



Le Métis



President's Message

These Laws recognize our inherent right to harvest while acknowledging our inherent responsibility for good conservation and resource management. Any Métis Harvester abiding by the Metis Laws of the Harvest will be protected if they are prosecuted or harassed by the Province.

The Métis have always supported and protected our families, our community and our way of life. We have done this for many generations, and continues today. We must remember the actions and leadership of those generations before us. Just recently, delegates from across the Métis Homeland gathered here in Winnipeg - the birthplace of the Métis Nation and Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland - to commemorate Cuthbert Grant Jr.

The Métis have an inherent right to harvest. We will continue to exercise this right and anyone who tries to tell us otherwise will find themselves on the costly side of a losing argument.

It was 200 years ago on June 19th that Grant led a group of Métis across Frog Plain to deliver supplies to their partners on Lake Winnipeg. They did so in defiance of an oppressive proclamation by the Hudson Bay Company (HBC), which sought to prevent them from freely trading and providing for their families. On their way, Governor Semple of the HBC and his men confronted them. The Métis were victorious. Now known by many as the Battle of Seven Oaks, this served as a catalyst for the crystallization of our identity as the Métis Nation. For the Métis, this is rightly known as La Victoire de la Grenouillère - the Victory of Frog Plain.

Métis Harvesters are responsible hunters, fishers, and trappers. We are the original conservationists. The Métis understand this truth: with rights come responsibilities. Our people harvest in a way that ensures there is fish, wildlife, and plants for food and medicine left for future generations.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) - the self-governing body of Manitoba's Métis Community - developed the Metis Laws of the Harvest through consultation with our Elders and Métis Citizens.

There seems to be some confusion regarding the inherent rights of the Métis People. Recently, the RM of Pipestone passed a resolution and created a petition calling on the Provincial government to regulate Métis Harvesters and create special zones for Métis hunting. They intended to bring this to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Western District Meeting. Using common sense, and knowing their jurisdiction, the AMM refused to hear it.

Again, I wish to emphasize the Métis have inherent rights as Aboriginal people. We will defend these rights. They are not subject to the whims, fallacies or actions of outside agencies, governments or individuals. We take our responsibilities seriously. Our Metis Laws of the Harvest prove this.

What the RM fails to understand is neither they, nor the Province, nor anyone else has the ability to extinguish the existing and inherent rights of the Métis Nation, as recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. The Métis have an inherent right to harvest. We will continue to exercise this right and anyone who tries to tell us otherwise will find themselves on the costly side of a losing argument.

In closing, I offer my thoughts and prayers for those who are shut-in or are having difficult times through failing health, sickness or loss. May you find company, encouragement, and help through your connections with family, friends and community. I wish you the best as you enjoy these warm summer days.

Meeqwetch,

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 www.mmf.mb.ca

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

Learning Métis History with the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia Interactive Resource

Using web-based learning tools and interactive resources, Grade 11 students in Manitoba can now learn about the crucial impact Métis people have had socially and politically in Manitoban and Canadian history.

Developed over a period of 5 years, the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia Interactive Resource was created through a partnership between the Louis Riel Institute (LRI), the Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations (TSN) department of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), and the Manitoba Government Departments of Indigenous & Municipal Relations and Education & Training. The interactive teaching and learning project focuses on the historical Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia (LAA), which was formed by Louis Riel's provisional government to negotiate the creation of the province of Manitoba and its entrance into Confederation with Canada.

By working through a series of interactive modules, the resource uses a four-phase learning process to engage students by: first, provoking their curiosity



Left to Right: Georgina Liberty, Janel Stevenson, Laurie Barkwell, Linda Connor, Scott Delaegher, Grant Anderson, Jeff Legault, Greg Pruden, and Alison Rogan.

about history through interactive simulation activities; second, teaching historical content through presentations, discussions and research; and third, using analytical or evaluative strategies to apply learned knowledge. The final phase comprises the instructor's assessment of whether learning outcomes were satisfactorily reached.

Some of the interactive learning activities the resource uses include: using Google Earth to find streets and roads named after people who lived in the Red River Settlement during the time of the LAA, writing and illustrating a short graphic novel about a historical Red River inhabitant, and taking a virtual tour of the St. Boniface Museum to create a list of items that a Red River student in the nineteenth century might have carried in their backpack.

However, the interactive resource isn't created solely for use in schools.

"This project isn't just for students to use," explained Georgina Liberty, Director of TSN at the MMF and member of the Advisory Committee that created the interactive resource. "Anyone who is interested in learning about history and the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia from a Métis perspective can use this resource."

The project was nominated for a Manitoba Service Excellence Award by the Manitoba Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations. A celebratory luncheon was held June 17, 2016 at the Royal Bank of Canada Convention Centre in Winnipeg for nominees of the 11th Annual Manitoba Service Excellence Awards. A ceremony at the luncheon honoured all nominees and winners for their hard work and contributions to service excellence in Manitoba.

The Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia Interactive Resource has a teaching guide available online in both French and English. The web-based resource was created primarily for the Grade 11 Canadian History curriculum in Manitoba, but its versatility also makes it applicable to a variety of classes, including social studies, math, science, art, physical education, language arts, and more. You can find the resource tool at www.legislativeassemblyofassiniboia.ca.

Fun in the Sun at Selkirk Park

Tuesday, June 21st was a beautiful sunny day at Selkirk Park as people joined together to celebrate the 11th Annual Aboriginal Day Festivities hosted by the Manitoba Metis Federation Selkirk Local.

Families and friends of this free event were treated to live fiddling, jigging, and singing performances by a wide range of Metis entertainers including this year's headliner: Jerry Sereda. A free pancake breakfast that began at 9 am was provided by Big Chad of Bank Approved Vickar Community Chevrolet on Regent Avenue West in Winnipeg. New to the annual afternoon festivities was a deer hide stretching and tanning demonstration hosted by Louis Riel Institute (LRI). A petting zoo, face-painting, bounce-a-roos also made sure everyone in attendance had a great time.

During the event's opening ceremonies Larry Johannson, Mayor of Selkirk, stated how appreciative Selkirk is to have such a strong relationship with its Métis citizens.

"It's certainly a pleasure to be here today. The Métis were very instrumental in making Manitoba, and making Canada, the safe and free place it is today,"



the Mayor said.

Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) President Chartrand also noted the high level of regard the City of Selkirk carries for its Métis citizens.

"It's always a great honour to be here and see the level of respect there is for the Métis in Selkirk with all of the Métis Flags Flying throughout the City," said MMF President David Chartrand. "It truly resonates the relationships and partnerships that can be built between elected bodies."

A big thank you to all the contributors, sponsors and volunteers who helped to organize and plan this free event for everyone to enjoy.



Minister Denise Thomas honoured for decades of work in the Métis Nation



Co-Chairs of the Ka Ni Kanichihk Council, Kimberley Puhach and Sharon Parenteau, present Minister Denise Thomas with Grandmother Award.

Our Grandmothers and Grandfathers are the Knowledge Keepers of our Métis Nation. It is through their wisdom and leadership we learn about our legacy as a distinct Nation with specific values and principles. That is why on June 16th Denise Thomas, Board of Director and Minister of the Manitoba Metis Federation, was honoured by Ka Ni Kanichihk for her long standing commitment to the Métis people. She was recognized at the 15th annual *Keeping the Fires Burning* gala in the RBC Convention Centre.

Ka Ni Kanichihk is a community-based organization emphasizing wellness to build healthy relationships and a sustainable future for Indigenous communities. *Working Together for Reconciliation and Mino Bimaadiziwin: The Good Life* was the theme for this year's gala. During the Gala ceremony, seven elders who have worked to restore their culture in the community were presented with the Grandmother and Grandfather Inductee Award.

"I always knew I would become a leader in fighting for the Métis," said Minister Thomas in her tearful acceptance speech to over 700 people. "I've been involved with the MMF Board since 1988, and now they call me Minister, because the Métis are a government - a government that fights Nation to Nation."

Minister Thomas is currently serving her 28th year on the MMF Board of Directors and was instrumental in helping found the Louis Riel Capital Corporation and Louis Riel Institute - two institutions that aid Métis in business and education in Manitoba. As a Minister with the MMF, her responsibilities include Associate Minister of Land Claims and Alternate to the President of the MMF on the Métis National Council.

"Our Elders are the holders of our histories - the keepers of our traditional knowledge," said

Ka Ni Kanichihk organizers. "It is by way of their remembering and sharing that we retrace our steps back to knowing who we are as Peoples."

The Gala included Ojibwe prayer and honour songs, hoop dancing, Inuit throat singing, and Métis fiddlers Luc and Aidan Wrigley, with Kevin Chief and Tasha Spillett serving as the evening's Co-Emcees.

Six other elders were also recognized and honoured, including Norman Meade from the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg, George McKay from the Assembly of Chiefs, Laverne Contois from Manitoba Moon Voices, Nelson Bunn from Southern Chiefs' Organization, Sarah Barbra Yellowback from Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc., and Murray Sinclair from Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.

"I am very proud of Minister Thomas," said MMF President David Chartrand. "Her work as Vice-President of Southeast Region, paired with her Ministerial duties, are a significant asset to the Métis people. Her achievements enrich and encourage our young Métis citizens to be proud of our rich culture and heritage."

Manitoba Metis Federation
Believe in Yourself - Believe in Metis

48th MMF Annual General Assembly

Save the Date
September 23 - 25, 2016
Assiniboia Downs
3975 Portage Avenue ∞ Winnipeg, Manitoba

Métis woman receives award at Manitoba Legislature recognizing years of work with Indigenous youth

After decades of dedication and commitment to the advancement of education in Métis youth, Sharon Parenteau of the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) received the respected 2016 Manitoba Education Research Network's (MERN) Research Achievement Award on June 17th.

Sharon accepted the award in the Golden Boy Dining Room at the Manitoba Legislative Building while her grandchildren cheered her on. The award ceremony took place during a luncheon with fellow nominees and award winners.

MERN is an organization that works to advance the quality of education in Manitoba by bringing hundreds of educators together to work on various curriculums and share it with the province. This is something no other organization does. This work is done through a collaborative effort on the part of Manitoba's five faculties of education, Manitoba Education, and affiliated partner organizations.

Sharon won the accolade for her significant work in Indigenous education at the local, provincial and national levels - which includes her many years helping provide grants and bursaries for post-secondary Métis students through the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and LRI.

The award ceremony opened with a light lunch and prayer song followed by a speech made by Deputy Minister of Manitoba Education and Training, Bramwell Strain.

"When I first started teaching I thought I could make a difference in about 20 kid's lives," said Sharon during her acceptance speech. "But one year, while I was writing the aboriginal curriculum for middle schools, I worked with over fifty-five teachers. That's over a thousand children [reached]!"

Sharon also helped develop the well-used Standing Tall program which is designed to build and support healthy Métis families. Since 2012 Standing Tall has been a touchstone for LRI for its research initiatives in Métis communities.

"I am very proud of Sharon and the dedication she has for our young Métis citizens' education," said David Chartrand, President of the MMF. "She has influenced so many Métis families in her work with LRI. Her active role in developing Indigenous education research continues to be supportive to the Métis Nation."

Emergence of the Métis Nation: A Symposium hosted by the Louis Riel Institute

The Louis Riel Institute hosted a symposium on June 18, featuring seven special guests speaking on different aspects of the emergence of the Métis Nation and its development over time. The Battle of Seven Oaks was a central theme of the presentations in this special commemorative event marking the 200th anniversary of the skirmish. Symposium speakers included Jean Teillet, Frank Tough, Adam Gaudry, Janique Dubois, Kelly Saunders, and Brenda MacDougall.

Jean Teillet, counsel and partner of the law firm Pape Salter Teillet LLP, spoke about the struggles the Métis faced throughout history, and still face in modern times. She noted the fight for rights and recognition as a Nation is ongoing still today. Teillet, who specializes in Aboriginal rights litigation and negotiations, is the great-grand-niece of Louis Riel. She described a chief element of those struggles has been the different attitudes, morals, and values the Métis had compared to their European settler counterparts.

Considering the Battle of Seven Oaks, Teillet said Cuthbert Grant's generation of Métis, born in the 1790s, were more skilled as warriors and on horseback than their fathers' freeman generation. They also enjoyed safety in numbers as the Métis population had, by this time, grown significantly. They no longer had to avoid large groups of opposing peoples.

"Their mothers were probably Cree or Ojibway, and their uncles and cousins were too. They didn't learn the art of warfare from their freemen, famer fathers. They learned it from their Ojibway and Cree ancestors," said Teillet. "Look at the Cree and Ojibway - they each had a warrior society in place because the Sioux were dangerous. And that's what Cuthbert Grant had organized for the bois-brûlés [at the Battle of Seven Oaks]."

Frank Tough, Professor of Native Studies at the University at Alberta and specialist in Aboriginal post-1870 historical geographies and legal histories, demonstrated in his presentation the Red River Settlement's importance at the core of the Métis Nation's early history.

Using a series of maps for visual reference, Tough explained how, following the merge of the North West Company with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821, large populations of displaced Métis people in the south were encouraged to move to the Red River. They were funded by the HBC for transportation, clothing, tools, ammunition, and small river lots on the Red River for two years. This allowed them to



Frank Tough, Professor of Native Studies at the University of Alberta, describes the seasonal activities of the Red River Métis around 1870.

take up agriculture and allowed the government to supervise their population.

Adam Gaudry has extensively researched nineteenth-century Métis political thought and the Métis-Canada treaty relationship in 1870. Gaudry, who will be joining the Faculty of Native Studies and Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta in July, highlighted in his presentation the Métis did in fact create their own culture and prioritize their own self-interests. They did not adopt an "accidental nationalism" that resulted from working with the North West Company.

"Some historians believe that the Métis weren't motivated by their own self-interests, but rather the influence of outsiders," said Gaudry. "But as the historical record shows, the bois-brûlés were only interested in engaging the North West Company when it suited their interests, and not at the many other times the company wanted them to. In 1815 and 1816, they were willing to work with the Nor'Westers as it restored their ability to hunt buffalo undisturbed and make money by providing the fur traders with provisions."

Janique Dubois, Assistant Professor in the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa, discussed the key guiding principles of the Métis governance system. These principles ensured distinct Métis cultural and political practices were maintained throughout history. Dubois identified five central principles of Métis governance: freedom, kinship, democracy, rule of law and provisionality.

"When we look back to see why there was organization at Seven Oaks, we see that this idea of mobilization was necessary to uphold those principles that were a distinct Métis way of governing themselves," said Dubois. "Those governing ideas came to be practiced and are still at the core of the Métis way of governing. I often hear the concepts of freedom and kinship together in the speeches of Métis leaders."

Kelly Saunders, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Brandon University, explained the historical and continued prominence of Métis women in the progress of their Nation. Saunders, who was instrumental in creating Brandon University's Métis Studies degree program, discussed the role Métis women played in driving the Nation forward from early history.

"It was the women who kept Métis culture alive when their husbands and fathers and sons were killed by Canadian soldiers," said Saunders. "The needlework that women produced, not only the clothes and goods necessary for survival, but the distinctive beadwork and patterns became an emblem of Métis identity and Métis cultural uniqueness."

Brenda MacDougall, Chair of Métis Research at the University of Ottawa, has focused the efforts of her research on connections between Métis families across the Métis homeland. In her presentation, MacDougall explained that these inter-generational familial connections between the Métis - called kinscapes - were integral in early Métis mobilization and organization.

"Kinscapes were extremely influential in forming the Métis Nation through both geographic location and social interactions," MacDougall said. "Métis nationalism was created, shaped, re-shaped and enacted through the process of how the Métis lived their lives in relation to one another."

The symposium was held at the Fort Garry Hotel as part of the Métis National Council General Assembly 2016 and its bicentennial commemoration of the Battle of Seven Oaks, Cuthbert Grant and the Métis Infinity Flag.

