



Le Métis



President's Message

On Monday, February 15th everyone will celebrate Louis Riel Day here in Manitoba. This is the first of two important annual days of remembrance for our province as we acknowledge our great Métis leader, Louis Riel.

Riel was a visionary who worked to defend the rights of all people - Métis, First Nations, English and French. It was his provisional government's list of rights that formed the framework for the Manitoba Act (1870) - Canada's Treaty with the Métis - that led to the

creation of the province of Manitoba and joined it to Canada in Confederation. Despite his vision and passion for a province that protected and respected all people, he was condemned a criminal and hanged.

Riel was wrongly accused, and he was tried under an old British law for treason. He was brought to Regina, then a part of the Northwest Territories. He was accused of treason - a crime punishable by death under British law. He should have been tried under Canadian law, but the government of the day wanted him dead. Riel was sent to be tried under laws that would ensure his death. This is nothing short of judicial murder.

This Louis Riel Day I encourage you to sit down with your family and talk about our Métis Heritage. Métis - young and old - can lift high their heads and rejoice in their Métis Pride.

His 1885 death was during the dark period of oppression for the Métis that followed the Reign of Terror of 1870. For years we were maligned, shunned and marginalized. We were denied the rights assured by our Treaty with Canada. The wrongs done against the Métis Nation has taken over 100 years to correct. We never gave up defending our Nation. As predicted by Riel, our people rose again and are now taking their rightful place in history, living in the present for a better future.

I am thankful that the province of Manitoba is finally realizing how the Métis protected and stood for all

people. We still stand for fairness, respect, democracy and strength in diversity. Riel did not die in vain. The work of the MMF, guided by our Métis Elders, has realized many of the dreams and aspirations of Riel and those who stood with him. Our time has come.

This Louis Riel Day I encourage you to sit down with your family and talk about our Métis Heritage. The Days of Shame are gone. Métis - young and old - can lift high their heads and rejoice in their Métis Pride. Our great leader, Louis Riel, the Founder of Manitoba is deserving of the recognition.

Riel stood for the Métis and for others. He stood for family. It is fitting that the province of Manitoba, the MMF, our Métis Citizens and our Youth celebrate on this family day. The MMF will continue to ensure Riel is recognized for his leadership and that the Métis rightly receive the recognition we deserve as the Founders of Manitoba and Canada's Negotiating Partner in Confederation.

Remember, the Métis founded a beautiful province built on the strong values of family, fairness, equality and democracy. Spend time with your family this Louis Riel Day - go for a sleigh ride, ice fishing, have a family gathering. Take the time to show each other just how important family is. The Métis are One Family, One Nation.

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.

Meeqwetch,

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 www.mmf.mb.ca

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



Back row left to right: Cpl. Rick Sinclair, Metis Liaison Coordinator; Julyda Lagimodiere, the MMF Minister of Justice; Inspector Scott McMurchy. Front row left to right: Kevin Brosseau, RCMP Assistant Commissioner; and MMF President David Chartrand.

A Partnership Keeping Métis Communities Safe

On February 5, 2016, the Metis Justice Institute (MJl) of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) D Division announced the extension of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to secure the position of Metis Liaison Coordinator for an additional two years.

"It's so important we do whatever we can, as partners, as friends, to ensure our communities are safe," said RCMP Assistant Commissioner Kevin Brosseau regarding the agreement.

The Metis Liaison Coordinator is an RCMP representative appointed to work with the MMF and its Métis Citizens. The Metis Liaison Coordinator is stationed onsite at the MMF Home Office. The position works to educate and provide cultural awareness to RCMP personnel while helping support a respectful and trusting relationship regarding policing priorities specific for Métis Communities.

"This extension to our existing agreement means we are able to continue meeting the objectives of the Metis Justice Institute," said Julyda Lagimodiere, MMF Minister of Justice, "We look forward to continued success with our partner in this and other important areas of justice and community engagement."

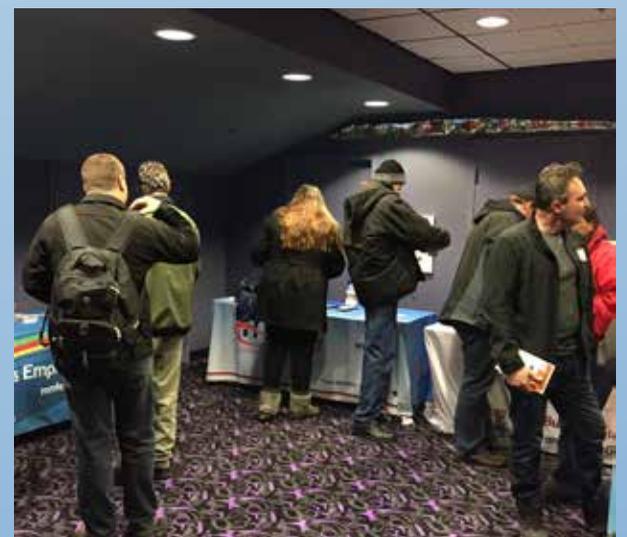
Through this partnership, the RCMP and Métis Leadership develop communications strategies and processes that enhance the relationship between the RCMP and the Métis Community. To achieve this, the Coordinator will work with the Métis Community to help identify and address gaps in policing initiatives, prevent potential conflict, and improve policing services. By working together, we can help keep Métis communities safe.



Partnership at its finest!

On February 2nd, the Metis Economic Development Fund (MEDF), Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC), and the Metis Employment & Training (MET) partnered with Catalyst Credit Union, a local credit union located in Dauphin.

Presenting in the Dauphin Countryfest Community Cinema to a sellout attendance of almost 100 people, the three organizations gave information on the unique service offering available to Manitoba Métis Entrepreneurs. The presentation was considered a huge success with several entrepreneurs booking appointments that same evening.



Brandon Métis Pavilion

During the final weekend of January, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Southwest Region and Louis Riel Institute (LRI) participated in Brandon's 13th annual Winter Festival. This event is similar to Winnipeg's Folklorama. The Métis pavilion located at the Western Centennial Auditorium in Brandon, was one of eight pavilions that participated January 29th and 30th.

The Métis display, managed by LRI, included handouts of information on Métis History & Culture. The display sold children's books and also included an illustrated Métis history series comprising of *The Buffalo Hunter*, *Louis Riel*, and *Cuthbert Grant and the Battle of Seven Oaks*. Verna DeMontigny of the MMF Southwest Region also had a display featuring her Métis handcrafted and vintage items. Participants also had the opportunity to dress-up in Métis costume using Capotes and Sashes brought for the event.

Entertainment for the event included the Metis Prairie Steppers dance group along with traditional fiddle music. The Métis pavilion also featured a variety of Métis cultural cuisine including stew, bannock, rice pudding, and a selection of bison and elk smokies.

A brand new 3D Métis Infinity symbol display, courtesy of Parks Canada, was part of the Métis pavilion this year. The 3D design displayed bilingual information based on Louis Riel and Riel House and Métis culture. The display itself was created for use at events in rural areas, schools, museums, libraries, and other events as requested. To have the 3D Métis Display featured at your event, or for more details about the display, please contact Louis Riel Institute at 204-984-9480.



The Metis Prairie Steppers pose in front of the new 3D Métis Infinity symbol display.



**Metis
Employment
& Training**

Now Hiring For:

RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR

MMF Home Office - Winnipeg, MB

Metis Employment & Training seeks to fill one full-time term **Recruitment Coordinator** position located at the **MMF Home Office** in Winnipeg, MB.

Remuneration is \$35,001.00 - \$45,001.00 per annum – plus benefits.

(depending upon qualifications and experience)

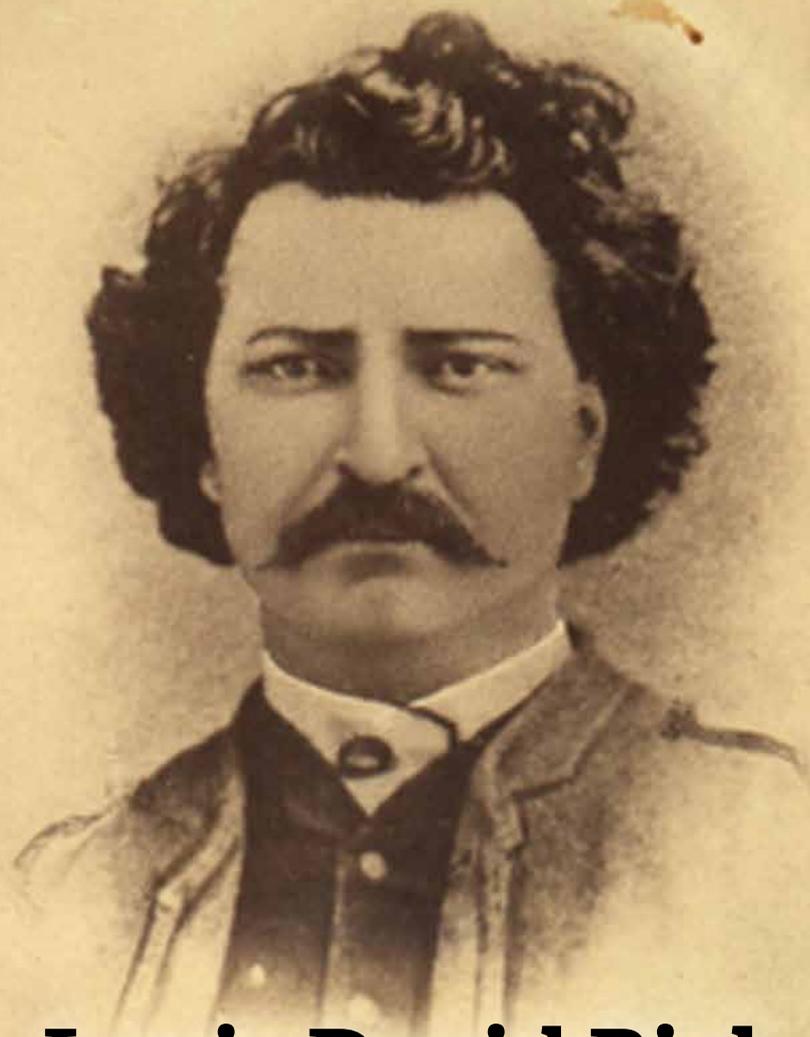
**For a complete list of required Skills & Qualifications
please visit:**

www.mmfemployment.ca or www.mmf.mb.ca

Preference will be given to qualified Métis applicants. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and self-identify on their resume. The MMF appreciates the interest of all applicants; however, only those individuals considered for an interview will be contacted. We offer a competitive benefits package which includes but not limited to: health and dental insurance, life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, short term and long term disability and a retirement savings plan.

Please forward cover letter and resume
by **Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016** to:
MMF Metis Employment & Training Dept.
300-150 Henry Ave.
Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0J7
email to: metresumes@mmf.mb.ca
fax to: (204) 947-3251

The Manitoba Metis Federation invites all Manitobans to recognize Louis Riel, the Founding Father of Manitoba, on February 15th, 2016.



Louis David Riel

Oct. 22nd, 1844 - Nov. 16th, 1885

As the Métis Government of Manitoba, we celebrate the achievements of this visionary Métis leader. As Manitoba's Father of Confederation, Riel forged the path that enabled us to become part of Canada. His government recognized and ensured the protection of the rights of all people – Métis, First Nations, English and French. This is a shared history all Manitobans can be proud of.

