



Le Métis



President's Message

and our children for generations to come!

Recently I had the honour of attending the First Ministers Meeting with the Prime Minister in Vancouver. For me, it was with great pride to hear the Prime Minister declare and reaffirm that the Métis Nation is represented by the MMF and it is the government of the Citizens of Manitoba's Métis Community. The Prime Minister also stated entities such as the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) and Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) are not representatives for a government-to-government or nation-to-nation relationship with Canada.

During our meeting with the Prime Minister we had the chance to ensure our opinions regarding climate change and economic development were heard. Climate change is affecting our traditional way of life. It also affects our ability to effect positive economic development opportunities for our Métis Citizens. Effective climate change strategy will take into consideration the effects of changes happening globally and the need to maintain a sustainable approach to economic development. On one hand we must protect our land and environment. On the other our youth need jobs and our Métis businesses need opportunities. It is imperative these two priorities of conservation and economic development go hand in hand.

We are now preparing for the upcoming Métis Rights conference taking place in Vancouver on March 30 and 31. Your Métis Government will be participating in this important conference to ensure the MMF and issues important to the Métis of Manitoba are at the forefront.

April 19th is quickly coming. Just as the Métis helped make a difference in the federal election and shape federal policy regarding a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Canada, the Métis will make a difference in this provincial election. We have drafted a number of questions for the provincial parties to answer and indicate their commitment to the Métis Citizens of Manitoba. We have asked for their responses to be sent to my office by March 18th. We will be sharing their answers on our website, Facebook and Twitter. As your President I will hold whoever wins this provincial election to their promises to us.

This provincial election has a number of Métis Citizens who hold official Métis Citizenship cards running for office. For example, in Selkirk we have Alan Lagimodiere and Stefan Jones. In Brandon there is Jordan Fleury. In Winnipeg there is Noel Bernier. In the Dawson Trail riding there is Bob Lagassé. Some other candidates have indicated they are Métis but they have yet to apply for their Citizenship cards. We hope they will do so very soon so we can recognize and proudly support them too. It is good to see our Métis Citizens taking a stand in provincial politics. I invite you to show your support to our people striving to make a difference in their community and province.

I want to share exciting news from St. Laurent. This historic Métis village is competing against nine other towns across Canada to be the 2016 Kraft Hockeyville Champions. St. Laurent is the only Manitoba community in the running. With your help, we can help St. Laurent score an NHL© pre-season game and over \$100,000 in arena upgrades. As Manitobans, let's join together and give St. Laurent the extra push needed to secure this win. You can vote for St. Laurent online on March 13 and 14 at www.khv2016.ca. You can vote as often as you want. I want to congratulate the St. Laurent committee who helped get their arena this far in the running. Go St. Laurent Go! Go Manitoba Go!

Finally, I am sure we are all beginning to feel the warmer rays of sunshine on our faces. Some of us have heard the return of the geese. Soon the ducks will be back and muskrat trapping will commence. This is a great time for our Métis people! Since our birth we have enjoyed the bounty of our land. As a Nation, Métis look forward to the spring hunt. It plays a significant role in our families and villages. Once upon a time we were treated like criminals and charged for simply trying to feed our families. Today we enjoy the freedom of responsible harvesting.

In closing, I offer my best wishes for those who are sick or shut-in. May they be blessed with healing, health, and peace. Be safe and look out for one another as you exercise your right to harvest and feed your families. I pray and share my heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for all our neighbours, friends, and families who have lost loved ones. Meeqwetch.

Your Métis Government Ministers and I met this past weekend in Winnipeg to discuss important matters affecting our Métis Citizens. During our meeting we discussed a variety of issues from Child and Family Services to land claims to strategic building initiatives. We also received updates on some key bread and butter issues that are affecting our Métis Citizens in Manitoba.

For example, infrastructure projects being discussed by various levels of government represent a once in a lifetime opportunity. Infrastructure does not only include roads and bridges, it also includes bricks and mortar such as sustainable housing initiatives and the economic development opportunities that go along with them. It is important our Métis businesses have set asides and procurement criteria specific to Métis to ensure our people are able to benefit from these planned investments in infrastructure. My Cabinet and I will be working very hard to make sure this happens.

Another important update we had was around the status of the MMF land claim. After recent meetings with officials from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), it is clear the new Liberal government is committed to fulfilling its promise of nation-to-nation relationships. We expect a Memorandum of Understanding to be forthcoming from INAC regarding a framework for our comprehensive claim. This is going to be an exciting and busy time for the MMF. We will be hiring people to help negotiate and shepherd this process forward. I encourage you again to keep an eye on our website for exciting opportunities coming up with your Métis Government. You could be involved in helping shape the success of our families

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

Province Recognizes Métis Leader Louis Riel as Manitoba's First Leader

It was an emotional day at the Manitoba Legislative Building on Tuesday, March 1. After the second reading of *The Path to Reconciliation Act* the Province recognized Métis Visionary Louis Riel as the first leader of the Province of Manitoba. Louis Riel's Provisional Government was located at Upper Fort Garry and formed the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia that oversaw the creation of Manitoba and Confederation with Canada.

Under Riel's leadership, a *List of Rights* was created to ensure the protection of the rights of the Métis Nation, First Nations, English and French as well as land guarantees for the Métis children and ensuring the new province would be officially bilingual.

During a brief ceremony at the Legislature, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Minister of Residential Schools and Michif Language Andrew Carrier brought greetings on behalf of the Manitoba Métis Government. He was joined by many Métis Citizens who celebrated this occasion of seeing Riel recognized for the work he did for the Métis Nation and indeed, for all people in the Red River and Canada.

"Louis Riel was a visionary Métis Leader



Louis Riel's portrait takes its rightful place as the province's First Leader along the Wall of Leaders at the Manitoba Legislative Building. His portrait was unveiled by Minister Andrew Carrier of the MMF and Deputy Premier of Manitoba, Mr. Eric Robinson.



who fought to ensure the rights of all people - Métis Nation, First Nations, English and French - were recognized and protected when his government negotiated the *Manitoba Act 1870*," explained Minister Carrier. "This Act was Canada's first Treaty with one of its Indigenous people in what is now known as Western Canada."

Provincial Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Deputy Premier Eric Robinson joined MMF Minister

Carrier in unveiling a portrait of Louis Riel on the Wall of Leaders at the Manitoba Legislative Building.

"It is a pleasure to speak on something that is so long overdue, and that is having the Father of Manitoba and his picture prominently displayed in the Manitoba Legislature," said Minister Robinson. "Louis Riel is...the Father of Manitoba. He was the President of the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia and, some would say, the first Premier

of the province of Manitoba."

"The Manitoba Metis Federation and the Métis of Manitoba have been working long and hard for this recognition," stated Minister Carrier. "We have always known the truth that Louis Riel was Manitoba's first Premier. It is great to see the Province of Manitoba recognize this great Métis Leader and place his portrait first on the Wall of Leaders here at the Legislative Building."



**Metis
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& Training**

**Now Hiring For:
Project Officer - Southwest
MMF Southwest Regional Office - Brandon, MB**

Metis Employment & Training seeks to fill one **Project Officer** position located at the **MMF Southwest Regional Office** in Brandon, MB.

Remuneration is \$31,677.00 - \$41,943.00 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 **Friday, March 25, 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

Métis Nation and MMF Participate in Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women National Round Table

President Chartrand was part of a delegation from the Métis National Council at the recent MMIWG National Round Table in Winnipeg. During the event President Chartrand spoke on the importance of working together to help safe-guard our Women and Children. In his remarks to the Round Table, President Chartrand stated "Our Women are the Heartbeat of our Métis Nation; Our Children are its soul." Indigenous, Provincial and Federal Governments identified "Outcomes and Priorities for Action to Prevent and Address Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls." You can read these on our website at www.mmf.mb.ca.



Let's score a Manitoba victory for the Historic Community of St. Laurent!

Hey Canada! Hockey Lives in Manitoba – St. Laurent is Kraft Hockeyville 2016!

On March 13 & 14 visit khv2016.ca and vote for your hometown community – St. Laurent – to be Kraft Hockeyville 2016. Voting entries are unlimited!

With your help, we could score an NHL© pre-season game and receive \$100,000 in arena upgrades for this Historic community.

Go St. Laurent Go!!

Vote online at khv2016.ca



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MMF Meets INAC Officials

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) had its first meeting with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Negotiations Officials to commence exploratory discussions on the MMF Land Claim Case. The meeting took place at the MMF Home Office February 24th and 25th. The purpose of the meetings was to provide INAC officials with insight on who the Métis are, the MMF's governance structure, and the MMF's mandate to serve and govern the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community. The MMF also discussed its political position and history working with current and past provincial and federal governments.

During the meeting, MMF Department Managers and Directors gave a brief history on their department's growth and accomplishments over the years. One of the successful programs specifically mentioned during the meeting was Louis Riel Institute's (LRI) *Standing Tall Program*. This program is based on an educational concept from New Zealand that was created by and for its Indigenous people. The MMF's *Standing Tall Program* adopts principles from the New Zealand program to research the effects of



President David Chartrand discusses the MMF Governance Structure with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Negotiations Officials. During the meeting, the team from INAC was provided insight on the Governance Structure of the MMF from its Ministers and Directors.

community involvement in education. LRI also provided a presentation on how their department's programs and services function to serve and assist the Métis Community.

In addition to showing the accomplishments of the various programs of the MMF, Directors also shared about challenges they are currently facing in their respective departments. Some of the challenges discussed included the requirement to submit yearly proposals that aren't

always guaranteed, and funding cuts towards programs. One program discussed was the *Métis Sash Program* which operates under Metis Child and Family Services (MCFS). The *Métis Sash Program* was created to provide permanent wards of MCFS who have no family support with services such as education, employment, and living assistance.

Another challenge some departments face is the ability to expand their technical resources. For example,

the MMF Central Registry Office is working to assist Métis Citizens who live out of province become part of the MMF Central Registry Database.

The information provided during the two-day meeting gave INAC Officials a more in depth understanding of the MMF's commitment and initiatives to serve and govern its Métis Citizens. These discussions will lead to the building of an MOU for negotiating the MMF Land Claim. These are exciting times for our Métis Nation.



**Metis
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Now Hiring For:

Regional Coordinator - Northwest
MMF Northwest Regional Office - Dauphin, MB

Metis Employment & Training seeks to fill one full time **Regional Coordinator** position located at the **MMF Northwest Regional Office** in Dauphin, 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.

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