



Le Métis



The Manitoba Métis Federation – the self-governing body representing Manitoba’s Métis community – is in the midst of community consultations regarding the MMF Land Claims case.

I have been enjoying the conversations I have had with many of our Métis Citizens across the province of Manitoba. Already we have visited Churchill, Duck Bay, Dauphin, Kinosota, Roblin, and St. Laurent where we met with Métis Citizens from the locals in the surrounding areas. We have another 15 community consultations scheduled during the summer.

This is an important time for our Métis Citizens to learn about the next steps in the negotiation process for our collective claim against Canada. It is also an excellent time for you, our Citizens, to share your ideas with us on what are the priority topics for these negotiations with Canada to proceed and to share what is important to you as a Métis Citizen.

In the meetings that have taken place so far we have heard time and again how our citizens want to ensure our Children, Grandchildren and those of future generations truly receive the head start promised over 140 years ago. The loudest calls have been for education for our Children. As I have often said before, no longer will our families wonder if their children will be able to afford an education. No, our families will now instead be thinking about which university or college they will send their children to!

Other valuable ideas put forward have been around the issues of access to healthcare and affordability of medicines. A recent study the MMF did with the University of Manitoba has shown that the Métis have some of the worst outcomes in areas of diabetes, amputations, and other life threatening diseases.

President's Message

This study has shown that these outcomes are largely due to the fact that we do not have equal and culturally appropriate access to healthcare despite paying billions in taxes. We must explore all options to ensure our Elders and those in need of care have access to those medicines and services they need.

Our Métis Citizens also expressed their desire for strong economic development opportunities for our towns and villages. I remember when Duck Bay was prospering and we had five stores. Today we do not have any stores at all. Provincial governments have mismanaged our resources for years. Today our fisherman are largely out of business even though the fishery was once a mainstay for many a Métis village. This has to change. As we negotiate self-government, we will be sure to negotiate means to better protect, manage and conserve our natural resources.

When I first resurrected this land claim file back in 1997 when I became President, I made a promise I would see this through to the benefit of all Métis. The first thing I did was make this claim truly a claim of the people. I could have put my name on it as others had done before, but I didn't. I put the Métis people on the claim.

During my recent meetings with our Métis Citizens, I have encountered a few people with a misconception regarding the MMF Land Claim.

A misunderstanding about this claim surrounds the fact that it is a collective claim on behalf of all the Métis of Manitoba. This is not an individual claim seeking compensation on a family by family, lot by lot basis. The Supreme Court of Canada has said that these claims cannot be brought before the court and that it is not prepared to accept them - too much time has passed. However, the highest court in Canada did say they recognize the collective claim of the Métis of Manitoba. It also recognized the fact that the Manitoba Métis Federation is the governing body of Manitoba's Métis Community and the representative for Métis interests.

In 2013 the Supreme Court of Canada made a declaration that the honour of the Crown was breached and that the fact this claim has not been yet settled is an ongoing rift in the national fabric of Canada.

Recently, Mr. Tom Isaac also confirmed this in his

report "A Matter of National and Constitutional Import: Report of the Minister's Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis: Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision."

In his report Mr. Isaac emphasizes the MMF Land Claim has been accepted by the Supreme Court of Canada's 2013 declaration. His recommendation is for the MMF and Canada to move on implementing the declaration. On that matter I am pleased to say we have already moved beyond this recommendation in working with Canada to begin the process of settling this important matter. For full details on his report, I encourage you to visit our website at www.mmf.mb.ca and click the graphic for the Thomas Isaac report.

We are now involved in the next steps to developing a framework for a modern day treaty with Canada, which will deal with the MMF Land Claim. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Canada on May 27, 2016 and we will now develop a negotiations framework. We are now meeting with you, our Métis Citizens, to hear about what you want to see in this framework. We will then put together a draft framework agreement based on your input and put it forward for ratification at our upcoming AGA in Winnipeg on September 23-25, 2016 at the Assiniboia Downs. Once ratified, Canada will take it forward for Cabinet approval and we will begin the formal negotiation of this outstanding 146 year old claim against the Crown.

These are great times for the Métis. After almost a century and a half, we are beginning to see the sun rise on a better day for the Métis Nation. I invite, encourage and ask each Métis Citizen to attend a community consultation meeting happening in their region during the summer months. If you are unable to attend, please visit our website for information on the land claim process. Please also submit your ideas on what you want to see in the framework agreement to ideas@mmf.mb.ca.

Finally, I wish to give my thoughts and prayers for those who are shut-in, ill or have cause for grief. May you find comfort and strength in community with family and friends. I wish you all the best and safe journeys this summer as you get out and enjoy times together at home and away.

Meeqwetch,

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

Back to Batoche 2016

Hundreds of people travelled from across North America this July to celebrate Back to Batoche Days. Since the Back to Batoche festival began in 1971, many people travel to the annual event to reunite with family, friends, and acquaintances. Most importantly, they come to pay respect to the Métis who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect their lands, culture, and families.

This year the event was hosted from July 14th to July 17th. The celebration was held at the Batoche Métis Cultural Grounds, not far from the Batoche National Historic site where the Battle of Batoche took place in May 1885. As part of the weekend's activities, the Métis Nation also honoured and paid tribute to fallen Métis heroes lost during this historic battle. During a special ceremony on Saturday, the Métis Nation commemorated its Métis veterans for their valiant efforts fighting alongside Canada in past World Wars and other armed conflicts.

"We must never forget their sacrifice," said David Chartrand, President of the Manitoba Metis Federation and Minister of Veteran Affairs for the Métis National Council. "It's important to show our young generation that we must remember and honour our Métis Veterans who gave us the freedoms we enjoy today."

The North-West Resistance included a series of battles fought between the Métis and the government of Canada; the final battle was the Battle of Batoche. The Métis believed Canada failed to protect their rights, land, and survival against an influx of settlers. Despite claiming earlier victories at Duck Lake and Fish Creek, the Resistance ended when the Métis were defeated by Canadian government troops during the Battle of Batoche. Despite the defeat of the Resistance, many Métis would later enrol to fight alongside Canada in notable wars such as the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. Even though the Métis assisted Canada during this time, they would become the only ones not formally recognized for their efforts on behalf of Canada.

"A promise was made to these Veterans that when they came back they would be given an economic start for a better future, because they were giving the ultimate sacrifice - their life," said President Chartrand. "The Métis veterans are the only ones that have never been settled with."

After years of effort put forth by the Métis Nation, a memorial monument was unveiled on July 19, 2014 to honour its Métis Veterans. The monument conveys a long-held dream of the Métis to honour and remember the contributions of over 7,000 Métis Veterans who valiantly served to defend our land and freedom. The unveiling ceremony on July 16, 2016, at the Batoche Métis Cultural Grounds included the newly added names of over 5,000 Métis Veterans



MMF President Chartrand and MNC President Chartier pose for picture with Métis Veterans in front of memorial monument.

engraved on the monument.

"We're proud to be at this historic site to pay tribute to your Métis ancestors. Together we memorialize the legendary heroes like Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont," announced Carolyn Bennett, Canadian Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, during the opening ceremonies for Back to Batoche Days. "We also pay tribute to Métis Veterans who served alongside Canada in all of its wars. We recognize the contribution of the Métis as partners in Canada's Confederation and celebrate their culture, heritage, and tradition."

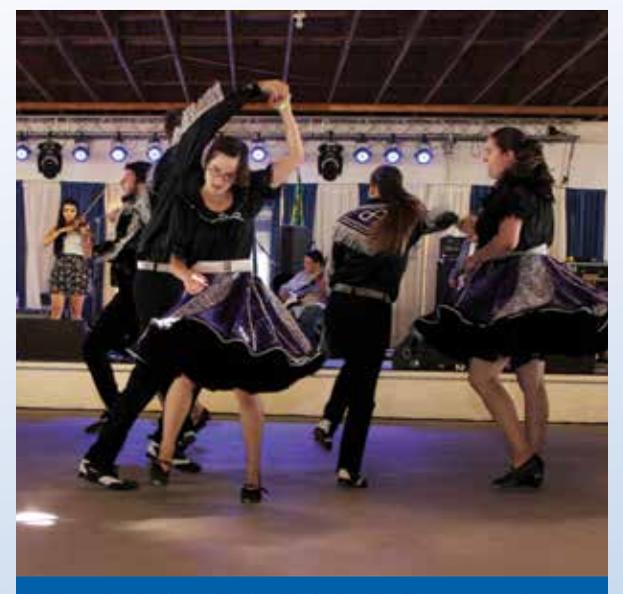
The Back to Batoche Days festivities include several Métis cultural activities such as fiddling & jigging competitions, square dancing, and bannock baking. Traditional cuisine offered during the event included fried bannock and moose stew. Several vendors also sold clothing, jewelry, and Métis sashes made by local Métis artisans. Participants attending the festivities often book a campsite within the park ground and stay for its duration. We hope you come, celebrate and remember with us next year as the Métis Nation gathers again for Back to Batoche Days.



Taylor Fleming performs Buckskin Reel at Back to Batoche Days.



A prayer is said at Batoche Historic Cemetery.



Melissa St. Goddard & the Metis Prairie Steppers perform at Back to Batoche Days.

Step back in time and attend the Metis Soiree

The sweltering heat did not stop those attending a recent Metis Soiree from having a great time. These weekly summer Soirees celebrate Métis culture at Riel House National Historic Site located on River Road in Winnipeg.

Families and friends attended the lively free event that included traditional Métis fiddle music by Al Desjarlais with special guests Meghan Mowatt and Kenny Muzia, a tour of Riel House, refreshments and colouring books for the children. Guests were invited to bring their lawn chairs and dancing shoes as they enjoyed the musical entertainment behind the small house where Louis Riel's mother lived in the 1800's.

Attendees of the Soiree were able to stepback in time if only for a few hours and witness 19th century life as interpreters wander the grounds dressed in traditional Métis garb with fiddle music providing the soundtrack to their walk. Many of the costumed interpreters were excited to answer questions the public had regarding the site, and even provided some with a personal demonstration of tasks performed in the 1800's. Even the gardens beside Riel House kept to tradition by only growing produce available in the 19th century.

While Riel himself only visited the home once before he was murdered, it was there his body laid in state for two days prior to his burial in the cemetery at St. Boniface Cathedral.

"Riel House is an important historical site to the Métis people," said President David Chartrand of the Manitoba Metis Federation. "Under the leadership of Louis Riel, the Métis were able to negotiate Manitoba's entrance into Confederation in 1870. Riel is a symbol



Historical interpreters dressed in 19th century Métis clothing at Riel House on River Road.

of perseverance in the fight for rights of the Métis. Riel House honours his years of dedication to human rights and is a part of our country's collective history."

Riel House is located at 330 River Road in St. Vital. It is open July 1st to August 30th, Friday through Wednesday 10:00am to 5:00pm, and 1:00pm to 8:00pm on Thursdays for a general public walk-through. The Metis Soirees are hosted by the Louis Riel Institute and will continue every Thursday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm until the end of August. Guided tours of Riel House are also available during each Soiree.



48th MMF Annual General Assembly

Save the Date

September 23 - 25, 2016

Assiniboia Downs ∞ 3975 Portage Avenue ∞ Winnipeg, Manitoba

Proposed Manitoba Hydro Project to Impact the Manitoba Metis Community

Recently the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) concluded a series of community consultation meetings focused on the impact of the Manitoba - Minnesota Transmission Project on the rights, interests and claims of the Manitoba Métis Community. Métis Harvesters and Citizens gathered together to hear the preliminary results of the study and to discuss the Manitoba Hydro project that has potential to impact land, water and resources of the Manitoba Métis Community.

According to Manitoba Hydro, the proposed route will originate at the Dorsey Converter Station, travel south around Winnipeg, pass near the Riel Station and continue south to the Manitoba-Minnesota border to finally connect to the Great Northern Transmission

Line at the US border.

Manitoba Hydro provided the MMF with funding to undertake a Métis Land Occupancy and Use Study (MLOUS) to identify areas of concern to the Manitoba Métis Community and assist in identifying the means by which Métis Citizens prefer to harvest and conditions that affect harvesting such as the presence of transmission lines.

The MMF hosted several meetings throughout the province in January and again over the last month in Selkirk, Lorette, Brandon, and Winnipeg to discuss the proposed project and gain input from its Citizens.

"It is important to state that all the harvesters

we interviewed will be negatively impacted by this project," said MMF Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Jack Park during the meeting. "There is strong, strong evidence to this regard."

The study will include a Métis Specific Interests Document that will be provided to Manitoba Hydro and Manitoba - Sustainable Development in an effort to ensure the impacts of the project on the hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering rights of the Manitoba Métis Community are considered in the environmental assessment process. The document will also form part of the MMF's evidence at the Clean Environment Commission hearings and the National Energy Board hearings scheduled for 2017.

Photos From the MMF Land Claims Community Consultations



Left to Right: MMF President Chartrand consulting Métis Citizens in Churchill on Land Claim process and what they would like to see in the framework agreement for negotiations with Canada; Métis Citizens enjoying traditional food at Dauphin Community Land Claims Consultation; Métis in Kinisota inquiring about Métis Citizenship. If you have an idea regarding what you would like to see in the MMF Land Claims Negotiations, please send it to ideas@mmf.mb.ca.



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