



Le Métis



President's Message

I invite all our Métis Citizens to join us this month at our Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) 47th Annual General Assembly (AGA) taking place on September 26th and 27th in Winnipeg at the Assiniboia Downs. The AGA is an important and integral part of our MMF governance. It is a great opportunity to meet the other delegates, discuss issues and aspirations, report and evaluate progress taken over the past year, and together make plans and take action for our collective future.

Each year our Assembly focuses on a theme, which can be based on an important issue, special event, or idea. This year's theme, as many of you may already know, is: "Governance in Action." The MMF, as the self-government representative of the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community, continues to be strong and fruitful growing from roots deep within our community, our culture, and our territory.

Founded, in 1967 the MMF united numerous grassroots community, political, and cultural organizations, locals, and associations, to bring a modern voice to the Métis of Manitoba. The MMF brings all Métis together from across the province to focus energy on common goals using fundamental democratic and rights-based principles. The MMF is the manifestation of our People's right to self-government and our Ancestors' spirit of self-determination.

It is you, the Métis People, who delegate and provide direction to your Métis Government and its

Institutions. In our MMF Constitution, among our objectives is "to provide responsible and accountable governance on behalf of the Manitoba Métis Community using the constitutional authorities delegated by its members." This delegated authority is through our MMF ballot-box elections, Regional Assemblies, and the reporting and resolutions at the annual AGA. This delegation gives MMF its legitimacy and power.

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The MMF jurisdiction includes those areas identified by our MMF Constitution, as well as those recognized under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. As your Métis Government, the MMF promotes the political, social, cultural, and economic interests and rights of our people. Among these we continue to take steps toward the settlement of our MMF Land Claim, as well as the protection of our harvesting rights and traditional territories with our Metis Harvesting Initiative.

Indeed, while building our Métis Government we have been engaged in many struggles over the years, and we have celebrated much success. In protecting our governing authority and jurisdiction, and our rights, we battled in the public, political, and legal arenas. Notable among these, in the 2013 Supreme Court of Canada *MMF v. Canada* Decision, also known as our Land Claim, the MMF was recognized as "the body

representing the collective Métis interest [...]"; while the 2008 Goodon Decision recognised the MMF as the "governing body of Métis people in Manitoba."

The AGA, together with the Regional and Local Meetings and our Elections, ensures participatory democracy and accountability. The AGA is an opportunity for your voice to be heard. It is also where your representatives, staff, and volunteers can showcase their year's hard work. Most of us mark the year throughout with celebrations whether for birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events. Similarly the MMF marks its strength and development by the continuing number and success of our Assemblies. Each Assembly is an unprecedented sign of MMF growth and activity.

Each assembly is an essential blend of serious fun and serious business. It is an unequalled opportunity to see old friends, gather with extended family, and to join with our community representatives in providing ideas and direction to determine what kind of Manitoba and Canada our children and grandchildren will live in. As part of this year's AGA, as in previous years, there will be a Youth Conference. I recommend to our Youth that you attend, so check out our website for registration information. I will see you there.

Upon closing this week's message, I offer my prayers for our friends, family, and neighbours who have passed on. I also offer my sympathies and my condolences to those among you who have lost someone you loved and who will be dearly missed. My hopes to those who are sick or shut in, and my best wishes to all.

Meeqwetch,

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



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. 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 3: Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy

The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) is a federally funded approach to link training needs to labour market demands. For 15 years the MMF has ranked near the top as one of the best ASETS providers. Typically, the program is renewed for 5-year periods. This year the renewal was only a 2-year extension. As taxpayers, service providers, and recipients, the Métis assert this is among the most successful and effective of federal programs.

What will be your government's plan to continue ASETS as a permanent program, and how will your government partner with the Manitoba Metis Federation to implement ASETS into a permanent program?

Question 4: Bursaries and Scholarships

Métis families are led by hardworking citizens whose find themselves in traditional economies that are collapsing and, along with other economic setbacks, are trying to find the ways and means to ensure their children can go to college and university. The Manitoba Metis Federation has created the Louis Riel Endowment Fund to assist Métis Youth to attain their educational goals and meet their career aspirations.

Working with the Manitoba Metis Federation and the Louis Riel Endowment Fund, is your government prepared to set aside Métis-specific bursaries and scholarships that directly benefit and help provide for the success of Métis youth?

It Is Time for Métis Survivor Reconciliation

For the many Métis Survivors of Métis Residential and Day Schools, and the Sixties Scoop, they cannot wait a moment longer for recognition and reconciliation. Many have contacted the Manitoba Metis Federation to tell their stories. It was during the eras of these schools and the Scoop that thousands of Métis children were removed from our homes - many children suffering horrific abuses - while families underwent extreme grief at the loss of their child.

Many have suggested these policies were part of a concerted effort by both provincial and federal governments to erase a culture, an identity and a people. It is difficult to explain away what happened in the light of the pain that was experienced. The policy of the day was to erase Aboriginal peoples as distinct legal, social, cultural, religious, and racial entities in Canada through the process of assimilation - This has become known as 'cultural genocide'.

Recently the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) noted in its findings the government "viewed the Métis as members of the 'dangerous classes' whom the residential schools were intended to civilize and assimilate." However, the TRCC also noted that due to the wording of the mandate it was given, many Métis students were excluded from the findings of their report for the simple fact these students did not overnight at the "Residential Schools" as identified using the TRC working definition.

However, terrible abuse did occur to our Métis students at the schools. The abuse that did occur was not restricted to after regular school hours. These abuses took place within the context of the assimilation policies sanctioned and prescribed by the governments of the day.

Due to the wording of the mandate of the TRCC, many Métis School Survivors have not been given the opportunity to have their stories heard. The Métis have not been given the opportunity to seek healing and reconciliation with Canada. The TRCC noted this and called upon all "parties and, in particular, the

federal government, to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to have disputed legal issues determined expeditiously" in Call to Action #29.

During the "Scoop" the children were given to non-Métis families - across Canada and in the United States of America. The "availability" of these children was advertised in a respectable province-wide newspaper under such titles as "Brown-Skinned Babies, Too, Need Loving Care." This gave the impression - wrongly and shamefully on the government's part - that our families were cold, calloused and unable to provide a nourishing home life for our children within their community.

In some cases we have recorded the stories shared by our Métis Survivors. We believe our Métis Survivors and their families also have a right to have their stories of traumatic loss and suffering told, and, if they wish and grant permission, put into the public record. Both the Residential and Day Schools, and the Sixties Scoop are black marks on Canadian honour and integrity. Our Survivors have a right to be recognized and be reconciled, and for the origins and results of the abuse to be addressed. They have suffered at the hands of those who were entrusted to provide and care for them. This must never happen again.

Towards supporting survivor efforts, the MMF has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Israel Ludwig of Duboff, Edwards, Haight & Schachter to explore the possibility of developing a settlement process or processes for those Métis adults wishing to pursue a case within the legal system for violations as a result of their childhood experiences.

If you would like to tell your story as a survivor of this cultural genocide, we want to hear from you. Please contact the Manitoba Metis Federation at (204) 586-8474 and ask to speak to someone about your experience as a survivor of the Sixties Scoop or Residential/Day Schools. Your call is confidential.

Infinity Women Working to Empower Métis Women

The Infinity Women Secretariat grew out of the Métis Women of Manitoba, a not for profit established in 1993 that advocated for improving the social and economic situation of the Métis, with a focus on women and children. In 2010 the Infinity Women Secretariat was established as an affiliate of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) with the mandate to promote, empower and enhance the social, cultural and economic well-being of Métis Women.

Since that time the Secretariat has been busy connecting Métis Women with opportunities by which they could move forward and celebrate success including the areas of entrepreneurship and economic development. Currently Infinity Women is pursuing funding for an Internet business portal to assist Manitoba Métis Women who are looking to develop or expand their existing business.

Once the portal is live, it will connect Manitoba Métis women to all aspects of business development including tools for creating a solid business plan, completing in depth market research, and business financing as well as information on how to best set up their business and leverage existing business development supports and services.

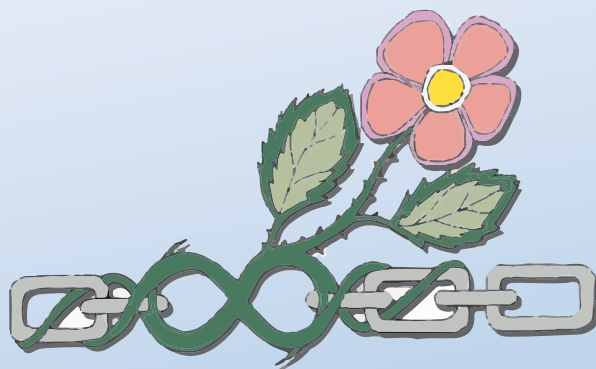
“Through the hard work and dedication of MMF Leaders, staff and Métis citizens we are able to move forward and develop opportunities for Métis women,” states Anita Campbell, Infinity Women Secretariat Spokesperson. “These will lead to individual success while contributing to the overall health and betterment of the Métis Nation in Manitoba.”

The portal will be a customized content management information system built around the unique needs for Métis Women entrepreneurs and business owners. The information collected and deployed through this information portal will be Manitoba Métis Women centric, focused on giving them the necessary tools to network, access business capital, leverage existing supports and assist them to become successful in their pursuit of financial freedom and independence.

During the upcoming MMF Annual General Assembly (AGA), the Infinity Women Secretariat will have a booth at the Tradeshow. The AGA is taking place September 26 and 27 at the Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg. We would like to encourage every Manitoba Métis Woman who either has an existing business or is exploring starting a business to stop by our Tradeshow booth. We would love to get connected with you and help you explore ways in which you can grow your existing business or start the business you have always dreamed about.

“We believe Métis women have a unique perspective on business and with the right tools,” says Minister Campbell. “They can become a strong force for economic development and prosperity.”

For more information about Infinity Women Secretariat or to learn how it can help you with your business idea, please contact (204) 586-8474 and ask for the Infinity Women Secretariat.



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.

Find the latest news online

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 www.mmf.mb.ca

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