



Le Metis



President's Message

The province has apologized for their part of the 60s Scoop, but I cannot help but wonder what the apology really means for the Metis people. At no point during the lead up to this apology did the government reach out to the Manitoba Metis community and consult with them about the impact the Adopt Indian Metis program on Metis children and families. The NDP government says they met with representatives of the three indigenous groups over a year ago. I can tell you with certainty the government did not meet with any MMF representative. The Manitoba Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs did not consult with the Metis about this apology.

As a matter of fact, we were unaware of any apology until a reporter from The Canadian Press broke the story the week prior to the apology. When we read about what the government was planning, we immediately contacted them to ask what it was all about. The people we spoke to did not know what was happening either! It was three hours later that we received any information from the government about the apology. We received a general email invitation with a graphic of a feather - a First Nations symbol - that stated the government was going to honour 60s Scoop survivors. There was no Metis symbol used on the email graphic. Based upon what was sent to our office, it could only be assumed the event was for First Nations people exclusively. There was nothing indicating the Metis were to be included or acknowledged.

And then there was the event itself. I was never officially invited to this apology. The Premier's office

told the media that they sent an official invite by letter. I had my people turn the building upside down looking for that alleged letter. We could not find it!

I watched the live video of the ceremony at the Rotunda. At no point did the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs mention the Metis. There was no visible Metis representation. There certainly was an abundance of First Nations symbols and ceremony. In all appearances, the government was apologizing to the First Nations people but completely ignoring the terrible impact the 60s Scoop had on Metis families.

Just before the event took place, my staff received an email asking if I was going to be there. The email said there would be two passes reserved for me at the security desk at the Legislature if I wanted to come. I arrived at the Legislature before the planned apology and picked up my passes. The passes I received were for general gallery seating. However, First Nations representatives received special passes granting them seating in the Speakers Gallery. The Metis were not afforded the same level of respect from the government as members of the First Nations community. As the President of the Manitoba Metis Federation and the democratically elected leader of the Metis people in Manitoba, I find this offensive and disrespectful to the Metis Nation.

It is fair to point out that the apology that was read in the Legislature acknowledged the province's role in the theft of our Metis children, the loss of their identity, culture and the loss of their families. However how this apology came about is completely unacceptable. I have written the Premier expressing my disappointment at being ignored in this process. I also let him know the Metis are willing to engage the province as it develops the next steps and plans to address this horrific time in history.

Understand this - the Metis people cannot be satisfied with just words. The effects of that terrible time are profound and the effects on our Metis

families cannot be easily reconciled. In order for true reconciliation between the Metis people and the Crown to take place, there must be very real and meaningful discussion that not only recognizes the wrong but also seeks to make restitution for the ripping apart of our Metis families and the robbery of our children's true heritage and identity.

As I said in my last message to you, the Manitoba Metis Federation will not let these injustices slide. We will keep pushing until every last one of our lost children are found and families are reunited and healed.

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I want to congratulate Elder George Fleury on being inducted at the recent Keeping the Fires Burning gala. Elder Fleury was recognized for his life's work and contribution in building our Metis community, restoring wellness and prosperity in our lives. I also want to congratulate Elder Esther Ducharme for her recent appointment to the Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle in Winnipeg. We are proud of our Elders and the wisdom they share with us. Their examples lead us forward and enrich our community.

In closing I offer my hopes for our Metis people who are sick and shut in. I also offer my prayers for those who have departed and my condolences to their family, friends and neighbours. My best wishes to all.

Meeqwetch,

∞ *President David Chartrand, LL.D. (hon), O.M.*



MMF Partners with Tim Horton Children's Foundation in opening Tim Horton Camp Whiteshell

Minister Jean Desrosiers, Minister of Environment and Mining, and Board member of the Southeast Region of the Manitoba Metis Federation, attended the opening of the 7th Tim Horton Camp, Saturday June 20th. This new camp is located in Whiteshell Provincial Park on Sylvia Lake, near Pinawa, MB. This was an extremely exciting opportunity for all of us who are involved in helping our youth on their quest for a brighter future.

At the opening there were over 600 people in attendance; many of them from across Canada. There were first time visitors to Manitoba who were able to take in the beauty of the Manitoba Metis Federation's Southeast Region through boat rides across Sylvia Lake, a lunch in the camp's dining lodge, and walks around the lakeshore. The ceremony included remarks from Minister Desrosiers, a closing prayer from Elder Marielee Nault, and was closed off with Metis fiddler Melissa St. Goddard accompanied by a guitarist and two jiggers. It was wonderful to have the camp include young Metis artists in the grand opening, showcasing the important contributions that our youth make to a strong and unique Metis culture.

The Tim Horton Children's Foundation has shown excellent leadership in undertaking this partnership with the Manitoba Metis Federation. From flying to Winnipeg from Ontario for face-to-face meetings, to incorporating a Metis cultural education component within the camp curriculum through the Louis Riel Institute, the Foundation has been a wonderful

partner and has set a great example for others to follow. Indeed this partnership is ongoing; the relationship between the Manitoba Metis Federation and Tim Horton Children's Foundation continues to grow as we work on incorporating the Metis flag throughout the camp and providing Metis literature through Metis owned Pemmican Publications. This will ensure that as children at camp grow into strong individuals, they will also learn about the people who helped shape this province. Additionally, it will allow Metis children who attend the camp see a piece of themselves that they can look up to, and be proud of, in the camp.

The MMF looks forward to the opportunities that will be available to all youth, including our Metis youth, as they attend this camp. We know that youth are of utmost importance to our Community. They are our future. Investing in our youth, and giving them the kind of experiences they will receive at this camp will help form strong, caring, and motivated adults who will become the pillars of our future.

Open House

Tim Horton Camp Whiteshell is inviting members of the public to join them for a Community Open House on Sunday, July 5. From 1 pm to 4 pm there will be camp activities, tours and refreshments for those who will learn more about the camp programs and facilities. The camp is located on the shores of Sylvia Lake, across the river from Pinawa and just within the boundaries of Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Top: Invited Guests cut the ribbon to officially open Tim Horton Camp Whiteshell.
Below:
- Metis fiddler, Melissa St-Goddard, performs some traditional jigging tunes;
- MMF Minister Desrosiers brings greetings;
- Signage from camp grand opening.





Elder George Fleury is honoured at the 14th Annual Keeping the Fires Burning gala. Minister Carrier also presented Elder Fleury with a traditional Metis sash.

L to R: MMF Minister Andrew Carrier, Elder George Fleury and Sharon Parenteau, General Manager of the Louis Riel Institute.

Metis Elder Honoured at Keeping the Fires Burning Ceremony

Metis Elder George Fleury was honoured at the Ka Ni Kanichihk's 14th Annual Keeping the Fires Burning gala as a Metis Grandfather on June 18. The annual event honours First Nations, Metis and Inuit Grandmothers and Grandfathers who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of Aboriginal Peoples and the safeguarding, nurturing and transmission of Traditional Knowledge and Practice.

Elder Fleury was nominated by the Manitoba Metis Federation for his role as one of the Founding Fathers of the MMF. In 1971, he opened the first MMF Southwest Regional Office in Brandon and went on to serve on the MMF Board of Directors until 1979.

A humble man, Elder Fleury does not often speak of his contributions to the growth of the MMF. However he and the late President Angus Spence negotiated \$80,000 from the federal government for the first ever Emergency Repair Program of the MMF.

Minister Leah Laplante, MMF Vice President for the Southwest Region says of Elder Fleury, "As a past political leader in the Southwest Region, George is a respected Elder. In his quiet and respectful way, he promotes the importance of family and our Metis culture. He has a lifetime of knowledge, stories and wisdom that he is always eager to share with others. He is one of my mentors and I truly appreciate his life's work."



MMF Selkirk Local Hosts 10th Annual Aboriginal Day Celebrations

It was a fantastic day in Selkirk as people from all over joined together on Sunday, June 21st to celebrate the 10th Annual Aboriginal Day Festivities hosted by the Manitoba Metis Federation Selkirk Local.

Families and friends of this free event were treated to live fiddling, jigging, and singing performances by a wide range of Metis entertainers. A free pancake breakfast was provided by Big Chad of Selkirk Vickar Chevrolet. A petting zoo, exciting races, mini-golf and bounce-a-roos also made sure everyone in attendance had a great time.

During the event's opening ceremonies Larry Johannson, Mayor of Selkirk, stated how happy Selkirk is to have a strong relationship with its Metis citizens and to host the event every year.

"We are proud to have this event here, it's a privilege and an honour for the City of Selkirk to be able to host this event. We need unity with Metis, First Nations,

and Inuit relations, and I believe we are breaking down a lot of barriers. The City of Selkirk is doing that and has a strong relationship with the Metis here," the mayor said.

Honorable Greg Dewar, Minister of Finance, was also in attendance and contributed \$5,000 on behalf of the province towards the event.

"This is one of the finest events in Manitoba, and a great chance to celebrate aboriginal success," Dewar said.

Donations that helped make this event possible were made by the Province of Manitoba, Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation, Metis N4 Construction, TD Selkirk Bank, Louis Riel Institute, Metis Economic Development Fund, and the Government of Canada. A big thank you to all the contributors and volunteers who helped to organize and plan this celebratory event.

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President Chartrand Meets with Ministerial Special Representative on Manitoba Metis Federation Land Claim

President David Chartrand concluded three days of meetings with Mr. Tom Isaac, Canada's recently appointed Ministerial Special Representative on the Manitoba Metis Federation Land Claim and Métis Section 35 Rights on Friday, June 26. The meetings were held at the MMF's Home Office in Winnipeg in the heart of the Métis Nation's Homeland.

President Chartrand and Mr. Isaac discussed the history and fundamental purpose of the MMF Land Claim; namely, to negotiate and finalize a modern day land claim agreement between the MMF and the Crown as a mean to address the federal Crown's breach of its constitutional duties flowing from s. 31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870. They also discussed what a negotiations framework going forward would look like and how best to advance reconciliation between the Crown and the Manitoba Métis Community

Mr. Isaac also met with various MMF Ministers, MMF staff as well as some of the MMF's institutions such as the Louis Riel Institute, Métis Child and Family Services and the Louis Riel Capital Corporation in order to better understand the government of the Métis people throughout Manitoba. During his visit to Winnipeg, Mr. Isaac also met with representatives from the Government of Manitoba.

MMF President Chartrand said, "I am very pleased with our initial meetings with Mr. Isaac. He is extremely well-versed in Aboriginal legal issues and clearly recognizes the national significance of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the MMF Land Claim and the need to move forward on negotiations to deal with Canada's breach in relation to s. 31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870."

Over the next few months, Mr. Isaac will be meeting with other Métis Nation governments on Métis rights and reconciliation. He will also be returning to Manitoba in the future to visit several Métis communities and have further discussions with the MMF. He is required to provide his final report and recommendations to Canada by December 2015. This report will address two issues: (1) moving forward on the MMF Land Claim, and, (2) Métis section 35 rights and reconciliation.

Line Worker Certification Training Program

Manitoba Metis Federation Metis Employment & Training in partnership with Forbes Bros Powerline Construction is recruiting people interested in becoming skilled labourers in the powerline construction industry.

Individuals that successfully complete this program will be referred for entry-level positions with Forbes Bros Ltd.

If you have a sincere interest in pursuing employment in the powerline construction industry please contact:

Amy Dowsett, Recruitment Coordinator, MET Recruitment.
 (204) 586-8474 Ext. 357 or amy.dowsett@mmf.mb.ca

Application Deadline: July 10, 2015



**Metis
Employment
& Training**

Pipeline Labourer Training Program

Manitoba Metis Federation Metis Employment & Training in partnership with Enbridge is recruiting people interested in becoming skilled labourers in the pipeline construction industry.

Individuals that successfully complete this program will be referred for entry-level positions with Enbridge contractors, and will have the opportunity to advance into skilled labour and trades training programs offered by the employers.

If you have a sincere interest in pursuing employment as a skilled labourer please contact Cassie Tiechroeb, Recruitment Coordinator, MET Recruitment.

(204) 586-8474 Ext. 357 or ctiechroeb@mmf.mb.ca

Application Deadline: July 3, 2015



**Metis
Employment
& Training**

