



Le Métis



President's Message

Churchill. We have investors, capital firms, economic development expertise and so forth that can help lend perspective and opportunity to our northern villages. Then there are housing initiatives and experience we have to offer for Métis, First Nation and Inuit. Again we have investors, expertise and capacity to bring improved housing to many Indigenous communities.

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Through our efforts we have been able to negotiate a partial recognition of our rights and interests in such areas as harvesting, education, economic development and self-governance. More are yet to come!
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Another good example of where we can help is with natural resources such as the freshwater fishery. Recently, the provincial government made an announcement about opening up the freshwater fishery so fishers in Manitoba can sell their catch directly to anyone looking to buy any of the species readily available in our lakes. The Manitoba Métis government applauds this direction and we are cautiously optimistic this could mean economic opportunities for our Métis fishers and their families. However, for the best chance of success, the Métis must be consulted and included in an advisory capacity as the provincial government explores alternatives to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC).

The Métis make up the majority of commercial fishers in Manitoba. They and their families and communities rely on the fisheries' sustainability and the income it generates. It is critically important they receive the full benefits of their experience, knowledge, and hard work on the lakes.

It is very important to listen to what the fishers have to say. As the government of Manitoba's Métis, the MMF will start a process of province-wide consultation with fishers by early fall to develop a coordinated response to the provincial government's announcement about the FFMC and the freshwater fish industry. In the meantime, the MMF is pursuing answers from the provincial government to the fishers' questions and concerns we have already received.

We are continuing our consultation with our Métis Citizens on the important issue of developing a framework for our upcoming negotiations with Canada on our collective land claim. This past week, I was in St. Lazare, Brandon, and Winnipeg where again I heard great feedback, questions and suggestions from you about how we should proceed as we seek to settle this outstanding grievance and repair the rift in the national fabric of Canada.

We have been collecting the feedback and questions we have been receiving at our community consultations and through inquiries made to the MMF and our land claims email account - ideas@mmf.mb.ca. We will provide you with a report at our upcoming AGA taking place September 23 - 25 at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg. We will also share these details at the same time on our website at www.mmf.mb.ca and through our Regional Offices across Manitoba. Keep an eye on our website for important updates regarding these important community consultations.

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,

For long years, the Métis have been self-sufficient. Before Canada became a country, we - the Country Born, the Bois-Brûlés, the Otipemisiwak, the Métis, Michif - were thriving. Our families were the great bison hunters of the Plains. We traveled great distances by Red River Cart and York Boat to trade with our partners, crossing vast prairies, rivers and lakes in the East, North, South and West. We helped tame the Northwest and brought the province of Manitoba into Confederation with Canada.

When we treated with Canada - as it sought to expand westward - we negotiated a land grant that was to provide for our children for generations. However, as history has shown and as we have proven in the Supreme Court of Canada, we were robbed of this promise.

We fought decades to right this historical injustice and to secure what was committed to us. Along the way we worked in good faith with the federal and provincial governments, despite both not always reciprocating. Through our efforts we have been able to negotiate a partial recognition of our rights and interests in such areas as harvesting, education, economic development and self-governance. More are yet to come!

There is much more we can offer all levels of government - federal, Aboriginal, provincial and municipal. For example, there is the port in

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

AGA 2016: A Year in Growth and Forward Motion

The Manitoba Metis Federation's 48th Annual General Assembly (AGA) will take place at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg from September 24th-26th, 2016. The AGA is the largest gathering of Métis Citizens and delegates across Canada with over 3,000 attendees, allowing our communities to come together to reflect on our Nation's progress and determine our course of action for the next year.

This event offers a chance for leaders from the Métis government and the Manitoba Métis Community to inform Citizens of developments and advances made over the past year. It also gives you, our Métis Citizens, an opportunity to provide input on subject matters to be addressed in upcoming months. It's an occasion for Métis Citizens to reconnect and rejuvenate relationships with family members and others from across the Métis Homeland. The AGA is also a place to forge new friendships, while working together to set new goals for our Métis government and communities.

An important component of this year's AGA will be a Land Claims Forum, during which recent and historical elements of the MMF Land Claim will be discussed. For Métis Citizens who have been unable to attend a Land Claims Community Consultation meeting over the summer, this Forum will be an opportunity to gain valuable insights into the MMF Land Claim and our next steps toward a modern day treaty with Canada.

Our annual Youth Conference will also take place again this year in conjunction with the AGA. The focus this year will be on Careers, Leadership & Empowerment. Youth delegates will participate in presentations, activities, and workshops to increase awareness of the resources, training, and employment opportunities they can access. This valuable knowledge will benefit our Métis Youth in many ways as they move towards starting their careers.

The annual Tradeshow Expo at the AGA will provide more chances than ever for Métis Citizens to learn useful information about the goods and services available to them. The Tradeshow offers vendors a chance to connect with Métis Citizens in person, share the abundant opportunities their business offers, and forge new partnerships with other businesses to strengthen and improve success.

This year, the tradeshow will also feature a booth by the 2017 Canada Games. The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is an official co-host of the Games next year. As part of our partnership with the Canada Games, we will provide guidance to organizers in helping promote cultural inclusiveness with Indigenous - in particular, Métis - communities. Friendly and engaged volunteers are being sought to help with almost all areas of the Games, including



MMF President Chartrand auctions off a pair of gauntlets made by Master Beader Jennine Krauchi at the MMF 2015 AGA.

ticketing, dining, operations, transportation, and many other exciting opportunities for volunteer participation. At the AGA booth, interested individuals can find out more information about volunteering and how they can be involved in the Canada Games in 2017. Additional information can be found at www.2017canadagames.ca. We encourage all of our Métis Citizens to consider volunteering at this exciting event happening in the Heart of the Métis Homeland next year.

There are also many sponsorship opportunities for any businesses interested in supporting the 48th AGA. Sponsorship creates an enriched AGA experience for Métis Youth, Elders, and Citizens who attend, as well as offering an excellent way for businesses to connect with Métis consumers, entrepreneurs and organizations all in one place.

To obtain more information on the upcoming AGA, to download the Sponsorship and Tradeshow Package, or to register as a delegate, visit www.mmf.mb.ca/aga2016.php. Keep checking back for updates - we'll see you at AGA this September!



Photos From the MMF Land Claims Community Consultations



Left to Right: MMF President Chartrand consulting with Métis Citizens in Brandon on the Land Claim process and what they would like to see in the framework agreement for negotiations with Canada; Métis Citizens breaking for lunch at Swan River Community Land Claims Consultation; Métis in St. Lazare 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.



48th MMF Annual General Assembly

Save the Date

September 23 - 25, 2016

Assiniboia Downs
3975 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba



Immediate opening for an E-Communications Coordinator

Deadline for applications is September 6, 2016

If you are a versatile, talented communicator with top notch skills in both new and traditional media, you will want to check out this opportunity!
Position is located at the MMF Home Office in Winnipeg, MB.



View full job details online at
www.mmf.mb.ca/employment.php



Manitoba Metis Federation

Land Claims

Upcoming Meetings

Land Claims Consultation/Information Session	Date & Time	Location
Thompson (In conjunction with Thompson Regional Meeting)	August 27, 2016 - 5:00 PM	MMF Hall 171 Cree Road, Thompson, MB
Portage la Prairie	August 30, 2016 - 5:30 PM	Herman Prior Centre 40 Royal Road North, Portage la Prairie, MB
Lorette (In conjunction with Southeast Regional Meeting)	September 10, 2016 - 12:00 PM	Lorette Parish Hall 1282 Dawson Road, Lorette, MB
St. Malo	September 13, 2016 - 5:00 PM	Paroisse St. Malo/Blessed Margaret Poll Catholic 5 rue St. Malo Street, St. Malo, MB
The Pas (In conjunction with The Pas Regional Meeting)	September 17, 2016 - 1:00 PM	The Pas Friendship Centre 103 Edwards Avenue, The Pas, MB
Flin Flon	September 18, 2016 - 1:00 PM	St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church 163 Centre Street, Flin Flon, 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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