



# Le Métis



## President's Message

This past week your Métis Government Cabinet and Senior Directors met to take pause, review our progress as a government and make strategic plans going forward. Our exercise reminded me of Sun Tzu, a Chinese general, military strategist and philosopher of ancient China. In his book *The Art of War* he wrote, "To not prepare is the greatest of crimes; to be prepared beforehand for any contingency is the greatest of virtues." Sun Tzu was speaking specifically about warfare, but his principle can be applied to any situation that requires sound thinking, accountable leadership and the ability to navigate change.

As we met together, I sensed again the important

responsibility we have as your elected leaders. These are exciting times for the Manitoba Metis Federation and the Métis Nation. This year, I believe, will see big changes as we move our comprehensive claim with Canada forward. We also anticipate further advancement and strengthening in our governance of other areas such as the duty to consult, procurement, education and training.

Speaking of change, our province is heading for an election on April 19th that may bring a change in government. To help you, our Métis Citizens, we have put forward fourteen important questions for the three major provincial political parties to answer. You can read these questions and the response from each party on our website at [www.mmf.mb.ca/elections\\_qa.php](http://www.mmf.mb.ca/elections_qa.php). At the time of the printing of this newsletter, we have only received responses from the PC party. These questions are an opportunity for those seeking your support to express in writing their commitments to you as a Métis Citizen in the province of Manitoba.

Regardless of which party ultimately forms government, I hope we see a genuine government-to-government relationship between the MMF and the province of Manitoba that is based on respect, integrity and transparency. The recent renewal in our relationship with the federal government has been stimulating and refreshing. I sincerely hope the province is able to follow suit.

This week I will be in Ottawa for the federal budget. We have high expectations for this budget. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his government has committed \$25 million to the Métis Nation's Métis Economic Development Strategy; \$50 million to renew and expand the all-important training and employment program known as ASETS; and to expand the Métis Nation's endowments that provide scholarships and bursaries for post-secondary education. Our people are full taxpayers and we

want to see a portion of this federal and provincial tax revenue generated by our Métis Citizens and businesses dedicated to our government so we can continue to provide essential services to our people and improve their standard of living.

Next week, your Métis Government will be meeting in Vancouver with the Métis National Council and other representative Métis Governments to strategize on Métis Policy. Among the topics of discussion will be Métis Nation Rights Recognition, the MMF land claim, ASETS, Métis Economic Development Strategy and matters of import for the Métis Nation and our Métis Citizens.

One thing I want to briefly refer to again is our Land Claim with Canada. Recently, your Métis Government, the MMF, met with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) officials to discuss the MMF Governance Structure and how the MMF serves its Métis Citizens. I expect we will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Canada very soon. This will then lead to a framework agreement as early as this Fall. Our Manitoba Métis Community will then embark on the journey to finally receiving resolution and recompense for being robbed of our collective inheritance so very long ago. How this will look is still not fully developed, but as I said many times over the years, we will have a trust set up to provide for and assist our Métis Youth, and others, as we establish our place in the world.

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,

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

# MMF 2016 Provincial Election Campaign



## The Métis Perspective

The Manitoba Metis Federation sent fourteen very important questions to the provincial political parties regarding important Métis issues. 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](mailto:communications@mmf.mb.ca). Visit [www.mmf.mb.ca/elections\\_qa.php](http://www.mmf.mb.ca/elections_qa.php) where you can also find each of these questions and the responses we receive from the provincial party leaders. We will add the responses as we receive them.

### Question 1:

The Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community is the largest community of Indigenous People in Manitoba. The Métis are the Founders of Manitoba and Canada's Negotiating Partner in Confederation. The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is the democratically-elected self-government representative of the Manitoba Métis Community and provides responsible, accountable governance using the constitutional authorities delegated by its Citizens.

**Will your government commit to a government-to-government relationship with the Manitoba Metis Federation and how would that relationship be structured?**

### Question 2:

In March 2013, after 32 years of legal battles, the Supreme Court of Canada vindicated our 143-year-old struggle for justice. As the representative of Manitoba's Métis Community, the MMF objective is to enter negotiations with Canada to reach a land claims agreement that will address this outstanding constitutional grievance. As the Supreme Court wrote: "The unfinished business of reconciliation of the Metis people with Canadian sovereignty is a matter of national and constitutional import."

**Upon an invitation from the MMF, will your government commit to come to the negotiating table and take all necessary actions to address those matters within Section 92 of the Constitution Act 1867 regarding provincial jurisdiction, and what steps will your government take to reach agreement on these matters?**

### Question 3:

The 2010 report *Profile of Metis Health Status and Healthcare Utilization in Manitoba* gave evidence that chronic disease conditions, prescription drug use, and mortality rates are higher in the Métis population compared to all other Manitobans. For example 21% are more likely to die prematurely and are more likely to have chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and arthritis than all other Manitobans. Despite this, the provincial government has no clear healthcare policies and strategies to deal with the alarming status of Métis health.

**How will your government address this healthcare crisis and work with the Manitoba Metis Federation, and what will it do to develop and implement a Métis healthcare strategy that recognizes the unique health needs of the Manitoba Métis Community?**

### Question 4:

The recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Report states, "not all Survivors of residential school abuse were included in the Settlement Agreement. For example, day school students" many of whom were Métis. Call to Action 29 of this report calls upon all parties to resolve this outstanding issue. The Métis were largely excluded from TRC process and recommendations and the reason given was because their experience was primarily through unrecognized resident schools or through day schools, yet the Métis faced the same assimilation policies, cultural genocide, and horrific experiences as other survivors.

**What will your government do to recognize the Métis school experience and bring about reconciliation and healing for the harm done to the Métis in the Residential and Day Schools which fell under provincial jurisdiction and responsibility?**

### Question 5:

First Nations have been made equity partners for hydroelectric infrastructure such as Keeyask and Wuskatim with the reasoning that these projects impact First Nation Rights and cross First Nation Territories, despite these and other projects impacting Métis Rights and crossing Métis Nation Territory.

**Will your Government direct and facilitate similar equity partnerships and revenue agreements between the MMF and Manitoba Hydro on Hydro infrastructure - for example with Keeyask, Wuskatim, Bipole III, the MB-**

# Campaign Questions

**Minnesota Transmission and Birtle-Saskatchewan Transmission projects - as these also impact Manitoba Métis land and settlements?**

## Question 6:

Many Métis, their families, and neighbours, rely on commercial fishing for income and employment. A recent SeaChoice report highlighted mismanagement of Manitoba Lake fisheries while the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board has failed in promoting, marketing, and building a profitable and sustainable fishery beyond our borders. Both of these issues impact the Manitoba Métis fishers.

**What will be your government's fisheries development strategy to assist Métis fishers who rely on the commercial lake fishery and how will you partner with the MMF for the strategy including promoting and marketing for a profitable and sustainable fishery?**

## Question 7:

Approximately half of the Manitoba Métis population live in rural areas and their settlements rely on, in addition to fisheries, the traditional Métis commercial economies of forestry, trapping, and mining. Unfortunately, these industries are declining and in some areas collapsing and many Métis face loss of business and unemployment.

**With these traditional economy challenges, will your government work with the MMF to develop and implement a Métis-specific strategy for redeveloping these traditional economies and industries and what will it look like?**

## Question 8:

The Manitoba Aboriginal Procurement Initiative (API) is intended to assist Aboriginal business and develop communities, including Manitoba Métis business and community, by providing access to economic opportunities and partnerships between the province, and the Métis, industry and the private sector. Métis business owners have expressed disappointment and face exclusions from procurement processes.

**With significant federal and provincial investment being promised for infrastructure, what will your**

**government do to ensure there are set asides for Métis businesses and ensure the procurement process benefits Métis businesses and community?**

## Question 9:

A commitment was made by the provincial government to invest \$20M in the Metis Economic Development Fund (MEDF) to bring it on par with First Nations funding. To date almost \$10 million has been provided - there is still another \$10 million outstanding.

**What will your government do to bring the Metis Economic Development Fund to the same level as First Nations funding and what investment will your government make to ensure the continued long-term success of this fund?**

## Question 10:

At the 2015 Annual General Assembly of the Manitoba Metis Federation, an MOU was signed indicating concrete steps to be taken to further expand traditional Métis harvesting rights outside the 2012 Harvesting Zone, and recognize Metis Harvesting Laws.

**What steps will your government take to further recognize traditional Métis harvesting areas beyond the current Harvesting Zone including those of Cranberry Portage/Grass River and Manigotagan area, and how will you work with the MMF to recognize MMF Harvesting Laws?**

## Question 11:

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 required process for proponent engagement and Crown consultation in resource development.

**What will your government do to ensure proponents undertaking major resource development in Manitoba will engage and partner with the MMF in economic development opportunities while also ensuring the Crown undertakes its constitutional obligation to fully, properly, and meaningfully consult with the MMF?**

## Question 12:

Métis families are led by hardworking citizens whose find themselves in traditional economies that are collapsing and, along with other economic setbacks, are trying to find the ways and means to ensure their children can go to college and university. The Manitoba Metis Federation has created the Louis Riel Endowment Fund to assist Métis Youth to attain their educational goals and meet their career aspirations:

**Working with the Manitoba Metis Federation and the Louis Riel Endowment Fund, is your government prepared to set aside Métis-specific bursaries and scholarships that directly benefit and help provide for the success of Métis youth?**

## Question 13:

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?**

## Question 14:

In 2012 the Canadian Chamber of Commerce recognized "the untapped potential of Canada's Metis community which represents the fastest growing segment of Canada's Aboriginal peoples" while the Calgary Chamber of Commerce report Closing the Gap - Partnering for Metis Labour Market Success explained the Metis "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?**

## On Tuesday, April 19th Make Your Vote Count!

The Métis are the largest Indigenous group in Manitoba. With over 50,000 Métis citizens who are of voting age, we have an opportunity to really make a difference in this provincial election. However, that only counts if YOU vote.

If you require assistance getting to the polls, please contact your local MMF Regional Office or contact the Home Office at (204) 586-8474. Your vote matters - make an informed decision. Read the Provincial Party Leader responses to important questions the MMF has put to them at [www.mmf.mb.ca/elections\\_qa.php](http://www.mmf.mb.ca/elections_qa.php).

# Octopus Bag Beadwork Display Symbolizes the Survival of the Métis People

Earlier this month Master Beader Jennine Krauchi, Métis Elder George Fleury, and Lawrence Barkwell, Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research at Louis Riel Institute (LRI) participated in a presentation at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The presentation featured information on the history of Métis beadwork, the making of the Métis Octopus Bag currently on display and Road Allowance Communities.

Jennine Krauchi was first approached in December 2013, by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights to create the world's largest Métis Octopus Bag beadwork display for the Museum. In her presentation, Jennine shared information about how Métis men used these bags to carry materials needed for making a fire. She also explained how the beadwork represents the combining of two cultures. Métis beadwork is characterized by a distinctive floral pattern influenced by French silk embroidery pattern mixed with Indigenous beading inspired by nature. The color of beads used in the design directly correlates to those used by Métis people during the 1800's. The larger than life Octopus Bag measures roughly 23 feet tall and hangs in the Museum's Indigenous Perspectives gallery. With only four months to complete the installation following the approval process, Jennine reached out to her mother and a few others to lend a hand in completing the project. The bag features nine flowers to represent the nine Métis communities that lived through road allowance displacement.

Métis Elder George Fleury, who grew up in Ste. Madeleine, was directly affected through road allowance displacement. During his speech, he



shared his experience of being displaced from his home when the road allowance community of Ste. Madeleine was destroyed in the 1930's to make room for a community pasture. He also elaborated on the difficulties and poor conditions that his family faced during this period of time. Coincidentally, his great-great-grandson, Hayden Liberty, helped with the last few inches of beading which happened to be next to the flower representing the community of Ste. Madeleine on the Octopus Bag.



Lawrence Barkwell provided information on the location of Ste. Madeleine during his presentation. He also provided information about Rooster Town, which was the last known road allowance community in Winnipeg. Lawrence also brought attention to two other Métis Installations on display at the Museum. One of which is Sherry Racette's Métis Rights Niche. The niche is titled *We're not Birds* which is a quote from Louis Riel referring to the loss of Métis land.

The Métis Octopus Bag on display at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights is a symbol of recognition for the Métis people. The artwork showcases the adversity Métis faced through loss of land and the resilience of the Métis to survive as a people. It also symbolizes a new relationship with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights as we work together on more Métis-specific projects in the future.

## Road Allowance Communities

As the provincial government did the surveys of land within the province, land was set aside between sections within the townships for the development of roads. These were called road allowances. Many dispossessed Métis lived on road allowances when they were pushed off their traditional lands, thus becoming known as the "road allowance people."

Under the *Dominion Lands Act of 1872*, the Canadian government brought in regulations that aimed to encourage the settlement of the Canadian Prairies, and to help prevent the area being claimed by the United States. The Act was closely based on the United States *Homestead Act*, setting conditions in which the western lands could be settled and their natural resources developed. The federal government began selling off land in western Canada under the *Dominion Lands Act* to encourage European settlement in the west. As European settlement expanded west, many Métis were forced to leave their homes and communities where they had lived for many generations.

Under Section 31 of the *Manitoba Act (1870)*, the federal government set aside 1,400,000 acres of land for the children of the Métis heads of household. The adults within Manitoba also received scrip for 240 acres of land. Outside of the postage stamp shaped province of Manitoba, the Métis were issued scrip that could be exchanged for land or money. The Métis could apply this scrip to obtain surveyed land anywhere in the province or the Northwest Territory. Many Métis had to relocate away from their ancestral territories and communities to receive land because of the delays in issuing scrip and the influx of eastern settlers before the scrip was issued. Many Métis, who had no resources to relocate and build on the land and because of the lengthy delays, sold their scrip for a fraction of its worth. Due to the complex legalities and process of redeeming scrip, Métis were also often cheated or bullied out of their grants. Some of the intended beneficiaries also never received their land due to fraud.

With the land being sanctioned off quickly, Métis were either evicted or threatened in order to make them leave their homes. Some Métis communities, such as Ste. Madeleine, had their land expropriated for community pasture under the *Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act*. They had their homes burned and destroyed by government officials. With nowhere to call home, many Métis were forced to build their homes and villages on unoccupied Crown land or land that had been set aside as "road allowance".

Road Allowance Communities are part of the historical Métis record. Throughout history, the Métis have always fought for their culture, land, rights and existence as a people. Their ingenuity in facing adversity demonstrates the historical adaptiveness and resilience of the Métis as a people to survive. This trait is still found in the Métis today.