



Le Metis



President's Message

Many of our Métis Citizens have been contacting their government about what this decision exactly means for the Métis Nation. Some have asked about whether or not Métis are now 'Indians'. Well, the easy answer is NO; we are still a proud Métis Nation. Others have asked will we be placed on reserves. NO. Some have asked does this mean we will still have to pay taxes. Maybe.

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Read this historic landmark decision by the Supreme Court at <http://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/15858/index.do>
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Last week the decision by the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) was a VICTORY for the Métis Nation. We have worked towards this recognition since the beginning of Confederation in 1867. In its landmark ruling the SCC affirmed Canada has a constitutional and jurisdictional responsibility for the Métis Nation under s. 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867.

In its decision, Justice Abella of the SCC wrote "The history of Canada's relationship with its Indigenous peoples, inequities are increasingly revealed and remedies urgently sought...This case represents another chapter in the pursuit of reconciliation and redress in that relationship." The judgment also clearly "recognized that Métis...have no one to hold accountable for the inadequate status quo". The Court went on to describe it as Métis left in a "jurisdictional wasteland". Well, my Friends, this is to END that discrimination of policies that has treated us so wrong.

This historic SCC decision places a clear duty upon the federal government to negotiate with the MMF, the democratically elected representative government of the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community. This will set up a new framework between Canada and the Métis. It is a good ruling for the Citizens of the Métis Nation - a Nation born and raised in Manitoba's Red River Valley - the heart of the Métis Nation Homeland.

While the SCC decision has an immediate bearing on the responsibilities of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), it also requires all departments of the federal government, including INAC, to negotiate with the MMF to fully understand it's far reaching implication and implement it's full promise. I believe this is the beginning of some sunny days for the Métis Nation. However, we must be patient and we must be wise in our discussions as we negotiate a modern treaty with Canada.

The Métis National Council is preparing a series of plain speaking questions and answers that will help our Métis Citizens understand the full implication of this decision and what our next steps will be as we continue to negotiate with and be reconciled to Canada. I have directed our Communications Department to share this with our Métis Citizens as soon as they have this information. We will be sharing it online at www.mmf.mb.ca, using social media such as Facebook and Twitter; we will also be sending it to our Regional Offices and to our Locals. We will be publishing it in Le Metis and sharing at our Regional and Local meetings.

This decision has also renewed interest in Citizenship

with the Métis Nation. We are very excited about this and are looking forward to welcoming our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, cousins and our extended families. The Central Registry Office is currently preparing important videos, advertisements, brochures and information packages on Citizenship that we will be sharing with you in the very near future. In the meantime, if you have any questions about Citizenship with the Métis Nation, wish to renew your Citizenship card, or bring your contact information up to date so we can share important news with you, I invite you to get in touch with the Central Registry Office at (204) 586-8474. You can also find the latest news from your Métis government on our website or Facebook page.

Finally, I want to share with you again that very soon we will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Canada that will help prepare the way for formalizing a framework for settling our land claims. Both this and the recent

SCC decision complements and reaffirms our rights under s. 35 of the Constitution as one of Canada's three Indigenous Peoples. The Métis Citizens of Manitoba and its representative government - the Manitoba Metis Federation - look forward to advancing a path of reconciliation and a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Canada. As I said after our land claim decision in March 2013: our time has come and our time is now!

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 for and share my heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for all our neighbours, friends, and families who have lost loved ones. May they be comforted during this difficult time.

Meeqwetch,

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

2017 Summer Games Memorandum of Understanding

On April 7, 2016 the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), Treaty 1 and Treaty 3 First Nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to co-host the 50th Anniversary of the 2017 Canadian Summer Games (CSG).

It has been 18 years since Winnipeg hosted an event as large as what the 2017 CSG are projected to be. This is why Games' officials, President Jeff Hnatiuk and Co-Chair Barry Mathers, invited Manitoba Metis Federation's Mona Buors, Treaty No. 1's Dennis Meeches and Treaty No. 3's Don Courchene to sign a MOU to co-host the Games.

The MOU acknowledges the MMF and First Nations as official co-hosts of the 50th Anniversary. It also states CSG Officials will work collaboratively with its Indigenous partners throughout the duration of the Games. The MOU recognizes the games will be played in the heart of the Métis Nation Homeland as well as on Treaty 1 and Treaty 3 territories.

"With the participation and support of Treaty No. 1, Treaty No. 3, and the Manitoba Metis Federation, we hope to make these Games the most inclusive and successful in history," said Hubert Mesman, Co-Chair of the 2017 Canada Summer Games.

This partnership has three objectives to create a successful 50th Anniversary:

The first is to ensure Indigenous people's territorial protocols are respected and Indigenous communities are included in all aspects of planning and participating



in the 2017 Canada Summer Games, such as hospitality and opening and closing ceremonies.

The second goal is to incorporate the importance of Indigenous youth in sport in the 2017 Games.

"My mother said when kids were acting up in school a teacher would make them run," states Terrance Nelson, Grand Chief of Southern Chiefs' Organization. "Afterwards, the teachers noticed a difference in the kids with their school work - they were able to concentrate better and complete their school work."

The last objective of the Memorandum is to increase public education and awareness of the history and cultures of Indigenous peoples as a step towards continued reconciliation and collaboration between Canada and its Indigenous peoples.

Buors of the MMF expressed her enthusiasm for the upcoming festivities; "We are very honored to be a part of the 50th anniversary and are excited to share our Homeland and culture with the athletes and visitors who will be participating."

In 2017 Canada will mark the 150th Anniversary of Confederation as well as the 50th Anniversary of the Canada Games. The Games are expected to bring more than 20,000 visitors and over 4,000 athletes and coaches to Winnipeg on July 28 - August 13, 2017.

With the Games being played in the Heart of the Métis Homeland, it is appropriate and important we are represented as co-hosts. The partnership represented by the MOU will have a deep historical legacy that will help expose the Métis Community and our culture much farther than the Games.

Provincial Election Candidates Forum

On Sunday, April 10th the Selkirk Red River Métis Local hosted a 2016 Provincial Election Candidate Forum. Each candidate was quizzed on the rights and freedoms of the Métis Nation.

Over 100 citizens in the Selkirk Electoral District attended the event and heard each candidate's position at the Selkirk Friendship Centre Small Hall.

The candidates included Liberal Party's Stefan Jones, incumbent NDP Greg Dewar, Selkirk Conservative Party candidate Alan Lagimodiere, and Manitoba Metis Federation's Energy and Infrastructure Minister Jack Park as the moderator.

All three candidates were given 10 questions with two minutes to answer, plus three minutes of opening and statements. The questions revolved around different Métis issues such as land claims, health



care, fisheries, and ongoing partnerships with the Manitoba Metis Federation.

"It wasn't a stone throwing event," says Park. All three candidates even recognized the Métis as self-governing nation.

The Selkirk Red River Métis Local was pleased to

see that currently there are 12 candidates of Métis ancestry running in the provincial election, including the candidates participating in the forum which is something Manitobans haven't seen yet.

All three candidates also claimed they would work closely with the MMF to help the Métis Nation in years to come if elected



Running for the Red

Beginning April 30th, 18-year-old Kayleen McKay will be making a 445 kilometer run from Duck Bay, Manitoba to the Alexander Docks in Winnipeg. She is a young Métis woman who will be running to raise money for *Drag the Red* in honor of her cousin Shawn.

In July of last year McKay was struck with the abrupt and tragic loss of her cousin to suicide. It was *Drag the Red* who assisted her family immensely in the process of looking for him and recovering his body.

"It was a feeling of hopelessness for us as a family," says McKay. "*Drag The Red* was there to help us and [they] continued searching until he was found. For that, I am extremely thankful to them."

Drag the Red is a non-profit group of volunteers based in Winnipeg. Their sole objective is to sweep the bottom of the Red River looking for any clues on recent missing persons.

Since that tragic period, McKay has been training vigorously to make the run to raise awareness and funds for *Drag the Red*. She prepares by running 16 to 20 kilometers a day. She has even missed her high school trip to London, England so she could dedicate her time fully to the cause.

Her plan is to run 45 kilometers a day for 10 days starting in the hometown of her family - Duck Bay. She aims to make it to Dauphin for May 2nd, pass through Vogar by the 5th, and continue on to Ericksdale, St. Laurent, and finally the Alexander Docks in Winnipeg by the 10th of May.

To support her efforts, you can visit her GoFundMe webpage located at <https://www.gofundme.com/rve7yxt6> or you can also search for her on the GoFundMe webpage under, "Kayleen McKay's Run for Drag the Red." You may also donate at any RBC using the following account information: 06827 - 003 - 514 - 381 - 3.

Good luck Kayleen! The Métis Nation is proud of your efforts and stand behind you as you run to support *Drag the Red*.



Metis Employment & Training

Now Hiring For: **Project Officer** **- The Pas**

The Pas Regional Office - The Pas, MB

Metis Employment & Training seeks to fill one **Project Officer** position located at **The Pas Regional Office** in The Pas, 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 and 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, May 2, 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

Supreme Court of Canada hands Métis Nation Victory in Daniels Decision

After nearly 150 years of wandering a 'jurisdictional wasteland' the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the federal government has constitutional jurisdiction and responsibility for the Métis Nation and its Manitoba Métis Community governed by the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF).

Leaders from across the Métis Nation, including Ministers and President of the MMF, were on hand to receive this historic, landmark decision.

"This decision by the SCC confirms s. 91(24) applies to the Manitoba Métis. This will set up a new framework between Canada and the Métis," stated MMF President David Chartrand, "It is a good ruling for the Citizens of the Métis Nation - a Nation born and raised in Manitoba's Red River Valley - the heart of the Métis Nation Homeland."

The MMF is preparing a list of plain speaking questions and answers on this crucial victory in the MMFs pursuit of reconciliation with Canada. We will be sharing this information via our website, social media, our Regional Offices and in the next issue of *Le Metis*.



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 ManitobaMetisFederationOfficial

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 www.mmf.mb.ca

