



# Le Métis



## President's Message

Sunny days are on the way for the Métis Nation. Already this year we have witnessed the results of well fought battles we have embarked upon as a Nation. In February the Supreme Court of Canada ruled the Federal Government has a jurisdictional and constitutional responsibility for the Métis Nation in its landmark decision on *Daniels v. Canada*. And last week we welcomed Canada - our negotiating partner in Confederation - back to the table as we signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the crucial first step in achieving renewal and reconciliation with Canada.

This MOU will lead to a framework in which we can finally do the noble work of settling our 146-year quest for justice on being robbed of our inheritance. We will have a modern day treaty with Canada that will permit us to set the course of our Nation's future for the betterment of our children, their children and the generations that follow.

I am reminded once again of the AGA after the 2013 Supreme Court of Canada decision on our land claim. When I brought the good news back to our people and asked them how they would like to proceed, all 3000+ delegates unanimously said we want to place any money and lands we receive into a trust for our children and future generations. This direction by our Métis Citizens means our families will no longer ask "Can I afford to send my children to University?" the question will now be "Which University do you want to attend?" This will be a major accomplishment!

Many people have fought hard for this day to come. Sadly, some are no longer with us. Yet, it was their

efforts, their commitment to the Métis Nation that has brought us to this moment in time where we can see the path to a brighter future for our Citizens shining before us.

Our struggle has not only been historical when we stood with the Métis leader - the Warden of the Plains - Cuthbert Grant in 1816 and raised our Métis Flag in defiance against an oppressive proclamation. It did not end with the Sayer trial in defiance of a HBC monopoly that sought to impoverish our people and prevent them from trading goods to support their families. It did not end when Louis Riel and his government fashioned the List of Rights that formed the framework for the *Manitoba Act, 1870* - Canada's Treaty with the Métis.

Our treaty supersedes Treaty 1 by fourteen months. Our Treaty was not honoured and our people were robbed of their rights and chased from their lands. Our struggle continued with Riel leading a resistance against the aggression of our partner in Confederation. It did not stop when - as Sir Wilfred Laurier so aptly put it - the judicial murder of Riel was carried out.

No, my friends, our struggle continued to modern memory. During the MOU Signing Ceremony last week, Métis Elder George Fleury recounted from memory how the mounted police and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Association shot the animals, burned the houses and church in Ste. Madeline to make this Métis settlement a cow pasture.

Despite serving in Canada's two great wars, our Métis veterans were not welcomed back home as equal partners and patriots - even though they stood with Canada against oppression on the world stage. No, our veterans returned home and continued their fight against inequality and oppression.

Even after Harry Daniels and the Métis negotiated the recognition of the Métis in the Canadian Constitution in 1982, we were told this recognition was nothing more than an empty promise. Governments at that time said this recognition meant nothing - it was an empty box.

So we continued the fight in the courts. In 2013 the

Supreme Court of Canada ruled the federal Crown failed to implement the land grant provision set out in s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* in accordance with the honour of the Crown. In its decision, the Court described this grievance as an "ongoing rift in the national fabric."

Our Métis Nation was born in struggle. And we will continue to fight until the last right is secured and each Métis Citizen is assured of their future and has received their long awaited inheritance.

I am proud of our new Prime Minister. He promised us at our AGA in 2013 that he would settle our land claim. Again in the lead up to the 2015 federal election he reaffirmed his commitment in writing to settle the land claim if he formed government. Once elected, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau began making good on his promise to the Métis Nation when he issued a mandate letter to the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. The very next day after being sworn in, Minister Bennett called me at my home and asked me if we could begin the work of reconciliation.

Our federal government, under Prime Minister Trudeau and through the leadership of Minister Bennett, met with us last week - Nation-to-Nation - and signed the MOU that will embark us upon a journey of partnership renewal and reconciliation with Canada.

This is the start of sunnier days for the Métis. I made you a promise when I was first elected that I would bring us here and see us through. I reaffirm my commitment and resolve to you to negotiate a strong, fair and beneficial modern day treaty with Canada on behalf of you - our Métis Citizens.

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.

# MMF and Federal Government Celebrate Historic MOU Signing



MMF President Chartrand and Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development, Carolyn Bennett, with signed MOU.

On Friday, May 27th the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development, Dr. Carolyn Bennett, toward a path of renewal and reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation.

Well over a hundred Métis citizens and delegates were on hand at MMF Home Office on Henry Avenue to watch this historic signing between the Minister and President of the MMF, David Chartrand.

The MOU Signing Ceremony began with the Signatories to the MOU being led in a procession by Métis Elder and Fiddler Oliver Boulette who played the Red River Jig. Once everyone was seated, Métis Elder George Fleury gave a prayer of thanks and blessing in Michif. As one of the founding members of the MMF, Elder Fleury expressed his happiness seeing the Métis Government move its citizens forward in reconciliation with its negotiating partner in Confederation.

In attendance were newly appointed Provincial Minister of Indigenous and Municipal Relations, Eileen Clarke - who witnessed the signing, and the Federal Minister of Natural Resources, Jim Carr. Other local MP's Dan Vandal and Robert-Falcon Ouellette also attended the ceremony. The Honourable Lloyd

Axworthy, a member of the MMF Trust Advisory Committee and former federal minister sat in the front row of the ceremony. Joining him was fellow trustee advisor Mr. Eric Newell.

The signing of the MOU was a crucial first step in reconciliation between the Métis Nation and the Crown as represented by the Federal Government. The document outlines the objective of both parties to create a negotiation framework that will lead to a modern-day treaty between Canada and the Métis Nation. It also represents a return to dialogue between these two partners in Confederation after a long, painful 146-year-old absence.

"We are very pleased to have our negotiating partner back at the table," said President Chartrand. "This MOU puts us on the path of meaningful reconciliation, which our people have sought for generations. Through mutual respect and a common desire for change, I believe we can ultimately achieve a shared solution that remedies our outstanding constitutional claim and benefits the Manitoba Métis Community as well as the province we helped to create and call home - Manitoba."

The MOU was signed by the two parties to begin a journey of reconciliation spurred by the landmark 2013 *Manitoba Métis Federation et al. V. Canada*

decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. The MOU begins the process of establishing common ground in which to begin formal Nation-to-Nation negotiations for a modern day treaty. The MOU recognizes one another's importance of participation in this process of advancing renewal and reconciliation.

During her remarks, Minister Bennett acknowledged the Federal Government's responsibility for seeking reconciliation with the Métis.

"Today we have taken an important first step to renew and strengthen Canada's relationship with the Manitoba Métis Community. These exploratory talks with the Manitoba Metis Federation demonstrate our commitment to working with our partner in a true spirit of co-operation and respect to advance reconciliation and map the way together toward a shared prosperous future."

After the MOU Signing Ceremony there was a celebration in Elsie Bear's Kitchen that featured traditional Métis jiggers and fiddle music. A light lunch was also served to the invited guests.

This summer President David Chartrand and other government representatives of the MMF will be hosting meetings throughout the MMF Regions about our collective claim and the next steps in advancing reconciliation with Canada.



Métis Fiddler Oliver Boulette leads procession through packed room for MOU Signing Ceremony to the lively sound of the Red River Jig.



Celebrations in Elsie Bears Kitchen after historic MOU signing.

# Dedicated Métis Teen Receives Awards for Community Involvement and Mental Health Initiatives



Léost holding her Gerrie Hammond Award of Promise she received at the YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Gala and her Junior Athletic Achievement Award she was nominated and chosen for at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards.

Tracie Léost is a 17-year-old Métis woman from Winnipeg who will be graduating from Garden City Collegiate on June 23rd. She recently received three awards for active involvement within her community. She has been raising awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) as well as devoting her energy towards mental health initiatives such as Youth Against Mental Illness Stigma (YAMIS).

In August 2015, Tracie ran 115KM to raise awareness for MMIW after seeing the Harper government repeatedly deny the proposed idea for a public inquiry.

"I ended up complaining in my Native Studies class for two whole semesters after I learned that [Prime Minister] Stephen Harper wasn't stepping up and making this change for our country," Léost said.

Already being a competitive long-distance runner with several half-marathons under her belt, Léost decided to use her athletic skills to create awareness about this important issue. Also as a leader in the Aboriginal Student Leadership Group at her school, she has been very outspoken regarding the issue of

MMIW in her Native studies class.

"It was my Native Studies teacher who sparked the idea I could maybe do something to raise awareness around the issue," said Léost. "After a while I realized I could use my athletic talent to help others."

On May 4, the Métis teen was honoured with the Gerrie Hammond Award of Promise at the annual YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Gala that took place at the RBC Convention Centre. The award is presented to a Winnipeg woman who is graduating from grade 12, has made an outstanding contribution to their school or community, and who is also considered a role model for other young women. Léost was nominated by a close family friend and was honoured with the award for using her talent to raise awareness around MMIW. In total, the teen's 115KM run raised over \$6000 for the Families First Foundation that helps assist families of MMIW.

In addition to being recognized for raising awareness around MMIW, Léost also received awards for her dedication towards mental health initiatives and her involvement with Youth Against Mental Illness Stigma (YAMIS). On May 19, she received the

2016 Youth Role Model Award under the Advocacy Award Category on behalf of the City of Winnipeg Citizen Equity Committee. The recipient of this award demonstrates consistency and maintains a track record in promoting current issues. Léost also received the Young Humanitarian Award presented by the Manitoba Teachers Society on May 26 for devoting her energy towards YAMIS and her involvement in the community.

After graduation Léost plans to attend the University of Regina to pursue a career in social work. As she begins her study she is keeping her mind on an even bigger long-term goal.

"I definitely want to help others. I work well with kids, and I want to change the statistical fact that 90% of youth in CFS are Aboriginal," said Léost. "A lifelong goal for me is to campaign to [become] Prime Minister...eventually I want to become more involved politically."



Léost with her 2016 Youth Role Model Award and 2016 Young Humanitarian award.

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# Celebrating 200 Years of Métis History: Cuthbert Grant Commemoration Day

Cuthbert James Grant is renowned as the Métis leader who helped his Citizens triumph at the Battle of Seven Oaks on June 19, 1816. The battle began when the Hudson's Bay Company Governor Robert Semple and his men opened fire on Grant and sixty Métis who were crossing Frog Plain. Grant and the Métis - who were on their way to deliver supplies to allies in Lake Winnipeg - retaliated. Semple and twenty of his men were killed in the Battle of Seven Oaks.

In the hours leading up to the fight, the Métis flag flew prominently as the men made the journey to deliver their provisions. The battle was a momentous historical incident that helped define the Métis as a strong, self-governing, self-sufficient, and culturally distinct Nation. Some Métis call the battle the Victory of Frog Plain (la Victoire de la Grenouillère).

On June 19, 2016, the Métis National Council (MNC) will host a commemoration day for Cuthbert Grant and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Seven Oaks.

The day will begin with a commemoration at Grant's grave marker at the cemetery of St. François Xavier Roman Catholic Parish.

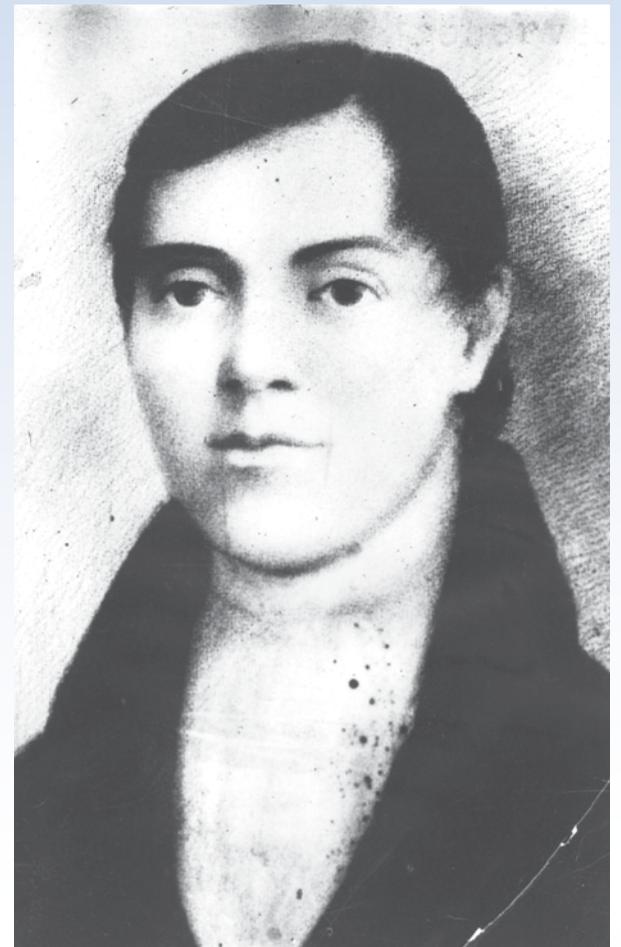
In 1834, Grant was approached by the local Governor, George Simpson, to form a new Métis community.

Grant led eighty Métis families 29 km west of Fort Garry, where they built and established Grantown - which was later renamed St. François Xavier.

After the memorial, commemoration attendees will join MNC delegates and staff at Grant's Old Mill Museum in Winnipeg. Grant's Old Mill is a recreation of the watermill Grant built on Sturgeon Creek in 1829, one of the first of its kind in the area. A lunch will be available for public attendees to purchase during this time.

Following lunch at the Mill, attendees will meet at the Battle of Seven Oaks National Historic Site for a ceremonial commemoration of the battle. A new monument recognizing the event will be unveiled at the site in the West Kildonan area of Winnipeg, known historically as Frog Plain - where the battle took place. The Battle of Seven Oaks National Historic Site is located at the intersection of Main Street and Rupert's Land Boulevard in Winnipeg.

The Battle of Seven Oaks is a key event in the emergence of the Métis as a distinct Nation, both culturally and politically, in Canadian history. This year's 200-year anniversary commemoration serves as an important reminder of our Nation's growth and progress throughout history - progress that advanced substantially thanks to individuals like Cuthbert Grant and events such as the Battle of Seven Oaks.



An undated photo of Cuthbert James Grant.



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**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  
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**3-Bedroom - \$954.00/month plus utilities (2 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.**



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

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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.

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