



Le Metis



President's Message

change. With education a person can change not only their lives and their circumstances, but they have the power to bring positive change to their family, their community and the Metis Nation. I believe in the value of education. The Manitoba Metis Federation helps provide a number of bursaries and scholarships. Many of these are done through partnerships with participating Manitoba Universities, MMF affiliates, community partners and our own Metis Locals.

For example, the Swan River local raises funds that the MMF matches for grade 12 graduates taking higher education in the fall. This year Swan River Local has raised \$2500 and the MMF will match that dollar for dollar. This means this one local is able to provide \$5000 to students looking to improve their education. I want to encourage all our Locals to join this initiative. For every dollar raised, the MMF will match it dollar for dollar.

Another example of how we help students gain an education is the endowment fund we have with Red River College. Last year we supplied 29 bursaries through the Louis Riel Bursary. That is 29 Metis Youth gaining valuable knowledge they can use to change their world.

For anyone sitting on the fence, wondering if they should go to school, learn a trade or upgrade their education I would say 'Yes, do it!' Contact your Local today and see how you can access the scholarships and bursaries available to you. Or if you want to help our Metis Youth, help organize a fundraiser to support their education.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge and congratulate all the Locals who promote Metis Pride and volunteer to keep it alive. All summer long, Metis Locals are taking the time to celebrate our history, culture and traditions. This past weekend was very the Shell River Jamboree at Boggy Creek. I am sure everyone had a fantastic time. Just over a week ago I had a grand time on Canada Day in the small Metis settlement of Duck Bay. Ever since Aboriginal Day Celebrations in Selkirk, I have been enjoying the fine

displays of Metis Pride all across our Homeland.

While some of these celebrations may be small, together they are a great expression of Metis tradition and culture. I encourage you to get in touch with your Regional Office and find out about what celebrations are taking place in your area. If you want our Communications staff to help promote your event, drop them a line at communications@mmf.mb.ca, or call them at our Home Office at (204) 586-8474. They can help spread the word through Facebook, Twitter, our website as well as Metis Hour x2. Also, if you have a story to share send that along too, and if we are able, we will share your good news.

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With education comes power and there also comes change. With education a person can change not only their lives and their circumstances, but they have the power to bring positive change to their family, their community and the Metis Nation.
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Finally, I want to say a big thank you to my staff who are helping trappers and their families receive their inheritance. We have two years to distribute these funds to those trappers who were negatively impacted by Manitoba Hydro development in the Summerberry Marsh. It is great to see our trappers reaping the returns of the hard work and efforts put in by our staff and elected representatives as they worked to secure this inheritance.

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,

Nelson Mandela once said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The important value and power of education cannot be overstated.

Just recently I attended the Louis Riel Institute's Adult Learning Centre Graduation and watched our grads cross the stage to receive their diplomas. It was a triumphant time for not only the graduates, but also their families and friends. I was truly filled with joy as I watched Metis grads 'move the tassel' and take the first steps in the next stage of their lives. It was exciting to see the faces of parents, grandparents, children, brothers, sisters and friends shine with pride as their loved ones crossed the graduation stage!

With education comes power and there also comes

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



Grade School Teachers Gain Valuable Metis Insight

The Manitoba Metis Federation helped provide valuable insight into Metis History at the 2015 Teaching History Summer Institute program. The program is partnership between Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning and the University of Winnipeg's History Department. This year's objective was to provide grade school teachers with valuable Metis knowledge and experience that can later be applied in the classroom.

On Tuesday, July 7th the MMF hosted a roundtable discussion with four Metis presenters who shared their experience, insight, and recommendations on improving "Metis Identity" within the educational system.

Brad Boudreau, a third-year student studying Political Studies and the founder and president of the Metis Students Association at the University of Manitoba, believes many Metis people today are still hiding from their identities. He thinks is because of how society has treated Metis people in the past. He also shared his experience of openly identifying as Metis during his high school days.

"I believe we have lost our cultural connections due to racism, dislocation, residential schools and from marginalization," said Boudreau. "I would often get called a 'halfie'. Most other students only considered me 'half'. When these kinds of things are said, it can be damaging for someone trying to discover their Metis identity."

Greg Pruden, the Aboriginal Perspectives consultant for Manitoba Education Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch, recalled an expression older folks used to tell him when he was younger.

"The older folks would tell us 'don't let your Indian out' because there was no value," explained Pruden. "However we need to highlight our Metis pride and accomplishments. For example, the Manitoba Act of 1870. The Metis are responsible for that. The Metis are also responsible for the first government in western Canada, The Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia. Both are valuable parts of Metis and Canadian history."

University of Winnipeg President and Vice-Chancellor Annette Trimbee believes if she had understood her heritage more as a young person, without the negative stigma it carried, her life would have turned out differently.

"We need to create more scholarly works, we need to turn around the perspective and make it a positive story," said Trimbee.

Al Benoit, Senior Policy Advisor at the MMF, drew awareness to how Metis have not gotten the same level of recognition that First Nations have.

"The First Nations get more mileage in classrooms, books, in their history and culture," said Benoit.

Boudreau agrees and said more could be done to include Metis identity, especially during cultural events.

"You see a lot of information on the First Nations, which is great," explains Boudreau, "but I would like to see more facts on the Metis. Even a brochure or something else that gives more information."

Pruden understands the educational system has come a long way but feels there is still much work

needed to be done with advancing Metis knowledge with the students in Manitoba.

"We need more Metis symbolism and culture around the universities, and we need to have a refocus on the Metis history and its leaders," explained Pruden, "Teachers are one of the key ingredients towards a positive Metis identity for the future. They need to be able to look beyond and think of how other cultures operate. They also need to appreciate, understand, and communicate these perspectives."

A total of 30 teachers from all over the province of Manitoba participated in learning about the Metis people, their culture, history and experiences.



Sharon Parenteau, General Manager of the Louis Riel Institute, leading 'Issues in Metis Education' workshop at the St. Boniface Museum. (Photo courtesy of Linda Connor - @MBEdLindaConnor)



Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.

JOB OPPORTUNITY
FULL-TIME - WINNIPEG

Metis Policy Implementation Coordinator

Skills and Qualifications:

- Graduation from a recognized University with a Bachelor's degree in Policy, Project Management and/or any other field relevant to the work being performed;
- Experience with researching, developing and presenting information to Boards and Committees;
- Experience creating surveys for Provincial distribution would be considered an asset;
- Experience compiling and analyzing data; creating reports on findings and recommendations;
- Experience preparing correspondence including reports, letters, briefings and memorandums;
- Experience in developing surveys, policies and strategic plans;
- Experience building and maintaining relationships with the various levels of government would be considered an asset;
- Experience working with an Aboriginal Community is considered an asset;
- Proficiency in a variety of computer applications including MS Office Suite;
- Excellent written, verbal, facilitation and communication skills;
- Strong analytical skills, excellent problem solving skills;
- Knowledge of Metis culture and history;
- Knowledge of MMF programs and services; and
- Valid Driver's License and able to travel;

**Please forward cover-letter and resume by
Monday, July 27, 2015**

MMF Finance & Human Resources Department, 300-150
Henry Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0J7, or email to:
resumes@mmf.mb.ca or fax to (204) 947-1816.

**All our job postings can be found at
www.mmf.mb.ca**

Congrats 2015 Grads!



*On behalf of the Manitoba Metis Federation,
President Chartrand, our Ministers and Staff
at the MMF, we wish to congratulate the
Louis Riel Institute 2015 Graduating Class!*



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Summerberry Trappers compensation underway

"A well-planned and coordinated effort"

Since June 1st the Manitoba Metis Federation has distributed nearly \$1.3M in inheritance compensation to trappers and their beneficiaries for those negatively impacted by Manitoba Hydro development in the Summerberry Marsh area. This compensation came about after decades of struggle to right a wrong that was done against the Summerberry Trappers during the development and operation of the Grand Rapids Generating Station over the last 50 years.

There were five communities that were the management authority for Summerberry trapping. These communities were Grand Rapids, Easterville, Moose Lake, Cormorant and The Pas. The claims by trappers for the communities of Grand Rapids, Easterville and Moose Lake have been settled. The Summerberry Agreement that the Manitoba Metis Federation negotiated on behalf of the Summerberry Trappers from the communities of Cormorant, The Pas and other trappers from across Manitoba who were invited by the management authority to trap on the Summerberry Marsh will settle their claims.

"Two years ago I was asked by the Summerberry Trappers to accept responsibility for the negotiation of this settlement," states President David Chartrand of the Manitoba Metis Federation, "I was honored they would put this trust in me. I felt strongly back then that justice would be served and I gave my word to that effect. It gives me great satisfaction to see our Trappers and their beneficiaries finally receiving their inheritance."

To date meetings have been held in the communities of The Pas, Cormorant, Cranberry Portage and Winnipeg. Meetings are also scheduled for July 20-22 in Mafeking for trappers and their beneficiaries who would like to make a claim. MMF Staff have been assisting claimants understand the process and

to fill out appropriate paperwork to file their claim. Information has also been posted online advising of community meetings, required documents and as well as the list of trappers who have been identified to receive an inheritance.



MMF Minister Frances Chartrand, Vice-President of the Northwest Metis Council, presents inheritance cheques to Summerberry beneficiaries.

One beneficiary stated they felt the whole compensation program was "very obviously a well-planned and coordinated effort by many people." The beneficiary also said they were "impressed by the high quality of service provided by the front line team."

"Our staff has been very dedicated helping the trappers and their beneficiaries receive this long awaited inheritance. I want to acknowledge and thank Minister Jack Park and his team again for their hard work," says President Chartrand. "I also want to recognize the efforts of Scott Thomson, President and CEO of Manitoba Hydro, and Ruth Kristjanson, Vice President of Corporate Relations for Manitoba Hydro, for working with me and my team in finalizing this settlement."

Manitoba Hydro has provided two years for the Manitoba Metis Federation to identify and settle the claims for the Summerberry Trappers. If after reviewing the list you notice a Trapper that has passed on, please let the MMF know. We would like to ensure that Trapper's children receive their inheritance.

It is also important to point out that the list is not a 'closed' list. Manitoba Hydro has allowed for the possibility that some Trappers may have inadvertently been left out. If anyone has evidence of a Trapper who worked the Summerberry Marsh and their name is not on either of the two lists located on the MMF website, please present this evidence to the MMF so that Trapper can receive their inheritance. Manitoba Hydro will provide additional funds for any Trapper not identified on either list and can provide evidence of their right to trap on the Summerberry Marsh.

For contact information and a list of upcoming meetings, Trappers eligible for compensation and a downloadable Compensation Claim package, please visit:

www.mmf.mb.ca/summerberry.php

