



Le Métis



President's Message

The Métis are Canada's Negotiating Partners in Confederation and the Founders of Manitoba. Yet our founding partnership has not been without struggles. To protect our rights as citizens, hardworking taxpayers, and as an Aboriginal People, we have fought on the battlefields, in Parliament and the Legislature, and in the courts of law and public opinion. Democracy, self-determination, and Self-Government are important to the Métis.

We take our right to govern ourselves and determine our future very seriously. The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is your democratically elected Métis self-government representative. As your representative, we understand the importance of grass roots empowerment. Empowerment means to gain power. An individual by him or herself may not seem very powerful, but united with others we can make change.

As a group of thousands we have great power when focused on an issue or direction. This power can influence the decisions of any government. It's about choice. By putting your "X" on the ballot, the Métis can influence the outcome of an election. Through the ballot box, we can send a strong message to all politicians that the Métis cannot be ignored. To a party disrespecting the Métis, or not keeping a promise, an electoral loss can be a hard lesson.

Candidates may lose or win by only a few dozen votes. These ridings can be key to which party becomes the government. In analyzing the results of an election, poll by poll, the federal political parties

know who votes, and can figure out what they can promise and what they can or cannot get away with. Before, during, and after an election, they look at the issues and voters' reactions, and how these change election results. With this information they develop campaign platforms and government policies.

Again, we, the Métis are hardworking taxpayers. We contribute to the building of our country's infrastructure, programs and services. Governments are not giving us anything for free. We have worked hard and paid for these government expenditures. No matter where we live there are no problems with the tax collector finding us. Unfortunately, when it comes to getting those taxes back as programs and services we do not get our fair share for our priority needs.

Knowing we will come out and vote on the issues that are important to us will change election results and the way parties and governments deal with us. We can influence decisions regarding programs and services such as making the ASETS program permanent, and other important actions such in negotiating the MMF Land Claim. When you vote, it gives both our People and your Leadership the strength, as they say, to move mountains.

The 2015 Canadian federal election, also formally known as the 42nd Canadian general election, will be held on October 19, 2015 to elect members to the House of Commons of the 42nd Parliament of Canada. This is less than 2 months away and things are starting to heat up in the media. People are talking about what they read in the news about what major federal party leaders are saying, and what they hear from their local candidates as they go door to door.

In preparing to vote we believe information is critical. What are the campaign platforms of each of the major federal parties? What impacts will these have on the Métis? Are there Métis specific commitments? To get answers to these, the MMF on behalf of our Métis Citizens has asked nine Métis-specific questions concerning what their party will do if forming the government, or as the opposition holding the balance of power, after the 2015 federal election.

In letters to the party leadership we enclosed the questions and respectfully requested their

answers be received at my office on or before Friday September 18, 2015 so that we may have adequate time for review and distribute their responses to you, our citizens, well before the federal election. We will be sending emails to our citizens and putting the questions and answers on the MMF website, and looking at other ways to get this information to you before you vote.

These questions concern education and training, employment, procurement and other business opportunities, health, Métis residential and day schools, and our land claim. I suggest you check out our MMF website at www.mmf.mb.ca/elections.php and review the background and questions. When we get the answers they will also be posted on our website. Remember these are questions that you can also ask the candidates and their staff and volunteers in your riding.

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Again, I cannot over emphasize the importance to you, your families, and your community to learn more about the federal political parties' election platforms regarding the Métis people. What have they promised to do and not do? Have they kept their promises? Remember what has been their track record in our Métis community when you step into that voting booth, and remember that you have the power.

Upon closing, I offer my prayers for our friends, family members, and veterans who have passed on and my condolences to those who have lost a loved one. My hopes are with those who are sick or shut in and I offer my best wishes to all.

Meeqwetch,

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



**Metis
Employment
& Training**



MET Provides Opportunities in the Construction Industry

Metis Employment and Training (MET) is currently hosting a pipeline labourer training program in Dawson Bay, Manitoba. During this seven-week training program participants are learning skills and earning certificates required to build sustainable careers in not only the pipeline industry, but also the general construction industry.

Through the help of industry partnerships, MET is able to provide real hands-on experience in a real construction camp setting. MET has held training programs in the past, however this is the first time program participants are able to experience a real construction camp setting. This is a huge benefit as it helps prepare them for real work in the construction industry. MET funds the room and board plus transportation for the trainees during their stay at the camp. Participants also earn an hourly wage for their hours worked during the training period.

In preparation for camp-life in the construction industry, all program participants receive hands-on

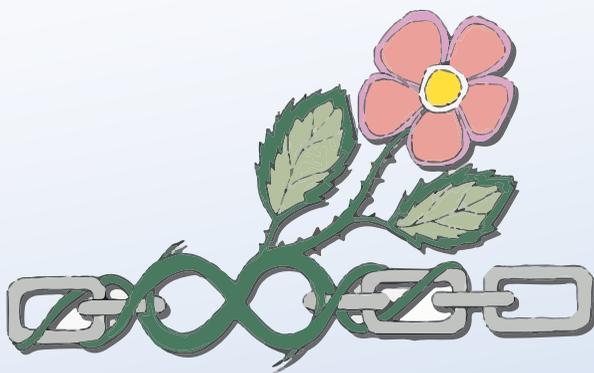
learning experience. Participants learn a wide range of skills and earn certificates such as Chainsaw Safety, Standard First Aid & CPR, Fall Protection, Confined Space, Rigging and Flag person duties. These skills and certificates can be transferred to and utilized at any construction related job site. The participants also gain experience training on heavy equipment such as the Articulated Rock Truck, Front-End Loader, Excavator, and Bulldozers.

To help provide this training opportunity, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Metis N4 Construction Inc. partnered with Vista North Industries Inc., Breezy North Construction Inc. and Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA). Vista North Industries Inc. aids in providing hospitality services to staff members and those enrolled in the training program at the Dawson Bay camp. MHCA provides the necessary training to participants on the heavy equipment machinery supplied by Breezy North Construction Inc.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) forms partnerships with private industry, government, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions, as well as internal departments, to combine resources and establish links to meaningful employment. These partnerships are primarily designed to answer labour market needs and enhance employable opportunities for our citizens. The MMF through MET continues to expand its range of partnership opportunities, with the goal of effectively meeting the changing needs of both the local labour market and its Métis citizens

For more information about our MET programs & services, employer partnerships and current recruitment activities, please visit our website at www.mmfemployment.ca or contact us at:

Metis Employment & Training
Manitoba Metis Federation
1st Floor-150 Henry Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0J7
Telephone: (204) 586-8474 ext. 357



St. Norbert Parish - La Barrière Métis Council Fall Supper

Come and enjoy traditional Métis fare such as stew, bannock & rice pudding. Entertainment, door prize and 50/50 Draw will also take place.

Tickets are \$12.00 for those 13 and over, \$6.00 for ages 6 to 12 and those under 6 are free! Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Festivities begin at 5:30 pm on September 14 at the St. Norbert Community Centre located at 3450 Pembina Highway in St. Norbert.

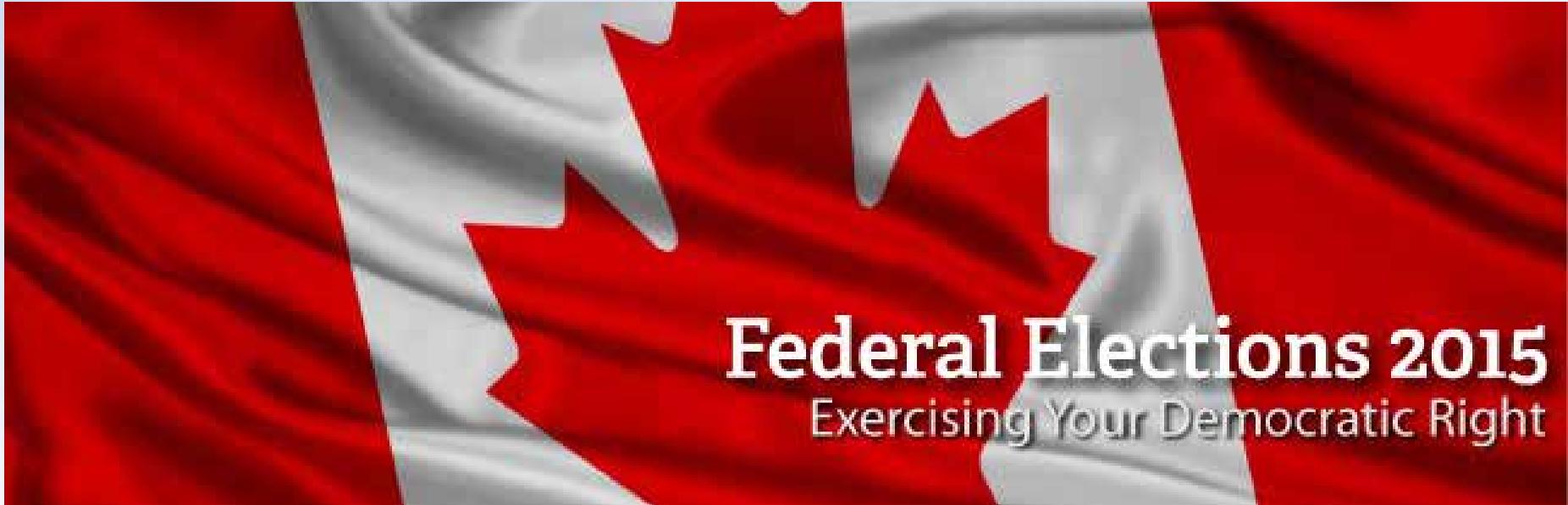
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 [ManitobaMetisMMF](https://www.youtube.com/ManitobaMetisMMF)

 www.mmf.mb.ca



The Métis Perspective

The Manitoba Metis Federation has put some very important questions to the federal political parties on important Métis issues. Each issue we will list two questions we have put forward. We encourage you to also put these questions to the Candidates campaigning in your area. We would love to hear from you about what they had to say. Drop us a line at communications@mmf.mb.ca. Also visit www.mmf.mb.ca/elections.php for a complete list of the questions we have asked the federal party leaders. As we receive a response from them, we will include it here.

Question 1: Métis Land Claim

In March 2013 after 32 years of legal battles, the Supreme Court of Canada vindicated our 143-year-old struggle for justice. Manitoba Metis Federation's objective is to enter negotiations with Canada to reach a land claims agreement that will address this outstanding constitutional grievance. As the Supreme Court itself wrote: "The unfinished business of reconciliation of the Métis people with

Canadian sovereignty is a matter of national and constitutional import."

Will your government commit to take all the necessary actions to ensure the government enters negotiations with the Manitoba Metis Federation and what steps will your government take to reach a land claims agreement?

Question 2: Healthcare

The 2010 report Profile of Métis Health Status and Healthcare Utilization in Manitoba gave evidence that chronic disease conditions, prescription drug use, and mortality rates are higher in the Métis population compared to all other Manitobans. Despite this, the federal government has no healthcare policies and strategies to deal with the alarming status of Métis health.

How will your government work with the Manitoba Metis Federation and what will it do to develop and implement a Métis healthcare strategy that recognizes the unique health needs of the Manitoba Métis Community?



**Happy 82nd Birthday
Lena Fleming**
from President Chartrand,
Board and Staff of the
Manitoba Metis Federation.



Call for Musicians

MÉTIS NATION ANTHEM

The Métis Nation will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Métis Nation infinity flag on June 19, 2016. The Métis National Council is seeking Métis composers/musicians to develop a Métis Nation Anthem to debut as part of these celebrations.

The criteria for the development of the Métis Nation Anthem is as follows:

1. The composer/musician shall be a citizen of the Métis Nation;
2. The anthem must be no longer than two (2) minutes;
3. The anthem may be in English, but will later be translated to Michif and French; and
4. The accompanying music score shall include fiddle music.
5. Deadline for submission is May 2, 2016

The successful composer/musician will be invited to be in attendance at the 200th Anniversary celebrations on June 19, 2016 to debut the Anthem.

\$5000 will be awarded for the Anthem that is chosen!



SEND YOUR COMPOSITION TO:
Métis National Council
340 MacLaren Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0M6
Fax: 613-232-4262
email: loriannr@metisnation.ca