



Le Métis



President's Message

\$6000 at the Docks pushing the amount she raised over ten days to more than \$14,000! Other community minded people and organizations like Sylvano Poletta, Vickar Chev-Olds, and D'Arcy & Deacon LLP also contributed in strong ways to the success of Kayleen's run.

The energy and tenacity of our Métis youth never ceases to amaze me. It seems whenever they put their minds to a task, not even hell or high water can stop them. It is this ability to dream big and do the hard work to make them come through that will carry the Métis Nation forward. We should take every advantage to encourage and promote this in our youth.

The energy and tenacity of our Métis youth never ceases to amaze me. It seems whenever they put their minds to a task, not even hell or high water can stop them.

..... This is also a reason why I believe we need to invest in the future of our Métis youth by helping provide them with access to educational opportunities. A good education will help harness the energy and potential of our youth and convert it to seizing opportunity and wrestling it into strong, vibrant and stable families and communities. One day our youth will become our leaders - many already are! They will set our Nation's course - making decisions that will help us to live beyond what we dream possible today.

The Métis Nation is a vibrant Indigenous Nation within Canada, with our own culture, traditions and language - Michif. Our Nation was born in the Red River Valley of what is now Manitoba. We are called Otipemisiwak: "The people who own themselves; the



President Chartrand and family with Kayleen McKay at conclusion of her 420 KM run from Duck Bay to Winnipeg.

independent ones." Today we are a nation without borders. This is an important time in our Nation's history. The work we do today will influence our land and its resources for generations - and we need you to add your voice to this great Métis Nation. As a Citizen, you'll have a say in setting our Nation's course for the future.

If you have not yet applied for your Métis Citizenship, I encourage you to begin the process today. This month, our Central Registry Office, with the assistance of our Communications Department, will begin a campaign to share with you the importance of Métis Citizenship and explain the process of how to become a Citizen. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for exciting information on our Citizenship campaign.

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,

It was with pride that I watched 17 year old Kayleen McKay arrive at the Alexander Docks in Winnipeg. Kayleen, a young Métis girl, had just completed a 420KM run from Duck Bay to Winnipeg in honour of her cousin who had lost his life in the Red River. Along the way she also raised over \$8000 to support the volunteer searchers *Drag the Red* who help bring closure to families of the missing and murdered by searching for clues along the Red River. When she arrived at the Docks, many staff and friends from the Manitoba Métis Federation were there to welcome her. I am proud to say your Métis Government Ministers and staff of the MMF donated another

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

A Modern Journey through Winnipeg's Past

There is an important story deeply woven into the fabric of Winnipeg's history. It is the story of a people who stood their ground and persevered over hundreds of years, who fought hardship after hardship to improve their children's future and the future of Canada itself. These people - the Métis - had a vision for Manitoba, and are the ones who made the province what it is today.

The Guided Historic Metis Tour, offered by the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) through the Louis Riel Institute, escorts sightseers by bus to significant historical Métis sites around Winnipeg. Over the span of about two hours, a guide recounts the diverse chapters of Métis - and Manitoban - history.

The site of Upper Fort Garry is where the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia, under Louis Riel's provisional government, sat and negotiated Manitoba's entrance into Canada. This site is where the Métis proposed their Bill of Rights, which included the essential need for both English and French as official languages. Tourists are invited to use the Upper Fort Garry app, available in the iTunes store, to take a virtual tour of the historic site. All that remains of the original Fort today is a single, castle-reminiscent stone gate.

"It's exciting when you're Métis, and you find out that it's your ancestors that paved the way," says Sharon Parenteau, tour guide and General Manager of the Louis Riel Institute. "And you don't have to be a Riel to be proud. It was thanks to the Métis that we're a bilingual country."

Tour-goers are also invited to explore the grounds of Riel House. This small house on River Road belonged to the mother of celebrated Métis leader Louis Riel. Riel himself did not live there, but his body was laid in state at Riel House for two days prior to his burial. Riel's death was a result of leading the 1885 Northwest Rebellion, to protect Métis rights when their land was stolen and given to settlers. Land claim



Bannock and Tea being served on Guided Historic Metis Tour.

issues arose when Canada did not keep the terms of its treaty with the Métis set in the Manitoba Act 1870.



Photo of Riel House taken on Guided Historic Metis Tour.

"When people begin to understand that the Métis were actually displaced from their land, they get a better idea of why we have fought so hard," Parenteau adds.

The tour bus takes the exact route Riel's body was

transported from Riel House to his final resting place in St. Boniface. On that day in history, thousands of people lined the streets to pay their respects. Tourists are also able to visit Riel's grave at the St. Boniface Cathedral. At the nearby St. Boniface Museum, the oldest building in Manitoba, Riel's personal Métis sashes are on public display.

A sad chapter in Métis history is that of Elzéar Goulet, who worked with Louis Riel. After Riel's execution, Goulet was stoned to death by opposing soldiers as he tried to escape by swimming across the Red River. No arrests were ever made in his death. He is commemorated by Parc Elzéar Goulet in St. Boniface.

The Guided Historic Metis Tour will be available to the public during the MMF's commemoration of the Battle of Seven Oaks on June 19 and 20, 2016. Individuals interested in learning more details about the tours that weekend can contact the Louis Riel Institute or Tripartite Self-Negotiations in Winnipeg. Private tours for groups of individuals are also available by request to the Louis Riel Institute.

President Chartrand Applauds Federal Government's Support of UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People

Winnipeg, MB - On May 10th the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs announced that Canada is a full supporter of the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP).

"I am here to announce on behalf of Canada, that we are now a full supporter of the Declaration, without qualification," stated Minister Bennett. "We intend nothing less than to adopt and implement the Declaration in accordance with the Canadian Constitution. By adopting and implementing the Declaration, we are breathing life into section 35

and recognizing it as full box of rights for Indigenous peoples."

President Chartrand of the Manitoba Metis Federation expressed his appreciation and confidence in the approach the federal government under Prime Minister Trudeau has been taking in reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous People.

"I recall when I first spoke to our Prime Minister. During our conversation he told me that he is going to repair the broken relationship between Canada and its Indigenous People," said President Chartrand. "He

- and Minister Bennett - assured me on a number of occasions that reconciliation with the Métis Nation is of utmost importance to this government. This announcement is just another indication that this new government is not only speaking the words of reconciliation, but are also doing the hard and necessary work to make sure reconciliation does happen."

To view Minister Carolyn Bennett's announcement that Canada will fully support UNDRIP, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qbe-HW7AP0>.

Manitoba Welcomes New Canadian Citizens

Fifty immigrants from around the world were welcomed as new Canadians at a citizenship ceremony in Winnipeg on May 9, 2016. The ceremony was held at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights at The Forks. John Ralston Saul, co-founder of the Institute of Canadian Citizenship and a companion of the Order of Canada, gave a keynote address. He noted in his address that much of Canada's immigration philosophy, and openness toward new citizens, stems from our Indigenous people's teachings.

"One of the reasons immigration works for our country comes from those very first days when Indigenous people accepted us as partners. We, as newcomers learned immigration their way - which is to welcome new people, to make our circle larger," explained Saul.

Ron Chartrand, Vice-President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, affirmed the importance of inclusion. He described how throughout our country's early history, the Métis helped new immigrants adjust and survive in Canada's severe weather conditions.

"The Red River Métis at once welcomed settlers from Britain, Scotland, the Ukraine and other European countries," said Chartrand. "Today, I am pleased to welcome you to this great country and in particular, to Winnipeg: the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland."

The ceremony's prelude included round-table discussions between new Citizens and Canadian Hosts. The discussions allowed a chance for some to voice their excitement about becoming official Canadians.

"We talk about how we can bring changes to Canada," said one new Citizen. "As a science teacher, I focus a lot on environmental conservation. I say, just one little step on my part can bring a lot of change in Canada, and I'm helping my sons to become better and caring Canadians - for the present and for the future as well."

Winnipeg's mayor, Brian Bowman, described Canada as the place 'where the world meets' as he extended an enthusiastic welcome to all new Citizens. Bowman emphasized that a Winnipegger is a Winnipegger, no matter how long a person had lived in this country - whether they had been here for a hundred years, or had only been officially a Canadian for twenty minutes.

"You are one of us, and we are with you, and we are all together as Canadian Citizens."



MMF Vice-President Ron Chartrand and Mayor Brian Bowman congratulate new Canadian Citizens.



Round-table discussion with new Canadian Citizens.



Platform Party welcomes new Canadian Citizens to Winnipeg.

Manitoba Metis Federation Congratulates Margaret Froh on being elected President of the Métis Nation of Ontario

Winnipeg, MB - On behalf the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Citizens, President David Chartrand and Cabinet of the Manitoba Metis Federation offer their sincere congratulations to Margaret Froh on being elected President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO).

"The Métis Nation is built on a strong foundation of democracy," stated President Chartrand. "My Cabinet Ministers and I wish to congratulate President-Elect Margaret Froh on her election to the high office of leadership by the Métis Citizens of Ontario."

MNO held its elections on May 2, 2016 to succeed President Gary Lipinski when he retired after more

than two decades of holding political office - 8 years of which he served as President. Results of the election were released on May 11, 2016.

"We thank President Lipinski for his work over the past 8 years as President of MNO," said President Chartrand. "We look forward to opportunities working with President-Elect Froh and her cabinet."

The Manitoba Metis Federation also wishes to extend congratulations to all candidates elected or acclaimed during the recent MNO elections. Election results can be found here: <http://www.metisnation.org/news-media/news/2016-mno-elections-results/>

The Battle of Seven Oaks

The first settlers arrived in the Red River Valley in 1812. Unbeknownst to them, their arrival would eventually disrupt the fur trade and become the catalyst for one of the most critical historical moments for the Métis - the Battle of Seven Oaks.

In the 1800s, the fur trade was dominated by two companies: the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), who brought settlers overseas from Europe, and the North West Company (NWC). Numerous Métis worked independently as guides, translators, and voyageurs, regularly supplying provisions to trading posts for both companies. At first, relations between the Métis, the HBC, and the NWC were pleasant.

In the summer of 1813, the settlers' crops failed, and the next group's arrival to the Red River was delayed. To combat a potential famine, the HBC's Governor Miles MacDonnell imposed the Pemmican Proclamation one year later in 1814. The Proclamation banned pemmican exports for one year. MacDonnell's reasoning was that, by banning exports, he would ensure the new wave of settlers arriving would have food.

The Métis and the NWC were furious, knowing the Proclamation would destroy their business while allowing the HBC to take control of the fur trade. That same year, MacDonnell also banned bison hunting from horseback near the Red River settlement. The Métis saw this as especially insulting, as hunting bison on horseback was an important part of their culture and livelihood. The Métis and the NWC joined in partnership to fight against the HBC's declarations.

The NWC, together with the Métis, became rivals with the HBC. Tensions arose not only over the fur trade, but also over lifestyle differences between travelling fur traders and HBC settlers with permanent residences.

By the winter of 1816, conflicts between the NWC and the HBC had become increasingly hostile. They repeatedly raided and burned each other's trading posts and homes. They also arrested their competitor's officials. Retaliation often came quickly from both sides.

The NWC hired Cuthbert James Grant as a 'Captain of the Métis' to help in the resistance against the HBC. On June 16, 1816, Grant was ordered to bring provisions to NWC associates in Lake Winnipeg. He and a party of fifty Métis men were forced to transport two carts of goods overland, because the HBC had seized junctions on the Assiniboine River and Red River. This prevented the NWC from transporting their goods by water.

The HBC's new Governor, Robert Semple, appointed in 1816, was informed about Grant and his armed party when they were spotted crossing the Prairies not far from Fort Douglas. Semple, with a unit of HBC men, rode out to meet Grant's troop at Frog

Plain - modern day West Kildonan in Winnipeg. After Semple exchanged heated words with François Boucher, a member of Grant's party, he grabbed the bridle of Boucher's horse. This action drew fire from Semple's men, and the Métis retaliated.

Semple and twenty of his men were killed in the battle, remembered today as the Battle of Seven Oaks. The Métis lost one warrior.

The Battle of Seven Oaks marks one of the first times in history the Métis distinguished themselves as a Nation. The incident continues to serve as a historical reminder of the distinct strength of spirit, self-discipline, and cultural pride of the Métis.



MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR RENT

**TWO BRAND NEW DUPLEXES AVAILABLE
FOR RENT JUNE 1, 2016**

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

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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.



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**BRAND NEW TRIPLEX AVAILABLE FOR
RENT JUNE 1, 2016**

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

No pets and no smoking policies in effect.

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