



Le Métis



President's Message

I have also enjoyed meeting many of you over the past number of weeks as we travelled across Manitoba to share the news about our Land Claim and listen as you shared your thoughts on how we should build the framework agreement with Canada on settling our longstanding collective claim.

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Please share your ideas on what you want to see in the negotiations for our collective claim. You can send them directly to your Métis Government at ideas@mmf.mb.ca
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Many people refer to the hot days of August as the 'Dog Days of Summer'. It is typically a time when everyone is enjoying the long days of sunshine resting and relaxing. Many of us are gathering with our friends and family, taking in every beautiful moment as we do such time honoured traditions of fishing, gathering and typical Métis activities of good music, food and dancing.

This summer your Métis government has also been out celebrating with you at many of our cultural celebrations. From the Aboriginal Day Celebrations in Selkirk in early summer, to the Shell River Jamboree and recently Métis Days in St. Laurent, we have been having a great time getting together with you all across our province.

During the Métis Days celebrations in St. Laurent, I was pleased to present St. Laurent Minor Hockey with a cheque for \$10,000 to go towards the improvement on the arena's locker rooms and washrooms. I was also very excited to see Metis N4 Construction also present a cheque for another \$10,000 towards these arena improvements. The success of N4 on hydro project work we secured meant we were able to invest a portion of the profits into our Métis Youth. I look forward to seeing a champion come from this proud Métis town.

Just last week I was in Selkirk where we had a packed meeting with Local Executives and Citizens from across the Interlake Region. We got great feedback from our Métis Citizens. I heard many excellent ideas from those present about what we must include in our negotiations with Canada. Ideas such as access to healthcare and affordable medicines for our Elders and others in need of appropriate care; making sure our Children have access to educational opportunities; and strong economic development strategies to help ensure the long-term success of our Métis Community.

Again, I want to remind you to watch our website at www.mmf.mb.ca for important information about these community consultations that we are undertaking across Manitoba. Also, keep in touch with your Locals and your Regional Office for news about developments on this very important and exciting time for the Métis. Please share your ideas on what you want to see in the negotiations for our

collective claim. You can send them directly to your Métis Government at ideas@mmf.mb.ca.

Summer is half over and we are still working hard. We have another 14 or so community consultations coming up before our Annual General Assembly scheduled to take place at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg on September 24 - 26. On September 23rd, the day before our AGA, we will have a land claims workshop. Mark your calendars for these important dates.

Our Annual Assembly brings together more than 3000 Métis delegates from across Manitoba. It is the largest gathering for Métis governance in all the Métis Homeland that stretches from western Ontario to the BC coast.

Our Assembly is a good time for businesses to showcase their work and products. Each year we have a great trade show that you can participate in. If you are a business owner, you will not want to miss this opportunity to get in front of more than 3000 Métis delegates from across Manitoba. If you are a Métis entrepreneur, take advantage of this opportunity to show off your success and build relationships that could help bring your business to a higher level. Get in touch with Jasmine, our trade show coordinator, to book your spot at the trade show. You can reach her at **(204) 586-8474**. You can also find more information on our website at www.mmf.mb.ca/aga2016.php.

Finally, I send my prayers and thoughts to you all - especially to those who are shut-in or sick. I encourage you to keep meeting with each other, building those strong and lasting relationships that protect and guide our Métis Nation.

Meeqwetch,

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

New Vessel of Hope for Missing and Murdered

Uncovering the tragic stories of lost loved ones concealed in the Red River's depths holds renewed promise, thanks to a new boat donated to volunteer group *Drag the Red* by 18-year-old Kayleen McKay. McKay ran 420 km over 11 days, from Duck Bay to Winnipeg, and raised over \$15,000. The funds she raised through her run for *Drag the Red* blew her away completely, McKay says. She was also touched by the overwhelming outpouring of support from people in her community and others she met along the way.

"Money wasn't really on my mind during the run. It was bringing attention and awareness to the missing and murdered Indigenous people," says McKay.

With the funds raised, McKay purchased a boat for *Drag the Red* - a group of community volunteers who drag the bottom of the Red River for evidence related to missing and murdered people. The group was instrumental in searching for her cousin, Shawn Nepinak, last year after he took his own life in the river. After authorities were unable to provide more assistance, McKay says *Drag the Red* significantly eased some of the hopelessness she and her family went through in their search for Shawn. She decided to do the run to honour her cousin, and to raise money and awareness for the group that gave her family the hope they weren't able to find anywhere else.

"I was running for my cousin Shawn, but I was also running for all these people who are suffering the same thing I went through last summer," explains McKay. "That's how I looked at it."

Melvin Pangman, McKay's father and a regular volunteer for *Drag the Red*, says he doesn't think his daughter realized the magnitude of what her run was going to bring.

"It started as a run to honour Shawn and raise money for *Drag the Red*, but it became much bigger than that - it became a run to raise awareness for all missing and murdered people," says Pangman. "I see families suffering, and it's exactly the same way we did with



Kayleen McKay arrives at the Alexander Docks after completing a 420 km run to raise funds towards a new boat for *Drag the Red*. (File Photo)

Shawn. *Drag the Red* gives families hope that at least someone is trying to help them. And if, by chance, they can pull someone out and give a family closure, that's what it's all about."

Supporters, many of whom drove for miles out of their way to find McKay on the highway during her run, would stop to tell her the stories of their own missing or murdered loved ones. Countless people shed tears while offering her words of praise, thanks, and encouragement for her journey and cause. McKay says it was these stories she drew on when she needed strength during the most frustrating stretches of her run. She ran over 40 km per day - an average equivalent to running a full marathon each day.

McKay, with input from Kyle Kematch - one of the founding members of *Drag the Red* - purchased a reliable, fuel efficient new vessel to help the group in searching the riverbed. An Aboriginal elder blessed the boat with a smudging ceremony on July 18, 2016, before it set out on its maiden voyage. McKay says that from this, she wants to give people hope. Hope to keep pushing, to gain forward movement on the

issue of missing and murdered Indigenous people - and to inspire others to do the same.

Anyone interested in volunteering with *Drag the Red* can visit the group's website at redpowermedia.wordpress.com/tag/drag-the-red/, or join their Facebook group for updates and search times.



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



**Metis
Employment
& Training**

Now Hiring For:

REPOSTED - Regional Coordinator - Winnipeg

MMF Winnipeg Region Office - Winnipeg, MB

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 **Wednesday, August 17, 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

Métis Elder Still a Champion

At 80 years of age, Jean Chaboyer is a six time provincial horseshoe champion. Just recently at the St. Laurent Métis Days, Jean participated in both the singles and doubles tournaments. He won all his games in the singles event, but was unable to complete the tournament as the younger people who were competing felt he was too difficult to beat.

"They told me I was a professional," said Jean. "Nobody wanted to play me after I won my first two matches because they thought I was too good! That was disappointing, but I did have fun."

He also entered the doubles tournament where players are assigned to teams through random selection. By the luck of the draw, he was paired with his daughter. They were victorious, winning all of their games. As champions for the doubles tournament, he and his daughter received \$300.

Jean began throwing horseshoes in 1969 as a way to meet people and keep active. He also enjoyed travelling around the province participating in horseshoe tournaments.

"I enjoy meeting people and I enjoy playing horseshoes. I have been doing this for over half my life," Jean explained.

The first time Jean won a tournament was in 1972. This is a feat he would go on to defend and build upon over his career of nearly 45 years as a horseshoe competitor. In 1986, he won both the provincial singles championship and the provincial doubles championship with a partner. His most recent provincial championship was in 2007 where he won the senior men's tournament.

Every day, Jean practices his technique by throwing around a hundred horseshoes a day. He also exercises daily to make sure he remains in excellent form.

"Each day I do 50 pushups, and I exercise my hands using one of those hand springs," Jean said. "I also keep myself limber by touching my toes and doing exercises for 20 minutes a day."

All this practice and exercise has paid off well for Jean. At 80 years old he routinely outplays people a third of his age. While many consider him a professional, Jean just enjoys playing the game and socializing with others.

"I hope I can do this for a long time yet," said Jean.

After winning the tournament with his daughter, Jean said he hopes to participate in other tournaments coming up this summer. Good luck Jean!



Six time horseshoe champion, Jean Chayboyer, competes in horseshoe tournament at the St. Laurent Métis Days celebration.



Top to Bottom: Interlake Metis Association Métis Days Parade Float; President Chartrand and Interlake Ministers present St. Laurent Minor Hockey with \$20,000 cheque for arena improvements; Métis Days slow-pitch tournament.



MMF Participates in Worldwide Promotion of Human Rights

On July 23rd the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) participated in the Torch of Dignity Relay. The relay was hosted by Manitobans for Human Rights during the lead up to the Summer Olympics taking place this month in Rio De Janiero. Kayleen McKay, who recently completed a 445 kilometer run and raised over \$15,000 for Drag the Red, and Hayden Liberty were chosen to represent the MMF during the Relay. The event began at Thunderbird House on Main Street and concluded at Assiniboine Park. Over 100 torch bearers representing various organizations participated in the relay.

As it made its way across the city, the Torch of Dignity was passed from participant to participant to spread the message of human rights and human dignity. Canada is one of 10 countries that have committed to promoting the celebration of human rights worldwide.

Manitobans for Human Rights hosted the event in Winnipeg to promote their association's goal of increasing teachings on Human Rights throughout the province of Manitoba, and to help Winnipeg become a designated Human Rights City. McKay and Liberty, ran from Kenaston Boulevard to Tuxedo Avenue while flying the Métis National Flag.



Manitoba Metis Federation

Land Claims

Upcoming Meetings

Land Claims Consultation/Information Session	Date & Time	Location
Swan River (In conjunction with Northwest Regional Meeting)	August 13, 2016 - 1:00 PM	Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre 1413 Main St. East, Swan River, MB
St. Lazare	August 16, 2016 - 5:30 PM	St. Lazare Community Hall 135 Chartier Ave. East, St. Lazare, MB
Brandon (In conjunction with Southwest Regional Meeting)	August 21, 2016 - 10:00 AM	Southwest Regional Metis Centre 656 6th St. Brandon, MB
Winnipeg	August 23, 2016 - 5:30 PM	Indian & Metis Friendship Centre 45 Robinson St. Winnipeg, MB
Winnipeg	August 25, 2016 - 5:30 PM	St. Louis Centre - St. Boniface 445 Tissot St. Winnipeg, MB
Thompson (In conjunction with Thompson Regional Meeting)	August 27, 2016 - 5:00 PM	MMF Hall 171 Cree Road, Thompson, MB

**** All meeting times and locations are subject to change. For additional information on upcoming Land Claim Community Consultations visit www.mmf.mb.ca.**

Find the latest news online



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