



# Le Métis



## President's Message

community last Friday. My heart broke for those who lost loved ones and I pray daily for those who were injured. All across the Métis Homeland there are Métis families and friends that have been impacted by this tragedy.

What is happening in our society when one of our youth believe the only way to deal with difficulty is through violence and aggression? How do we end this? During the weeks and months to come, this is a tough question we will need to consider in planning for our families' futures.

**We must protect our most valuable – our Elders who are the knowledge holders and our Children who carry our legacy. They are the bridge between our past and our future.**

I have stated time and again that we must invest in our families. We must celebrate our strengths and work to make our families, our villages and our Nation stronger. We must protect our most valuable – our Elders who are the knowledge holders and our Children who carry our legacy. They are the bridge between our past and our future. Please take time for your family. Children, please visit and listen carefully to your parents and grandparents. And we adults must do the same. We have much to teach each other. We have much to learn from each other.

Share your good fortune with others. Invite your friends and neighbours for dinner. Help them with their needs. If they need help clearing snow, cutting wood or getting food – do it! The Métis are known

as a "Society of Generous Ones". We have always shared with those who need help. We have always stood shoulder to shoulder with those oppressed. Let's make sure we continue to do so.

In a couple of weeks we will be celebrating Louis Riel Day. He and his government envisioned a province that defended, supported and embraced all cultures. In 1869 his provisional government created a List of Rights that became the framework of the Manitoba Act (1870) – Canada's Treaty with the Métis. Louis Riel Day is celebrated the third Monday of every February. This year Louis Riel Day will fall on February 15. I encourage you to mark this day on your calendar and set it aside to celebrate with your family and friends.

Soon I will be joining with the MMF Board of Directors as well as department directors for a period of strategic planning. This is an important step in our governance permitting us the opportunity to reflect on progress, develop solid plans to enhance programs and services, and to respond to challenges we face as a government and nation. Teamwork is essential. We must develop strategies, both short and long term, toward protecting the rights and meeting the needs and aspirations of our Métis Citizens. There is much work to be done.

In closing, I offer my best wishes for those who are sick or shut-in. May they be blessed with healing, health, and peace. I pray and share my heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for all our neighbours, friends, and families who have lost loved ones. In particular, I remember once more our Métis brothers and sisters in La Loche.

Meeqwetch,

La Loche is a largely Métis village in northern Saskatchewan. January 22, 2016 began in many respects like any other day in this community – the sun rose, children headed to school, parents and caregivers began their day's work. However, by midafternoon it was clear this day would go down in infamy and remembered not for any good or virtuous reason.

I was shocked and horrified when I learned of the senseless violence that took place in that small

### Find the latest news online

 ManitobaMetisFederationOfficial

 @MBMetis\_MMF

 ManitobaMetisMMF

 www.mmf.mb.ca

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





Minister Andrew Carrier, Minister of Michif Languages & Residential Schools for the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), spoke on behalf of the MMF and encouraged all to do the noble work of overcoming racism.

## Embracing Diversity – One year later

Friday, January 22, 2016 was the one year anniversary of Maclean's Magazine identifying Winnipeg as the most racist city in Canada. To mark the anniversary, Mayor Bowman invited community leaders to participate at an "Embracing Diversity" event at City Hall.

During the event, Mayor Bowman declared 2016 as the Year of Reconciliation for Winnipeg. Among the commitments the Mayor made to combat racism was the development of an Urban Aboriginal Accord through the Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle. He also made commitments to work with survivors of Residential Schools, implement the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as they pertain to municipalities, and enhance existing diversity training offered to City employees by making it mandatory as well as commitments to work with refugee programs and services.

Minister Andrew Carrier, Minister of Michif Languages & Residential Schools for the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), spoke on behalf of the MMF and acknowledged the role of the Métis in founding the province of Manitoba. He explained how the provisional government of Louis Riel created a List of Rights in 1869 that would later serve as the framework of the Manitoba Act (1870) that formed the province of Manitoba and brought it into Confederation with Canada.

"From before the formation of the province of Manitoba, the Métis people demonstrated a concern for the people who lived in what is now known as Rupert's Land," stated Minister Carrier. "Our List of Rights recognized and sought to protect the rights of the people of the territory - including Métis, First Nations, French and English. Fourteen months after the ratification of the Manitoba Act (1870) - Canada's Treaty with the Métis - Treaty One was negotiated and signed."

While the event did point to some progress on the path to reconciliation and work done towards overcoming racism in Winnipeg, the journey is still far from finished.

Despite inviting local Indigenous leaders to participate in the event, none of the leaders invited were given the honor of being seated at the front with the Mayor and other guests. Though probably not intentional, it did highlight the struggle that Indigenous people like the Métis have at being recognized and invited to be an active participant in the City of Winnipeg. It may have been better served to have a more diverse group of people at the front which included leaders from the three Indigenous groups of Manitoba and representatives of other minorities who call Winnipeg home.

Further to this, the Métis - though invited to participate - were not acknowledged until after Minister Carrier stated in his greetings that he wished to welcome everyone to the Red River Settlement - now known as Winnipeg - birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland. Wab Kinew, Chair of the Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle, did apologize for this oversight and remarked as well that more work needs to be done in the process of embracing diversity.

"In the spirit of our Métis traditions and customs," concluded Minister Carrier, "we vigorously support any initiative that seeks to embrace diversity and overcome racism in all its overt and often subtle forms."

As the Founder of the province of Manitoba and Canada's Partner in Confederation, the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community believe now is the time to begin the noble work of reconciliation and embrace the rich diversity of our city and province.



## MMF Meets with Federal Minister of Fisheries

This past week, on January 22nd, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) President David Chartrand, along with MMF Minister of Fisheries John Parenteau, met the Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Canada's new Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. Also attending the meeting was Dennis Whitebird on behalf of Grand Chief Derek Nepinak of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

This was an important meeting to furthering the relationship between the Minister, his senior staff in Ottawa, and the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community. At the meeting, MMF President Chartrand took the lead in congratulating Minister Tootoo on his election and appointment, and in discussing the new mandate and the great potential for positive change for the Métis fishers and their communities.

The Mandate Letter from Prime Minister Trudeau to Minister Tootoo underscored the work that needs to be done and the potential consequences of this and future meeting: "No relationship is more important to ME and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership." The Métis look forward in enhancing this relationship.

Indigenous fishers are the majority in Manitoba's fishing industry in which the Métis make up the largest part. Métis fishers, their families, and communities rely on the traditional income from fishing. Among the priorities brought forward by President Chartrand at the meeting was the need to do business differently with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) and in effective marketing of our fish throughout Canada, North America, and the World.

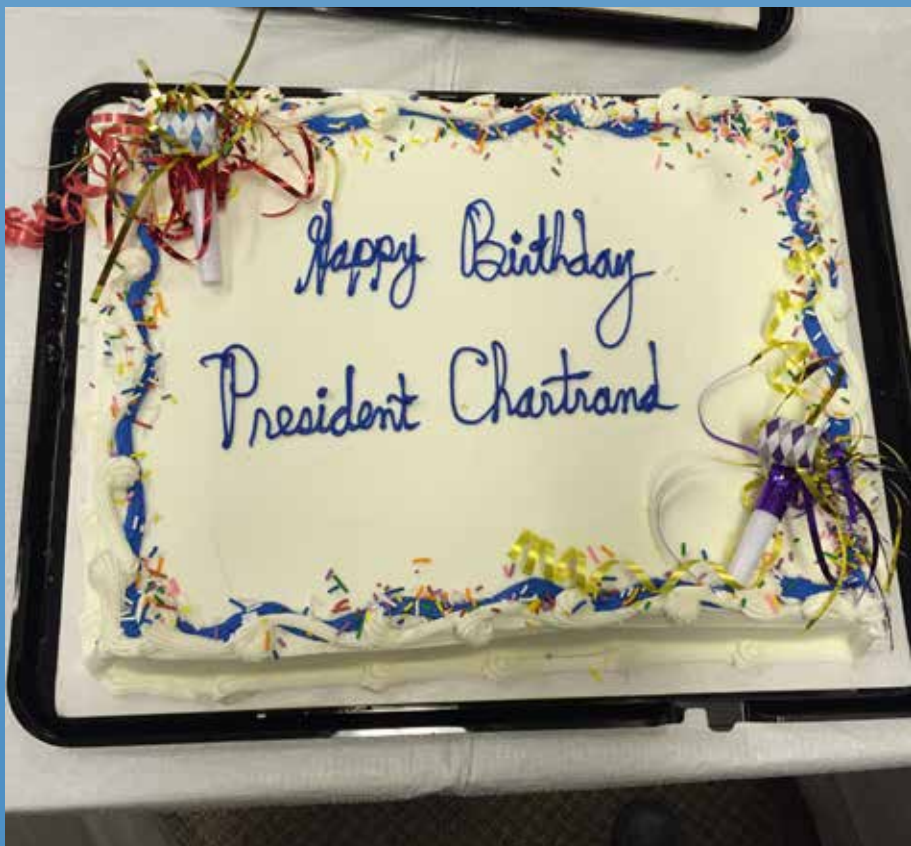


Left to Right: MMF Minister of Fisheries John Parenteau, MMF President David Chartrand, and Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Canada's new Minister of Fisheries.

## Celebrations and Farewells

On January 22nd, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) staff celebrated the birthdays of MMF President David Chartrand and Metis Community Liaison Department (MCLD) Director Sharon Wilson. Each were presented with a birthday cake from the MMF staff.

Staff also bid farewell to MedoTech, Network Administrator Brennan Lobban and wish him the best in his future endeavours.





## Secrets of Success from Local Metis Entrepreneurs

On Wednesday, January 27, the Metis Economic Development Fund (MEDF) and the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) hosted a luncheon with the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce titled "Secrets of Success from Local Metis Entrepreneurs". Guest speakers for the event included Christian Dandeneau of ID Fusion Software, Caralyn Rabichuk of Connect Logistics Ltd., and Bruce Hardy of Myera Group. Entrepreneurial topics related to business start-ups and expansions were discussed with particular emphasis on how MEDF and LRCC financial programs can assist businesses succeed.

ID Fusion Software is a Metis owned software development company. After assessing the needs of the client, ID Fusion develops a solution that matches the identified need while providing an exceptional end user experience. Christian Dandeneau shared how LRCC helped with the acquisition of an already existing IT company in Winnipeg. Through LRCC's grant programs and Non-Repayable Business Contribution Fund, Dandeneau and his two business partners received funding for their business plan and assistance during the acquisition process. ID Fusion Software is also investing in their community by helping build and grow programs and opportunities for Aboriginal Youth in Manitoba who have an interest in a career in the IT sector.

Connect Logistics Ltd. provides local transportation logistic solutions for businesses. Caralyn Rabichuk shared how her family owned business grew from a home basement operation to now operating through multi locations. In this case, both MEDF & LRCC provided financial support to assist in the corporation execute its next business growth plan by implementing a new marketing strategy while rebranding its image to appeal to this competitive sector.

Myera Group is a Canadian based company that address market demands and needs for sustainable biofuel and functional food production technologies through integrated innovative alternative energy technologies. Through the Non-Repayable Business Contribution Fund, LRCC helped Myera Group President Bruce Hardy with the start-up of this company. LRCC also helped Hardy's business initiatives by offering assistance with research and development, strategic planning, inventory, and equipment. MYERA is now planning on working with the MEDF group as the next phase of growth requires an Investment Equity Partner.

To learn more about how LRCC or MEDF can help your business grow or help your business vision come to life, please visit [www.lrcc.mb.ca](http://www.lrcc.mb.ca) or [www.medf.ca](http://www.medf.ca) or call 1 (800) 123-1234.

# Opportunities

## for the Metis Entrepreneur

**FREE Seminar!**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 2**

First 50 registrants  
receive a FREE  
movie pass!

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Countryfest Community Cinema  
1st Street SE, Dauphin, MB

**Complimentary Supper**

RSVP by January 26 - 204.622.4515 (Pam)



## SUMMERBERRY Trappers Settlement

including The Pas, Cormorant and other communities

**Trappers identified on The Pas  
- Cormorant List please call:**

The Pas Regional Office  
Manitoba Metis Federation  
(204) 623-5701

**Trappers identified in Other  
Communities List please call:**

Northwest Regional Office  
Manitoba Metis Federation  
(204) 638-9485

For general information regarding Summerberry Trappers Settlement,  
please visit [www.mmf.mb.ca/summerberry.php](http://www.mmf.mb.ca/summerberry.php) or call (204) 586-8474.

The Manitoba Metis Federation has reached an agreement with Manitoba Hydro that provides for the payment of compensation to identified trappers whose commercial trapping on the Summerberry Marsh was impacted by the operation of the Grand Rapids Generating Station. This agreement will settle the claims for Summerberry trappers in 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.

There are two lists prepared by Manitoba Hydro that contain the names of all trappers eligible for compensation. The first list contain names of Trappers from The Pas and Cormorant. The second list contains names of Trappers invited from other communities who trapped the Summerberry Marsh.

Please visit [www.mmf.mb.ca/summerberry.php](http://www.mmf.mb.ca/summerberry.php) to view these lists. If you are an identified trapper, or know one of the trappers identified, please contact the Manitoba Metis Federation.