



# Le Métis



## President's Message

Our traditional economies are very important to our Métis families. These are for cultural and domestic as well as for commercial purposes. Commercial use includes forestry, trapping, berry harvesting, and, of course, fishing. From a financial perspective many of these industries have seen better days. Yet, for many, these remain a critical source of income. It is important and imperative that investments be made to ensure their future sustainability and success.

The Métis make up a majority of commercial fishers on lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Winnipegosis. The Métis have un-extinguished rights to harvest these lakes. The success of the provincial fisheries will be reflected with the success of our Métis fishers' livelihoods. Many Métis families are dependent upon the fishery as are the communities in which they purchase equipment and supplies, and from which they receive services.

Governments must remember that the Métis are Canada's Negotiating Partners in Confederation and the Founders of Manitoba. The Métis have been recognized as one of Canada's Aboriginal peoples in s.35 of the 1982 Constitution, and acknowledged as an Indigenous people by the Supreme Court of Canada, the United Nations, Canada, and Manitoba. I have told the provincial government that the inclusion, cooperation, and support of Manitoba's largest group of Indigenous people will be critical in the development of a comprehensive fisheries management plan.

One area of investment that must be part of a comprehensive plan and is often forgotten is fisher

surveys and basic research. Information is the basic foundation of management decision-making. The Manitoba Government often reminds us, and others, that it is they who have the responsibility for the freshwater commercial fisheries management here in our province. Manitoba points to the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Act as evidence of their authority.

Back in 2009 the past federal Minister of Fisheries echoed this when she wrote: "responsibility for freshwater commercial fisheries management in Manitoba rests with the Province." The Minister went on to write that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) has "exclusive authority to regulate interprovincial and export trade in Manitoba with the agreement of the provincial government [...] while operating on a commercial, self-sustaining basis."

With a quick review of the FFMC's website you will find the statement: "Our wild-caught fish come from sustainable fisheries - the same lakes we have fished since we began our business in 1969." And then goes on to say "sustainable fisheries are typically categorized by three main points that distinguish them from other operations - insurance of long-term yield, preservation of intergenerational equity and maintenance of biological, social and economic systems."

There seems to be a disconnect here: the FFMC as our main exporter says the fishery is sustainable; FFMC while selling also has the responsibility to ensure uninterrupted supply and a continuing demand for the fish caught. Manitoba has the responsibility to manage the fishery and to protect this supply. Events this past week, including cries from those outside the province about fishery mismanagement, suggests the two have not worked together as they should for the benefit of our fishers.

The news suggests there is much work to be done. We, the MMF, and myself as both a Fisherman and President, believe that Manitoba's fisheries are underutilized and with investment will continue to be sustainable. We believe there is potential for not only sustainably increasing the production and income but also to find ways so the fishers gain long-term

from ownership of production and with insurance and pensions. To do this both FFMC and the Manitoba Government must work with the MMF and the Manitoba Métis fishers who rely on the success of the fishery.

This past week, I wrote to Minister Neva Shonoff of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (MCWS) regarding the MCWS recent November 9, 2015 news release and news conference. In reaction to a report from an American group, the Province announced a comprehensive review of fisheries.

If you had seen the announcement, you would have noticed the MMF had been left out. We did not receive an invitation to participate in either drafting of the release or attending the conference. It was shameful to exclude the Métis. We would have anticipated the government ensuring the MMF is included in the core review committee and required consultations towards a sustainable fishery.

When I was a member of the Premier's Economic Development Advisory Council (PEAC), I often commented on the need for research funding for surveys of both fisheries and wildlife. I always made it clear that proper management requires data for decision-making. It is unfortunate the Manitoba Government waited a decade to make the necessary promise of action, but we applaud the first steps toward making a sustainable fishery.

The MMF is solutions oriented. We expect there to be full and enduring commitment from the Manitoba Government, with necessary financial and human resources, along with the participation of the MMF on behalf of the Manitoba Métis Community to make this happen. The Métis cannot be ignored. Only together can government take the important next steps for a sustainable fishery for the benefit of our fishers on these three lakes and those throughout Manitoba.

Upon closing, I offer my prayers for our friends who have passed on and my condolences to all 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.

Meeqwetch,

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



Left: Terry Sommerset, a direct descendant of the Nolin Sisters gathers with family, friends, and members of the public to celebrate and recognize the contributions of the Nolin Sisters at the plaque unveiling on November 4, 2015.

## Commemorating the Nolin Sisters

Louis Riel Institute (LRI) and the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) unveiled a plaque on November 4, 2015, in recognition of the valuable work of the Nolin Sisters – Métis Pioneers of Education. The plaque commemorates Angélique and Marguerite Nolin for the advancement of education for Aboriginal girls in what would later become Western Canada.

Angélique Nolin, with the help of her older sister, Marguerite Nolin, ran one of the first formal schools within the Red River Settlement. Under the direction of Bishop Provencher, the Nolin Sisters created a school dedicated to the education of Aboriginal girls in January of 1829. At the time there had been other schools in the area for Aboriginal boys, but Provencher felt that it was essentially important that the girls receive an education as well. The school provided education to First Nations girls and Métis girls of French, Cree, Ojibway and Scottish backgrounds who lived near the Red River Settlement. This school was also the first established school for girls of its kind in Western Canada.

“Angélique and Marguerite were two well educated Métis women who developed and established the first formal school for Aboriginal girls in 1829 at the Red River Settlement,” explains Joan Ledoux, Minister of Education for the MMF.

Women such as Angélique and Marguerite Nolin along with the women of the female religious orders such as the Grey Nuns, and the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, made important contributions to the establishment of an education system for the province of Manitoba.

Angélique and Marguerite originally came from Sault Sainte-Marie with their parents and siblings in 1819. Their mother, Marie Angélique, was Métis and their father, Jean-Baptiste, was a Canadian fur trader and merchant. Angélique and Marguerite received education outside of the Red River Settlement. The Sisters were able to travel to Montreal where they received an excellent education, and completed their studies with the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame.

Lord Selkirk first met the Nolin family in Sault Sainte-Marie, which is now the United States, where they lived prior to moving to Red River. Impressed with

the Nolin family, Lord Selkirk and Father Joseph Provencher expressed the view that the two sisters of the Nolin family could make a valuable contribution to the intellectual life of the Red River Settlement.

In 1829, Angélique and Marguerite opened the school to the Métis and First Nations female children living nearby. The Sisters learnt how to sew and weave so that they could teach the girls these skills. Angélique and Marguerite ran the school for five years, until 1834.

In 1834 they began teaching at Baie St. Paul (St. Eustache). During this time Bishop Provencher assigned the Sisters to assist Father Belcourt in learning the Native languages to communicate with the First Nations people. Angélique and Marguerite were fluent in French, English, Ojibway and Cree. Through their valuable translation work, they were successful in helping Father Belcourt prepare an Ojibway language dictionary along with school texts to be used in teaching the Aboriginal peoples in the area that would later become the province of Manitoba.

“Angélique and Marguerite made a valuable contribution to the Red River Settlement and to the lives of young Aboriginal women in the West serving as leaders, pioneers and role models,” states Minister Ledoux. “It gives me great pleasure as the MMF Minister responsible for Education and the Louis Riel Institute to commemorate these Métis Pioneers of Education with a plaque recognizing their work and commitment to Aboriginal education.”

The commemoration of these two Métis Pioneers was inspired by Ms. Terry Sommerset who is a direct descendant of the Nolin Sisters. Ms. Sommerset was quite passionate in helping make sure the Nolin Sisters were duly recognized as Métis Pioneers of Education for their work in the provision and advancement of education for young Aboriginal girls.

Members of the Public and Media participated in the unveiling of a special plaque honouring the Nolin Sisters at the St. Boniface Museum located at 494 Tache Avenue in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

## MOU Health-Care Renewal

On November 6, 2015, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Metis Employment and Training Department (MET) joined the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA) at the Selkirk and District General Hospital, for the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

In 2010, the MMF and the IERHA signed an agreement to work together to create a workforce that is representative of the communities the IERHA serves. The MOU represents the IERHA's commitment to continue work with the MMF and our Métis citizens to not only provide quality health-care services, but also to create employment opportunities and give Métis citizens the opportunity for a career in health-care that they can be proud of.

"The IERHA has the privilege of encompassing 24 Métis Locals and approximately 11,500 people, which is almost ten percent of our resumes who self-identify as Métis," Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority CEO Ron Van Denakker announced. "This represents a significant opportunity for the IERHA to recruit close to home."

Elder Barb Lavallee opened the event with a prayer, followed by greetings by MMF Minister of Metis Employment and Training (MET), John Fleury.

Minister Fleury announced during his speech that since the beginning of the partnership between the IERHA and the MMF in 2010, almost 60 MET clients have been able to secure good jobs. In order to achieve this, the MET department has offered six health care aid training programs, two training programs for Licenced Practical Nurses, and has also supported numerous clients in attending health related programs at various post-secondary institutions.

The IERHA also announced that since the agreement in 2010, their workforce members who self-identify as Métis has jumped from 4.5% to 8%.

"We have been pleased with the outcomes of this partnership and we are looking forward to enhancing this agreement by signing with the amalgamated Interlake-Eastern Region Health Authority," stated Minister Fleury. "Our priorities in relation to this memorandum will be to continue to support our clients who are interested in health careers and to assist them based on the parameters of our program so they can become the doctors, nurses, and health-care aides, and support staff the IEHRA needs. We are also seeking to combine resources with the IERHA on entry level initiatives as well."

Across Manitoba the Métis population has a greater percentage of young people versus adults. Within the next 15 years, 30 percent of the IERHA workforce will be eligible for retirement.

"This means that it is important to explore and expand agreements such as the one being signed today," said Van Denakker. "The future of care in our region lies in the hands of our young residents. We know that encouraging and supporting our students to pursue healthcare careers and further encouraging them with welcoming and positive work places does make a difference in terms of recruitment and retention. It helps keeps healthcare strong and functional, and it gives people careers they can be proud of."

After the official document was signed, Elder Lavallee was presented with a gift on behalf of the IERHA. All participants were invited to partake in refreshments following the event.



Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority CEO Ron Van Denakker and MMF Minister of Metis Employment and Training (MET) John Fleury.



Official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing renewal with Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority and the Manitoba Metis Federation.



Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority CEO Ron Van Denakker and Elder Barb Lavallee.

# Celebrating the Life of Louis Riel

Monday, November 16, marked 130 years since Louis Riel was hanged for treason. The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) commemorated this great Métis Leader and rightful Founder of Manitoba, Louis Riel, during a ceremony at his gravesite located in St. Boniface.

President of Metis National Council Clément Chartier, and Liberal Members of Parliament Dan Vandal and Terry Duguid, were amongst those paying tribute to the life of Louis Riel.

