



Le Métis



President's Message

there are no constitutional amendment resolutions to be addressed by the delegates but I would expect the delegates to bring one or more resolutions forward during the AGA weekend.

The buzz at this year's AGA without a doubt will include next month's federal election. As I said before, the MMF website will have information concerning the political campaign platforms of the major parties, their Métis impacts, and their Métis-specific commitments. It is a very tight race and the Métis ballot can determine the outcome of the election results. For the federal parties this will feel like the perfect storm.

The Manitoba Métis are Canada's Negotiating Partners in Confederation and the Founders of Manitoba. To some these may be bold words yet they are held up for all to see as written in our histories, in our laws, and in our hearts. We are recognized as an Aboriginal People protected by Canada's Constitution, and, using the language of international rights, we are affirmed as an Indigenous People.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is the self-government representative of the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community. While echoing a lower court in the Goodon decision, the MMF's standing as our people's representative for our rights and interests has been recognized by the Supreme Court in our MMF Land Claim case. No one can question our rightful place in Canadian society.

Many of you will read this while participating at our Annual General Assembly (AGA). Along with regular elections, local meetings, regional assemblies, and ongoing consultations and committees, the AGA is critically important to our Métis democracy. Our Métis government is both deliberative and participatory. These are rare traits in any government but our traditional democratic structure ensures all important dialogue and direct participation of our people.

The AGA is an unequalled opportunity to receive reports, discuss the issues, and provide direction through questions and comment on the microphone, as well as through the debating and voting on the resolutions that are brought to the floor. This year

As I already reported here, the MMF and Métis National Council (MNC) sent questions to the party leaders asking how they would address major Métis concerns. We await answers. As taxpayers we pay hundreds of millions of dollars annually. We have a right to know how our taxes are spent and expect funding for health and wellness, education and training, and economic development, among others, will come back to us for our programs and services that meet our community's needs and build our children's futures.

In all elections we need your help. Yet, voting in this federal election is particularly crucial. Your vote may be the one that makes the difference on which party forms the next government. I am not asking you to vote for any particular party, nor am I telling you how to vote. What I am asking is that you come out and vote. Take five or fifteen minutes, or whatever it takes, to put your "x" on the ballot. Show the federal parties they must listen to you. Stand up and be counted.

Among other topics sure to be discussed at our AGA will be status of the MMF Land Claim, the impacts of racism and the roles of education and the news media, the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) impacts on our culture, territory and economy. The Duty to Consult is a discussion which will direct priorities and help ensure the Métis fully receive the economic benefits from government and corporate development of our natural resources and our traditional lands.

Another hot topic will be Métis harvesting. We have constitutional rights to harvest in our traditional

lands found throughout the province. Our Elders have told us that with these rights come responsibilities. Conservation and wise use of fish and wildlife, and their habitats is critical. Since signing our 2012 agreement we have been patient and have been attempting to work with Manitoba as they have a constitutional obligation to manage the same resources.

We are expecting an AGA announcement on expanding the boundaries of the Métis Recognized Harvesting Zone. I have spoken with Premier Selinger as well as his Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister, Tom Nevaikshonoff, and his Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Gord Mackintosh. I look forward to this announcement whether as a joint endeavor or as MMF taking the next steps on our own. If the MMF goes it alone, there will likely be legal and political implications.

We are always open to continuing partnerships, but we will not stand by and watch while our people and our harvesters are insulted. We will stand united. The law is going our way and the MMF has set a new direction. Governments and industries must recognize Métis rights. Recognize our rights or we will do it another way. One way or another it is coming. We will be harvesting outside the temporary boundaries. We will be backing our Métis Law abiding harvesters.

Nothing that we have has been given to us. We have struggled for everything we have. It has always been an uphill climb since the early days of the Battle of Seven Oaks, the Sayer Trial, and the Red River Resistance through today's Court Decisions that reaffirm our claims and rights. As I have also said recently, there are lots of moving parts and to resolve these often take time. Together, united, we will overcome the challenges thrown onto our path to success.

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. I offer my best wishes to all our Métis Citizens and their families and friends.

Meeqwetch,

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

MMF Bereavement Fund

In 2004 the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) created a fund to help our Métis families in times of great loss. The MMF has always operated from the standpoint that family is the foundation of the Métis Nation. From this perspective the MMF wanted to ensure that we could help assist our Metis people during these difficult times. The Bereavement Fund is designed to help alleviate some of the financial burdens that can be associated with the planning and preparation of a funeral.

To be eligible for assistance through the Bereavement Fund the deceased member must be of Métis heritage. An obituary and/or a death receipt is also required when an application for assistance is made to the fund. There is no limit for the number of times a family may seek help from the fund.

The Bereavement Fund operates solely through donations received from Métis citizens and through fundraising activities that take place throughout the year. The MMF Annual General Assembly, Trapper's Festival in The Pas, and staff Christmas parties are just some of the events where donations toward the fund are regularly made. To date the fund has helped assist over one hundred Métis families.

This year the MMF is hosting a Gala Dinner at Assiniboia Downs on September 26 during its 47th Annual General Assembly. Tickets for the dinner are \$10.00 and proceeds from the Gala are going towards the Bereavement Fund.

The Metis Community Liaison Department (MCLD) oversees the management of the Bereavement Fund. If you would like to make a donation to the Bereavement Fund or need to make an application for assistance, you may contact your local Metis Liaison Support Worker at any of our seven regional offices. You may also contact MCLD at the MMF Home Office directly.

Metis Community Liaison Department

Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.

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Website: www.mmf.mb.ca



The Métis Sash

The Métis Sash has been both a practical piece of clothing and a symbol of Métis national identity and pride for two centuries. The following article, reprinted from the original published over 20 years ago, tells of the newly created and distinct Manitoba Metis Federation Sash sometimes referred to today as the Red River Sash.

The article to the right explains what the sash colours represent. It is interesting to note that since the Sash's creation, the colour red has taken on the additional meaning of the Blood of Martyrs including Elzéar Goulet, Louis Riel and other Métis who died or shed blood during and following the 1869-70 Red River Resistance and the 1885 Battles at Duck Lake, Fish Creek and Batoche. Another, much newer, interpretation of the red colour is a reference to Red River Settlement - the Birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Homeland.

Today this hand-woven sash is worn by many of our Manitoba Métis Citizens at our Métis celebrations and commemorations such as Louis Riel Day on November 16th and at events like the MMF Annual General Assembly.

Metis Sash

Reprinted from Le Metis-August 1992

The Manitoba Metis Federation has developed and adopted a unique Metis Sash, the new colours and pattern based on a variation of the original L'Assomption Sash. A year ago during the MMF Annual General Meeting membership unanimously agreed to adopt the L'Assomption Sash (cinture fleche) pattern. Last spring the Metis Senate appointed Nelson Sanderson to chair a volunteer advisory committee that would research and develop the new sash. The new sash colour variation is of the original L'Assomption Sash with the exception of yellow, which has been replaced with the colour black. According to Nelson Sanderson the new sash colours represent the following: Red is the historically depicted colour for the Metis sash. Blue and White symbolize the colours of the Metis national flag, a flag with a blue background and white infinity symbol. Green signifies fertility, growth and prosperity for the new Metis Nation and Black symbolizes the dark period in which the Metis people had to endure dispossession, repression by the oppressive Canadian government, under Sir John A. MacDonald after 1870. A sample of the new Metis Sash was unveiled during this year's Annual General Assembly held in St. Laurent. Vivianne Raiche of Winnipeg produced the sample.



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 5: Economic Development

In 2012 the Canadian Chamber of Commerce recognized “the untapped potential of Canada’s Métis community which represents the fastest growing segment of Canada’s Aboriginal peoples” while the Calgary Chamber of Commerce report Closing the Gap - Partnering for Métis Labour Market Success explained the Métis “are younger than the non-Aboriginal population, urban and highly mobile, making them an ideal partner...”

What will your government do to promote and support industry partnerships with the Manitoba Métis Community and work with the Manitoba Metis Federation to develop economic and business opportunities?

Question 6: Engagement/Consultation

Following the 2007 Resolution No. 8 from its Annual General Assembly, the Manitoba Metis Federation developed a Framework and Policy for the Manitoba Métis Community’s preferred process for proponent engagement and Crown consultation in resource development.

What will your government do to ensure proponents undertaking major resource development will fully, properly, and meaningfully engage the Manitoba Metis Federation and promote the participation of the Manitoba Metis Federation?

Métis License Plates

The Louis Riel Institute (LRI) is exploring the feasibility and desire for a Manitoba license plate that celebrates Métis history and culture. This would be the only license plate in Manitoba and only the second in all of Canada to celebrate Indigenous people. The Métis are Canada’s negotiating partners in Canada and the founders of the province of Manitoba. They are the largest Indigenous group in Manitoba and number over 400,000 strong in the country - arguably the largest group of Indigenous people in Canada.

As part of its mandate, LRI promotes awareness of the values, culture, heritage and history of the Métis people in Manitoba. It is committed to promoting an increased understanding of our culture and heritage for the benefit of current and future generations of all Manitobans.

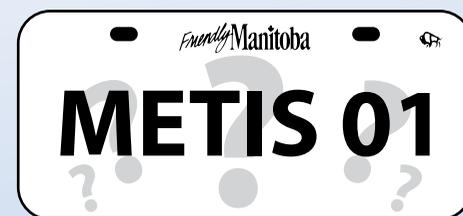
In the interest of sharing our culture with all

Manitobans, LRI is seeking feedback and a commitment from the public for launching a Métis inspired Manitoba vehicle license plate. To make this a reality, Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) requires a minimum of 2000 people to show support for this initiative.

Should LRI proceed with this initiative, the cost to purchase one of these historic license plates will be \$75.00. LRI will receive \$30.00 from each plate sold to go towards furthering its role in working to improve the quality of life for Manitoba’s Métis citizens.

We invite you to take a moment to complete a brief survey indicating your support. The survey can be found online by visiting the Manitoba Metis Federation’s Facebook page at:

[facebook.com/ManitobaMetisFederationOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/ManitobaMetisFederationOfficial)



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

 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:
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