



# Le Métis



## President's Message

The MMF consultation meetings wrapped up with visits to Mafeking, The Pas, and Flin Flon the week of September 12. There were MMF local executive representatives and Métis at these and other locations from across the Region and from across the province.

**Each of us has economic power through our purchases... When you buy at our pharmacy, the profits stay home and come back to our community through our own initiatives.**

I want to thank The Pas Regional, Vice President and Directors, office staff and Local volunteers, for their participation, coordination, and hard work in making these consultations a success. Indeed I thank the Vice Presidents, Directors, staff and volunteers of all the Regions that we visited during the summer. We travelled across the province from Winnipeg to Churchill and from Roblin to Lorette, and many places in between.

During our meetings many of our Métis Citizens asked about the MEDOCare Pharmacy and our eyeglass program. When our Citizens get their medications from our pharmacy the profits made go to our eyeglass program for our Elders. This has been such a growing success that our Elders and their families are now asking about an initiative to assist in getting hearing aids. As our pharmacy grows with new clients we will be able to consider this and other programs and services paid for by the benefits of having our own pharmacy.

Each of us has economic power through our purchases. Every dollar is equal and has the ability to change our world. If your dollar is spent at a competing pharmacy, you may get a smile from behind the counter but the profit goes to shareholders elsewhere in Canada or around the world. When you buy at our pharmacy, the profits stay home and come back to our community through our own initiatives.

This past Friday, September 23rd at the beginning of our Annual General Assembly (AGA), we undertook a special workshop about our Land Claim. I was pleased to see so many of our Métis Citizens there. We are in an exciting time and I look forward to announcements about our Claim over the coming weeks and months. I was also pleased to see some many of our Métis Citizens - especially our Elders and Youth - at this past weekend's AGA that took place at Assiniboia Downs, on the Saturday and the Sunday, September 24th and 25th.

Our assemblies are an integral part of our Manitoba Métis Government. These important gatherings provide us an opportunity to see where our government is going, to ask questions, and to get a better understanding of all the good work being done across the province. Already I am hearing many comments about how successful, informative and engaging this year's AGA was. We will be sharing photos and video from our gathering over the next few weeks on our Facebook and website. Be sure to check them out.

I offer my prayers for our Citizens, friends and neighbours who have passed on. I also offer my condolences to their families. Best wishes to everyone.

Meeqwetch,

This summer the MMF undertook Land Claims consultation meetings. During the meetings we provided a history of the legal and policy summaries of the Supreme Court of Canada's 2016 Daniels decision and the Court's 2013 MMF v Canada decision - also known as our Land Claim Decision. We reported on the current status of discussions with Canada on our Land Claim and undertook question and answer sessions.

Our Citizens also suggested and discussed lots of good ideas on what they thought might be future negotiation topics and what kinds of initiatives might be done and supported under the future trust to be set up for the responsible benefit for today and for future generations of our children.

The top initiative repeated from meeting to meeting was education for our children and grandchildren and beyond. This was followed by a great variety of thoughts such as retirement homes, medication and supports for Elders, assistance for down payment on a house for first time homebuyers, bonding and equipment to assist our people's businesses, and other initiatives. I thank our Metis people for their ideas and their farsighted vision.

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

# Manitoba Metis Federation 48th Annual General Assembly

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) hosted its 48th Annual General Assembly (AGA) on Sept. 23, 24, and 25 at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg. MMF President David Chartrand and the Board of Directors welcomed over 3,000 delegates, invited guests and dignitaries, and Métis Citizens from across Manitoba and Canada.

An exciting component of this year's AGA was an important information session on the MMF Land Claim held Sept. 24, including presentations by President Chartrand, MMF Chief of Staff Al Benoit, and Métis lawyer Jason Madden, Counsel for the MMF Land Claim. On Sept. 25, the draft Framework Agreement for negotiations between the MMF and the Government of Canada was initialed by members of the exploratory committee, marking a historic step on the road to a modern day treaty with Canada.

"Don't forget - it's not over my friends. Don't think it's all over. We will get a settlement and build a trust for our people so the next generation can get their head start as promised. The message for our young people and for ourselves is we can never give up," said President Chartrand in his State of the Métis Nation in Manitoba address. "It took us 200 years to correct history. We never gave up and we never will. We must tell the story of who we are as a people - the Métis Nation."

Following the initialing of the draft Framework Agreement, President Chartrand presented Mr. Thomas Berger and Mr. Jim Aldridge with Métis jackets designed with special beading in recognition of and appreciation for their hard work in championing our land claim. The Métis floral beadwork by Master Beader Jeanine Krauchi is symbolic of the survival and perseverance of the Métis Nation, and our roots planted firmly in Métis ancestral lands.

During the AGA, MMF President David Chartrand and President Muriel Parker of the Association of Friendship Centres (MAC) signed a Protocol Agreement outlining a new service agreement between the MMF and MAC. Infinity Women Secretariat also held their 4th Annual General Assembly Fri. Sept. 24 at the MMF's AGA, during which they were proud to launch a new Entrepreneurs' Portal at [www.infinitywomen.org](http://www.infinitywomen.org) to help Métis Women with business start-ups.

The annual Youth Conference was held again this year in conjunction with the AGA, featuring a Youth & Elder Gathering in which youth delegates engaged with Métis Elders and interviewed them to learn about their lives. The Gathering also incorporated two presentations by RCMP Sgt. Rob Lockhart, on Elder Abuse & Victimization and Medication Safety. Sunday's activities for youth delegates entailed presentations by Kayleen McKay, who ran 420 km to raise money for *Drag the Red*, and Métis entrepreneur



Members of the MMF and Government of Canada negotiating team present MMF President Chartrand with initial draft Framework Agreement on MMF Land Claim.

Doug Buors.

At Saturday night's AGA banquet, ten-year-old singer Montana Asham blew away the crowd with her extraordinary performance. Attendees were also treated to outstanding entertainment by other talented Métis performers including Tayler Fleming, Johnny Diedrick, the Martha Chartrand Memorial Square Dancers, and Julianne Moore, among others.

This year's AGA again featured the annual Tradeshow and Exhibition with 70 exhibitors, including the 2017 Canada Games (with mascot Niibin!), Manitobah Mukluks, Etchiboy, MEDOCare Pharmacy, Metis Employment and Training, and many others. The first annual Metis Crafters & Artisans Market, featuring gifted Métis artisans from across the homeland, was held at AGA over the weekend as well.

Other events included an Empowerment through Engagement: Engaging our Youth Workshop Saturday afternoon, held by Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations, during which ways to engage Métis Youth were discussed. The Metis Child and Family Services Authority also held their Annual General Meeting Friday morning during the MMF's AGA.

"This year was among our most successful AGAs," stated President Chartrand. "The Métis Nation in Manitoba is alive and well. Our time has come and we will continue pressing forward - never giving up."

For more coverage of this year's AGA, please visit our Facebook page, Manitoba Metis Federation (Official).



Top to Bottom: MMF President Chartrand and Muriel Parker, President of MAC sign Protocol Agreement; Ten-year-old Montana Asham sings at AGA banquet; Presentation by Kayleen McKay who raised money for Drag the Red during Sunday's Youth Conference.



# Highlights from the Manitoba Metis Federation's 48th Annual General Assembly

Our Time Has Come | September 23 - 25, 2016 | Assiniboia Downs, Winnipeg



## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Celebrates New Affordable Métis Housing

A key to success for many families is access to high-quality, affordable housing where they can grow and thrive. The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is continuing to help make this a reality for low-income families in Brandon at its grand opening of the newly completed affordable Métis housing triplex at 527-12th Street in Brandon on Wednesday, September 14.

"Affordable housing is essential for providing a good quality of life for our Métis families to be successful, and also ensure there is a strong, stable foundation for our Métis children to be raised happy and healthy," says Minister of Housing for the MMF, Will Goodon.

There are three units in the new triplex in Brandon, the size of each being about 1200 square feet. Each unit boasts three bedrooms, as well as an option for a fourth bedroom in the basement.

"There's going to families living in there, so we made the option for a basement bedroom in each unit should those families need or want it," explains Cal McLachlan, the architect who designed the building.

The MMF is engaged in erecting new cost-effective residences throughout the province of Manitoba, as part of its mandate to supply affordable housing to Métis Citizens. The recently completed triplex in Brandon is the latest building constructed within the MMF's current housing initiative, which was made possible by the Government of Manitoba's commitment for 5.5 million dollars over five years to build more high-grade, affordable housing for Métis families. To date, the MMF has also completed affordable housing projects in the Point Douglas neighbourhood of Winnipeg, as well as three additional projects in Brandon located at 339-23rd Street, 341-23rd Street, and 524-12th Street. The next steps for creating affordable housing will see construction for a new project begin in Selkirk this fall.

Len Isleifson, MLA for Brandon East, says he was thrilled to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony as the continued growth of communities are dependent on building healthier, more vibrant neighborhoods for Manitoban families, which includes the development of additional affordable



New affordable Métis housing triplex located in Brandon, MB.

housing. Isleifson congratulates the MMF for their hard work and for creating more affordable rental housing options for Brandon area families.



MMF Minister of Housing, Will Goodon and MLA for Brandon East Len Isleifson celebrate opening of 527-12th Street in Brandon with ribbon cutting ceremony.

"The continued growth and vitality of any community is based on the people that are in it. When we look at an opportunity, whenever we can work together and build the community, that's what we need to do," says Isleifson. "When you can take affordable housing and put it into a community and fill inwards, then it creates a lot more sense of ownership and sense of

community rather than having pockets of affordable housing."

One suite in the new triplex has been rented, with tenants set to move in to the other two suites at the beginning of October 2016. During the event, Minister Goodon extended, on behalf of the MMF and its Métis Citizens, a grateful thanks to the MMF's partners at the Government of Manitoba for their continued support and dedication for these exciting projects to create much needed housing opportunities for Métis Citizens in the province.

"Through the MMF's agreement with Province of Manitoba, we will continue to address the deficiencies we have with affordable housing in this province," stated Goodon. "We look forward to continuing this partnership so many more of our Métis families have affordable, sustainable housing in their community alongside their neighbours."

Anyone wishing to inquire about the affordable housing initiatives of the Manitoba Metis Federation are encouraged to contact the MMF Housing Department at (204) 586-8474.

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