loved one. My thoughts and hopes are with those who are sick or shut in. I also offer my best wishes to all.

Meeqwetch,

 *President David Chartrand, LL.D*

Metis Culture heads to Churchill!



MMF president David Chartrand and his family joined the members and staff of the Manitoba Metis Federation MET department as they made the informative and interesting trip up to Churchill Manitoba this past Labor Day weekend. Most importantly, Metis entertainers and their families were asked to travel up north and joined in on the trip to present their special talents featuring Metis culture.

Metis citizens and MMF staff drove from their respective communities and met in Thompson, then took train to Churchill Manitoba for the event.

Churchill is an extremely remote community, only accessible by air, boat or train. It also has a very strong Metis community, so the main focus and purpose of this unique trip was to share Metis culture through music, dance and food and support the Metis community members of Churchill.

Community members were treated to an evening of fun with Metis food, music and dance featuring Metis dancers musicians such as, the Manitoba Metis Spirit Pride Steppers with Denise and Luc and Aiden Wrigley of Double Trouble, Taylor Fleming and Rob Wrigley on guitar backup.

Everyone enjoyed a ride on the Tundra Buggy to see the polar bears, an afternoon on the whale boat tour to see beluga whales and also an extensive tour of historical, Prince of Wales Fort.

The weekend was complete with a jam and jig session on train coming back from Churchill!



The MMF-Northwest Metis Council Inc. is seeking applications from individuals interested in participating in Class 1 Driver Training



Training will be offered in Dauphin and Swan River and is 7 weeks in length, including a mandatory Essential Skills assessment and training component. Spaces are limited and program delivery is dependent on a required minimum number of participants.

Who Can Participate:

- Unemployed or Underemployed Métis, Non-Status, or Inuit individuals
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must have a valid Class 5 Driver's license or higher
- Willing and able to provide a recent Driver's Abstract
- Willing and able to provide a recent Criminal Records Check
- Physically fit and able to provide a medical report approved by MPI
- Able to commit to a 7 week training program

If you have a sincere interest in pursuing employment as a professional transport driver please contact:

Dauphin Intake:

Herman Spence, Project Officer
Virginia Church, Outreach Worker
Northwest Metis Employment
& Training Friendship Centre
40-1st Avenue NW
Dauphin, MB R7A 1G5
Phone: 204-638-9485
Toll Free: 1-877-542-4925
Email: virginia.church@mmf.mb.ca
Email: hspence@mmf.mb.ca

Swan River Intake:

Elbert Chartrand
1413 Main Street E
Swan River, MB
R0L 1Z0
Phone: 204-734-9301

Deadline for Applications is October 10, 2014

