



Le Métis



President's Message

connections through our families, our historical economic routes of trade and providing for our families. Our ancestors, though born in the Red River Valley spread out from there into the West and parts of Ontario to escape the oppression of the new Canadian government and in search of opportunity to thrive.

.....
The Métis Nation is not defined by a geo-political boundary imposed upon us by an outside governing body. Our boundaries are defined by greater things such as our ancestral and historical connections of our families and our economic routes of trade.
.....

Discussions were also held around the importance of having a verifiable process for Métis Citizenship. The Manitoba Métis Federation has a process that is able to verify and confirm a person's ancestral and legitimate connection to the birth of the Métis Nation. Through our standards, which also includes the Powley Test - a process recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada - we are able to confidently affirm Citizenship in the Métis Nation. We are now working to develop a centre of excellence in genealogical research to assist our Citizens in affirming their identity as Métis. This centre will be available to any person to research and affirm their Métis Citizenship within the Métis Nation.

Another item we discussed was the land claim of Manitoba's Métis Community. In 2013 the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed the Manitoba Métis

Federation as the Métis Government and negotiator of the claim. I am happy to tell you that very soon I will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Canada that will begin the work of developing the framework for negotiations. I have said it before and I must say it again, this is an exciting time for the Métis Citizens of Manitoba. Very soon we will begin the honourable and long overdue hard work of reconciling the wrongs made against the Métis - Canada's Negotiating Partner in Confederation and the Founders of Manitoba.

The Métis have always played a significant role in the country of Canada. Recently, we helped make a difference during the federal election. Now we have another opportunity to make a difference in the upcoming provincial election. To help our Métis Citizens, we have developed a list of important questions and put them to the four major political parties in Manitoba. To date we have heard back from both the PCs and the NDP. We hope to hear from the Liberals and the Manitoba Party soon. You can read the responses to these questions on our website at www.mmf.mb.ca/elections_qa.php. I encourage you to review their responses. I also encourage each and every one of you who are eligible to vote to do so. It is our right and responsibility to cast our ballot and to let our voice be heard.

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,

This past week your government leaders and I participated in the Métis National Policy Conference held in Vancouver. As your President, I was there to make sure matters that are important to Manitoba Métis Citizens were at the forefront.

During the Conference, delegates held excellent discussion around such important topics as understanding the boundaries of the Métis Nation - these are not just geo-political boundaries imposed upon us by Ottawa or any other government jurisdiction. The Métis Nation is rather defined by greater things such as our ancestral and historical

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

New Coordinator for Neah Kee Papa Program



Neah Kee Papa Program Coordinator, Patrick Berthelette.

Are you looking to increase your knowledge and enhance your parenting skills as a father? The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Metis Community Liaison Department (MCLD) Neah Kee Papa program is geared towards young Métis or Indigenous fathers who seek to enhance their knowledge and skills as a parent. The Metis Community Liaison Department recently hired Patrick Berthelette as the new Neah Kee Papa Coordinator.

"Being a single father myself, there wasn't a lot out there for men in regards to programs," said Berthelette.

Neah Kee Papa is open to Métis and Indigenous fathers from all walks of life and offers a variety of programs geared towards engaging and involving men in their role as fathers. Fathers who successfully complete the classes are presented with a certificate upon completion of the program.

The Neah Kee Papa program helps with identifying resources within the community to help support

fathers, enhance parenting and life skills, and empower fathers to assert their rights as well as encouraging healthy family relationships. The program also works to enhance the knowledge and understanding of a child's emotional, behavioural and physical well-being. Fathers are also taught valuable skills to enable them to provide positive emotional support to their children.

If you would like to register for the Neah Kee Papa program or would like more information please contact Patrick Berthelette at 204-586-8478 Ext. 315 or email patrick.berthelette@mmf.mb.ca.

Metis Community Liaison Department

Neah Kee Papa

Manitoba Metis Federation

Phone: 204-586-8474 Ext. 315

Fax: 204-947-1816

Toll Free: 1-800-665-8474

Website: www.mmf.mb.ca



MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR RENT



BRAND NEW TRIPLEX AVAILABLE FOR RENT JUNE 1, 2016

Located at 527-12th Street in Brandon, MB.

The triplex consists of three 3-bedroom units.

RENT

**3-Bedroom - \$954.00/month plus utilities
(3 units available)**

No pets and no smoking policies in effect.

ALL APPLICANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

For more details or information regarding this opportunity, please contact the Manitoba Metis Federation Housing Department at 204-586-8474 Ext. 349.



Métis Beadwork – A Traditional Craft

The Métis are well known as the “flower beadwork people” for their stunning beaded floral designs. To carry on the beadwork tradition, Louis Riel Institute (LRI) has formed a group of local beaders that meets every Wednesday evening from 5-8 pm. The group has recently decided on officially naming themselves **The Flower Beadwork Circle**. During these meets, group participants are able to share ideas, patterns, techniques and their knowledge of the traditional Métis craft.

In the past, the beaded designs were used to decorate jackets, vests, bags, leggings, gloves, and sashes. Beadwork designs were also used to symbolize the valued relationships the Métis had with their animals. Elaborate decorative designs would adorn equipment such as horse halters, bridles, martingales, blankets, pad saddles, pouches and whips. The colours and patterns used in the designs also helped identify family or clan. These designs are still widely used today to decorate items such as moccasins, mukluks, jackets, gloves, bags, and jewelry.

LRI has a variety of local beaders of all ages attending their weekly Flower Beadwork Circle. Beaders of all levels are welcome to join this diverse group. Those who have experience with the craft are encouraged to bring in pieces of their own. LRI provides beginners wanting to learn the craft with a starter pack. Beginners looking to join the group are encouraged to give advanced notice of their attendance to ensure the availability of supplies. The group functions on a drop-in basis and operates year-round.

Due to heightened interest in the traditional Métis craft, The Flower Beadwork Circle has recently started to plan fundraising events where Métis products and crafts will be sold to help expand group resources. The funds raised will go towards beadwork resources such as creating a Master binder of collected patterns that will include information about the designer and origins of the style. Funds will also be used to cover the costs of basic supplies for new beaders. Some moneys will also be used to hire experts to speak and teach workshops on other traditional crafts. LRI

will also use remaining monies to help other youth groups, small organizations, or Métis Locals start their own traditional beadwork group.

The Flower Beadwork Circle is hosting their first fundraising event at the Manitoba Hydro Building in Winnipeg on Friday May 27, 2016. Hydro has an Indigenous Awareness week at the end of May during which time a Métis traditional craft table will be set up. The craft table will include small fire bags, voyageur dolls, key chains and lanyards and more. Members of the public and those interested in learning more about traditional Métis beadwork are invited to attend.

If you are interested in learning the traditional Métis beadwork craft, or have questions about the Flower Beadwork Circle, please contact Louise Gordey at 204-984-9480 or email lgordey@mmf.mb.ca.



Métis National Policy Convention

Vancouver, British Columbia | March 29-31, 2016

Clockwise from Upper Left: Métis National Council President Clement Chartier addresses Delegates, Panel Discussion on Defining Métis Citizenship, MMF President David Chartrand and Mr. Tom Isaac share a break, Jean Teillet presents on the Métis Homeland, Delegate speaking during panel Q&A session.



MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION AFFORDABLE HOUSING **FOR RENT**



TWO BRAND NEW DUPLEXES AVAILABLE FOR RENT JUNE 1, 2016

Located at 339-23rd Street and 341-23rd Street in Brandon, MB.

Each newly constructed duplex consists of a 1-bedroom suite and a 3-bedroom suite.

RENT

**1-Bedroom - \$612.00/month plus utilities
(2 units available)**

**3-Bedroom - \$954.00/month plus utilities
(2 units available)**

No pets and no smoking policies in effect.

ALL APPLICANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

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