



Le Métis



President's Message

analyze accomplishments, celebrate successes, give direction, and provide suggestions where we may have room to improve. The AGA gives the delegates of our Métis Community an unequalled forum to set our goals and provide direction on upcoming investments and future priorities.

I am pleased to announce that among the economic development initiatives to be reported at the AGA will be the historic Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) recently signed between the MMF's construction arm, Metis N4 Construction, and a leading Chinese housing developer Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd. This JVA was put together to bring innovative green technology to Canada to meet the housing needs of Indigenous and northern communities. The JVA includes the participation of JNE Consulting firm out of Hamilton, Canada, to ensure the products are engineered to Canadian housing standards. The JVA is the result of relationships that have developed over many years.

This is the kind of work that the MMF undertakes on your behalf as the effective Métis self-government of the Manitoba Métis Community. This work is in turn accountable back to you. The MMF's effectiveness, as well as its accountability to our Citizens, is due to our democratic elections but also due to ongoing reporting at the AGA and at our Regional Assemblies. Our constitutionally mandated AGA is fundamental. It is through the assembly that the will and authority of our People is both expressed and confirmed each year.

At this year's AGA, our MMF Ministers will again report on their portfolio and departmental activities. There will be reports touching on all aspects of your Métis government. These range from audit and financials, our national office, and the Infinity Women Secretariat, self-government negotiations, natural resources, rights, and health, as well as economic development and land claims as mentioned earlier. This is to name only a few of the areas.

It's coming up fast. Put a note on your calendar. The MMF AGA happens in less than three weeks. While

at the AGA from September 23rd through 25th in Winnipeg, I look forward to seeing you there.

We anticipate this year's AGA to be a milestone date towards justice on our land claim. Together we achieved our Supreme Court victory. Then we signed an MOU with Canada. Now we must take our next steps. Our negotiating teams are working hard on a draft framework agreement to be brought to the AGA based on what we will have heard by the conclusion of our land claim community consultations. A framework agreement sets out the structure of formal land claim negotiations and, once approved by the Canadian cabinet and the MMF, provides a mandate for the negotiations.

As we move forward, the MMF continues our consultations across the province. Please check out our website at www.mmf.mb.ca for scheduling and other important information. I also recommend you contact your Local Executive and Regional Office for news. As we request at each consultation workshop, please ask questions and share your ideas on what you want to see in our collective claim's framework agreement. What kinds of things do you want us to negotiate? You can send these directly to us at ideas@mmf.mb.ca.

Since we started our MMF Land Claim struggle you insisted tomorrow's children must get the head start that was shamefully stolen from their Ancestors: that we must remember our Ancestors' collective political, legal and military struggles. Their sacrifices shape tomorrow for our children, grandchildren, and future generations. It is important we make the right decisions honouring their sacrifice. Together as the Manitoba Métis Community, we will make important decisions and implement our vision of the future.

I offer prayers for family and friends who have passed, and condolences for all who have lost those close. Please pray for the good health of those who are sick or shut-in and cannot attend this upcoming assembly. I ask you be sure to give each other a hug. Best wishes to all.

Meeqwetch,

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) has had many accomplishments and successes on your behalf - the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community - during this past year. We will have much to discuss at the upcoming 48th Annual General Assembly (AGA). The reporting in the areas of economic development, and of course our land claim, for instance, shows how far we have advanced since our previous AGA. We have also had further Supreme Court and Special Ministerial successes, as well as others, during this past year.

This year our AGA takes place from September 23rd to the 25th at the Assiniboia Downs located at 3975 Portage Avenue on Winnipeg's western edge. With approximately 3,000 delegates expected, based on past assembly attendances, it remains by far the largest assembly in the Métis Nation Homeland. I can't emphasize enough that you should come down to the Assiniboia Downs and experience the year's largest Métis political, cultural and social event. Our first day includes a special workshop on the MMF land claim while the next two days follow our regular AGA agenda. Part of AGA will be a Youth Conference. I suggest that our youth contact the MMF Employment and Training department at (204) 586-8474 or their local Regional Office for more information.

Since the 1960s the AGA has been a central piece of our self-governance structure. It is a time each year when our Métis Citizens can review our record,

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

The St. Hubert Church Bell Project

Thirty-five years ago, the idea of moving the St. Hubert Church on Gamblers First Nation to the cemetery at Ste. Madeleine seemed a far-off dream for descendants of both communities. Roger Smith, one of the founding members of the Bell Project, says that at the time it was thought moving the Church would be too complicated and too costly due to its age.

However, when Mr. Smith visited the site in March 2016, he noticed the deteriorating state of the church and discovered that it was to be dismantled as it had become a safety concern for residents of the area. He knew he had to act fast.

Smith, together with Chief David Ledoux of Gamblers First Nation, gathered a group of supporters including Manitoba Metis Federation Board Members as well as Métis and First Nations Elders, families, and friends. They formed the Bell Project, a group with an initiative to move the St. Hubert Church Bell to the Ste. Madeleine cemetery. Many of the project's supporters and volunteers have ancestral ties to the Ste. Madeleine community and to the St. Hubert Church.

This project is a historic event for both the Métis Nation and Gamblers First Nation. Descendants of both communities are continuing to work together today – just as their families did when St. Hubert Church was built, seventy years ago – to honour their ancestors' memory by bringing the St. Hubert Church Bell home to the cemetery at Ste. Madeleine.

"I know that our ancestors are looking down with pride on each and every person helping with and supporting this project," says Smith.

Smith extends a grateful thank you to the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), President David Chartrand, and MMF Board Members, who were instrumental in assisting with the Bell Project's fundraising efforts and helping them reach their goal before St. Hubert Church was to be torn down. MMF Southwest Region Vice-President, Minister Leah LaPlante, explains that as Métis leaders, it was vital to be involved in assisting the descendants in bringing a piece of history onto the land at Ste. Madeleine.

"It's a living history," says LaPlante. "It's important for our children and grandchildren to know these stories – our time has come – and young Métis will want to learn about their history now more than ever. We need to ensure our history is front and centre for them, so they can get a genuine feel for who they are and the real history and story of the Métis."

On July 29th, Smith's son Keith, and nephew Alex DeMontigny, rang the Church Bell for the last time at St. Hubert's Church. After a prayer by Métis Elder George Fleury in the Michif language, the Bell was



The St. Hubert Church Bell hanging at St. Hubert Church. Photo Credit: Facebook (Kish kishin/do you remember/ste.madeliene)

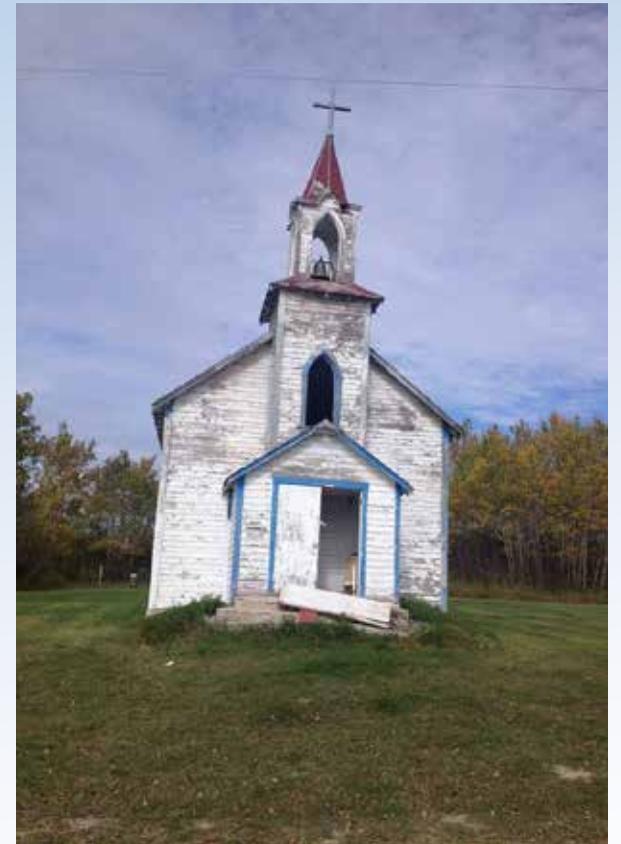
taken down using a forklift. Many tears were shed by those in attendance as memories of the church and its countless visitors came flooding back. Festivities, weddings, funerals, and community and family events in years long past were remembered by Elders and their families who had once walked the church's hall, sat in its pews, and rang its Church Bell.

Hours after removing the Bell from St. Hubert's Church, tragedy struck. Mr. Smith says that as he and the rest of the group were transporting the Bell to be restored, they received an urgent call that the Church was burning.

The Church burned to the ground. The Bell and most of the Church's pews had already been removed by the Bell Project's volunteers. They were the only items saved from the blaze.

The St. Hubert Church Bell is currently in the process of being restored and polished. It is set to be dedicated to the ancestors of the Ste. Madeleine and Gamblers First Nation at the Ste. Madeleine cemetery on Sunday, October 9, 2016 at 9 AM. The ceremony will be followed with Mass by Archbishop Richard Gagnon of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. Mr. Smith says he hopes many people will gather to hear the Bell ring once again, and to make the dedication a great day in our history to be passed on to our children and grandchildren.

Anyone wishing to learn more or volunteer with the Bell Project can visit or join the project's Facebook group: **Kish kishin / do you remember / ste.madeliene** [sic].



The St. Hubert Church on Gamblers First Nation before it burned down in July 2016.. Photo Credit: Facebook (Kish kishin/do you remember/ste.madeliene)



The Bell Project volunteers prepare Ste. Madeleine cemetery for the St. Hubert Church Bell's dedication. Photo Credit: Facebook (Kish kishin/do you remember/ste.madeliene)

Manitoba Metis Federation Strikes Agreement with Chinese Interests on Bringing Green Housing Technology to Canada's Indigenous Peoples

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau today witnessed a historic Joint Venture Agreement signed between the Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) construction arm, Metis N4 Construction and a leading Chinese housing developer, Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd to bring new innovative green technology to Canada to meet the housing needs of Indigenous and northern communities. The Joint Venture agreement also includes the participation of JNE Consulting who will ensure the new housing products are engineered to Canadian housing standards.

"This Joint Venture brings together leading edge green housing technologies that can be used to improve Canadian housing for Canada's Indigenous people," said MMF President David Chartrand who co-signed the Venture along with Jack Park, Chairman of Metis N4 Construction Inc.

"We see this as a win-win for Canada" said JNE Consulting Chairman Joseph Ng who has almost 40 years of experience identifying and bringing new and innovative companies and technology from China to Canada.

"We have established this strategic partnership with Indigenous Canadians just as Canada's new government has announced new investments in Indigenous housing. We will initially assemble these new housing products and ship to Canada with the medium term objective of establishing a housing



Yingdong Qiu - President, Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd; David Chartrand - President, Manitoba Metis Federation; and Joseph Ng - Chairman, JNE Consulting sign agreement to bring green housing technology to Canada's Indigenous Peoples

manufacturing plant in Manitoba," stated Yingdong Qiu, President of Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd. "We will also bring a new product line of materials made from basalt, which is a manufactured product made from lava like rock."

By way of background, the Joint Venture will bring light-weight steel housing frames to Canada together with highly durable fire retardant outer wall materials that have high R rated insulation values to tackle Canada's cold temperatures.

"Steel frames have a number of advantages - they are highly durable, cost less to erect and are a green technology", said President Chartrand. "As Indigenous people of the world, we need to do our part for the environment and all of these products are a step in the right direction."



Manitoba Metis Federation
Believe in Yourself - Believe in Metis

48th MMF Annual General Assembly

September 23 - 25, 2016

Assiniboia Downs
3975 Portage Avenue ∞ Winnipeg, Manitoba

Employment Opportunity

The Manitoba Metis Federation is seeking to fill one full time position:

Central Registry Office Director

Position is located at MMF Home Office in Winnipeg, MB

View full job details online at

www.mmf.mb.ca/employment.php

Deadline for application is September 23, 2016



Manitoba Metis Federation
Believe in Yourself - Believe in Metis



Manitoba Metis Federation

Land Claims

Upcoming Meetings

Land Claims Consultation/Information Session	Date & Time	Location
Lorette (In conjunction with Southeast Regional Meeting)	September 10, 2016 - 12:00 PM	Lorette Parish Hall 1282 Dawson Road, Lorette, MB
Portage la Prairie	September 12, 2016 - 5:00 PM	Herman Prior Centre 40 Royal Road North, Portage la Prairie, MB
St. Malo	September 13, 2016 - 6:00 PM	Paroisse St. Malo/Blessed Margaret Poll Catholic 5 rue St. Malo Street, St. Malo, MB
Winnipeg (St. Norbert Local)	September 14, 2016 - 6:00 PM	St. Norbert Community Centre 3450 Pembina Hwy, Winnipeg, MB
Mafeking	September 16, 2016 - 6:00 PM	TBC
The Pas (In conjunction with The Pas Regional Meeting)	September 17, 2016 - 1:00 PM	Metis Club Room 1515 Gordon 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



ManitobaMetisFederationOfficial



ManitobaMetisMMF



@MBMetis_MMF



www.mmf.mb.ca