



Le Métis



President's Message

We have just passed through a Season of Thanksgiving when many of us had opportunity to gather with family and friends to share food, music, and dance, for those you who dance during Thanksgiving. It is good to come together with family and friends. It is also good to share what we have with others.

We are now heading into a Season of Remembrance. For our Métis Nation the month of November holds two special times of remembrance. On November 11th we remember and honour our Métis Soldiers and Peacekeepers who gave their lives for our freedom as well as offer our respects and gratitude for our Veterans who have passed on or who are here with us today. It is also important to reflect upon the sacrifices our families make in those times of trouble.

This past summer I participated in the unveiling of the Veteran's Memorial at Batoche. On this memorial are the names of the many who gave their lives beginning with the 1800s and onwards to our most recent Veterans of Canada's Wars. It was humbling to see so many names of those who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy and often take for granted.

Did you know the Métis Veterans are the only Veterans that Canada has yet to formally recognize that wrongs were committed against them following the wars? Upon their return to Canada, very many Métis were not provided with the supports made available to other Veterans to assist them in re-establishing themselves back into the country and its economy. They were simply abandoned. Despite the

fact Canada has often turned a blind eye towards the Métis - and has at times past actively fought against us in battles on the ground at such places as Batoche when we stood up for our rights, families, and lands - our Métis Veterans have always answered the call to defend Canadian freedoms. We will continue to pursue the just and equitable recognition of our Métis Veterans.

November 16th is also another important Day of Remembrance for the Métis. On this day we remember Louis Riel - Métis visionary, Founder of Manitoba and Father of Confederation. On this day each year we mark his death and celebrate his life. In 1885 Riel was executed in a judicial murder authored by the government of John A. MacDonald. MacDonald mistakenly believed his actions would bring about the demise of the Métis and once proclaimed that in 100 years there would be no Métis. Riel countered this thought by saying in 100 years our people would rise again.

Friends, it was almost 100 years later in 1982 that the Métis were formally recognized as rights bearing people in the Canadian Constitution. I invite you to stay tuned to our website, Facebook and Twitter for more information on how we will be commemorating Louis Riel this year. I also invite each of you to remember, in your own way and throughout the year, people such as Riel, Dumont, Bruce, Grant, Lépine, Goulet, Lagimodière, and Daniels as well as the many other leaders for their hard work, dedication and sacrifices for the benefit of the Citizens of the Métis Nation.

These people we remember have helped lay a strong foundation for the Métis. We are building on their vision and dedication a solid and lasting Métis Nation. The winds have changed for the Métis in many ways. Instead of always facing against a wind of steady opposition, we are now moving forward with a more favorable wind pushing us towards our goal of self-governance and reconciliation with Canada - our negotiating partner in Confederation. Let us press on towards our goal with sober mindedness, purpose

and a vision for the future prosperity of our Métis Nation. We will receive our prize of self-governance if we press forward - never giving up and never surrendering our rights as a rights-bearing people in Canada.

This past week I have had the pleasure of hosting a delegation from China as a result of the historic Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) I signed on September 1st between the Manitoba Metis Federation's construction arm, Metis N4 Construction, and a leading Chinese housing developer, Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd. This JVA is anticipated to bring new innovative green technology to Canada to meet the housing needs of Indigenous and northern communities. During the delegation visit we discussed how we can bring the details of our JVA to reality. We also explored existing Métis and other housing opportunities and how to best manufacture in Manitoba the houses we will build using green technology.

On a different note, I want to share with you the exciting news that the Manitoba Metis Federation is an official co-host of the 2017 Canada Games. This is fitting as the games will be taking place in the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland. This is a good opportunity for our Métis Citizens to volunteer and share Métis culture. The Canada Games committee is also looking for artists to design the medals that will be awarded to athletes at the Games. What a great opportunity for our Métis Artists to potentially showcase their fine work on a national stage! I encourage our Métis Citizens to visit the Canada Games website at www.2017canadagames.ca to learn more about these exciting opportunities.

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 should you be traveling this fall season. If you are participating in the harvest, may you be successful.

Meeqwetch,

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

The True History of Rooster Town



It was a reunion for former families of Rooster Town who attended the presentation on the former Métis settlement.

A long forgotten, nearly lost, almost unknown piece of Métis history lies under the feet of those who walk the halls of Grant Park Shopping Centre, Grant Park High School, and the Pan Am Pool in Winnipeg. At this location once existed a road allowance village called Rooster Town, a largely Métis settlement that sprung up in the early 1900s on government land reserved for building roads. More families joined Rooster Town during the Great Depression in the 1930s, but by 1960, the villagers were dispossessed and forced to move. This was due, in large part, to skewed and inaccurate media reports of Rooster Town that painted the town as a threat to the City of Winnipeg.

"The way I read it in the paper back in the early days made my blood boil," said Frank Sais, who lived in Rooster Town until he was 17 years old. "What they wrote was discrimination, and they were saying a lot of things that didn't happen."

Over the past several years, Dr. Evelyn Joy Peters, Professor of urban geography at the University of Winnipeg, has been working with a team of her students and Lawrence Barkwell, Senior Historian for the Louis Riel Institute, to uncover the true history of Rooster Town. According to their findings, most Rooster Town residents owned or rented their land, paid their taxes, and either worked labour jobs or were employed seasonally. Many families lived in tarpaper shacks, but most built small houses from disassembled boxcars from the nearby railway. They didn't have electricity, sewer connections, or running water - but the town thrived.

"There were pockets of extreme poverty, but the media only focused on that. Former residents of the town remember it very differently," says Dr. Peters. "Reporters completely ignored the evidence of upward mobility of the families in Rooster Town."

Peters found that newspaper accounts of the time falsely implied Rooster Town residents were disease-ridden squatters who were on welfare, threw wild parties often requiring a police presence, and didn't own their land, using language like "squalor", "filth", and "dilapidated shacks" to describe the town. Due to stigma formed by these accounts, many former Rooster Town residents still refuse to acknowledge having lived there. These media reports suggested to the City of Winnipeg that Rooster Town was a drain on the public purse, despite opposing evidence.



Rooster Town was very isolated from the surrounding neighborhoods as seen in this image from 1951.

In the 1950s the City slowly began to push the residents further and further southwest, in order to develop Grant Park High School and Grant Park Shopping Centre in the location where Rooster Town was located. In 1959, the City offered residents who hadn't yet left the town \$50-\$75 to move or face eviction - facilitating the final dispersal of the town.

Frank Sais says his family was one of the last who were forced to leave in 1960. His mother went to City Hall to pay their annual taxes, only to discover the City had sold his family's land to the school board. Luckily, the City acknowledged they had made a mistake and offered Sais's father payment for his property.

"Nobody notified us, nobody said anything," explained Sais. "If they would have come to us and said you're going to have to move, here's what we'll offer you for your land - that's fine, that's doing it the right way. But turning around and selling it before letting the people know, that's stealing."

Dr. Peters stresses the story of Rooster Town is one that needs to be told. It's vital to recognize that Fort Rouge was once Métis land, that the Métis village once flourishing there was driven out, and that the past media portrayal of Rooster Town was partial and incorrect. And it's imperative to remember, each time you set foot in Grant Park Shopping Centre, Grant Park High School, or the Pan Am Pool, that you're walking the site where Rooster Town once stood - and that's an important part of Métis history.



Families in attendance browse through countless maps and documents from the Rooster Town presentation.

Remembering the Beadwork Tradition



Beautiful display at the Manitoba Museum's public Métis beadwork and quillwork collection. (Photo taken at the Manitoba Museum).

The Métis have long practiced the art of beadwork and quillwork to express the important values of their culture. Known as "The Flower Beadwork People", the Métis became highly regarded for their breathtaking floral beadwork designs. Recently, the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) beading group, the *Flower Beadwork Circle* and the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) took part in a private tour to view the Manitoba Museum's public and private collection of Métis beadwork and quillwork.

During the days of the fur trade, the floral beadwork designs - which became known distinctively as a Métis art form - were extremely valuable trade items. The bead and quillwork were specially handcrafted by Métis craftswomen, who were greatly influenced by both their First Nation and European ancestors. Each

design would emphasize important values within the Métis culture such as special relationships they help with their animals as well as to the land.

Many of these exceptional forms of art would decorate items such as: jackets, vests, bags, gloves, sashes, blankets, and jewelry. During the private tour by the *Flower Beadwork Circle* these breathtaking items were on full display for the guests to see and study. Amelia Fay, who is the Manitoba Museum's Curator of HBC Collection, hosted the tour and was very excited for the opportunity to highlight Métis beadwork and quillwork.

While the public galleries offer a great introduction into the rich history of Métis beadwork and quillwork, they only account for only five percent of the museum's total Métis beadwork collection. To get

an even closer look at the stunning artwork you can book a special tour to view the museum's private collection. To inquire about booking a private tour at the Manitoba Museum, contact either Amelia Fay at (204) 988-0563 or the museum at (204) 956-2830.

We encourage our Métis citizens to take advantage of both the public and special tours of the Manitoba Museum's Métis collections. It is a wonderful opportunity to witness and remember this proud Métis tradition. If you do take a tour, we invite you to share your experience with us. Drop us a line at communications@mmf.mb.ca. The opinions of our Métis citizens are important and help preserve the portrayal of Métis culture for future generations.

If you are interested in learning how to do Métis beadwork, or if you have questions regarding Métis beadwork, you can contact the *Flower Beadwork Circle* group coordinator, Louise Gordey, by calling (204) 984-9480 or emailing lgordey@mmf.mb.ca.



A pouch from the Museum's private collection of Métis beadwork and quillwork. (Photo taken at the Manitoba Museum).

A Night to Remember

It was a night to remember for many fathers and daughters, as the Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations department hosted a Princess Ball. The wonderful event took place on Friday, October 15th, 2016 as a fundraiser to help the Christmas Cheer Board support Métis families this Christmas. The special father-daughter evening was generously hosted by Elsie Bear's Kitchen, located at the Home Office of the MMF at 150 Henry Avenue.

Magic was in the air as fathers and daughters dressed up for what would be a very special evening filled with fun. The daughters dressed up as their favorite princesses and took part in an evening of storytelling, singing, dancing, music, food and prizes. The little Princesses had a special opportunity to meet and hang with three of their favorite Disney Princesses

who also attended the event. It was indeed a magical evening for both the fathers and their daughters.



Fathers and daughters enjoying a delicious dinner during their magical evening together.

They took home more than just goody bags; they left with beautiful memories that will last a lifetime.



Leave Your Imprint at the 2017 Canada Summer Games

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is proud to be an official Co-host of next year's Canada Summer Games, which are being hosted in Winnipeg July 28-August 13, 2017. The MMF will be providing guidance for Métis cultural inclusiveness throughout the Games being held on the traditional Métis Homeland, and will be looking to Manitoba's Métis Community to help celebrate this exciting celebration of youth, sport, and culture. The 2017 Canada Summer Games will mark two historic anniversaries - the 50th anniversary of the Games, and the 150th birthday of our great country Canada. In the spirit of the Games, get involved, celebrate your culture, and leave your imprint as a Métis Citizen!

The Canada Summer Games Host Society has many opportunities available for those interested in being part of the celebrations. A Medal Design Commission contest was launched October 6th, 2016, inviting recognized artists and graphic designers to submit their qualifications for a chance to be selected to design the medals to be awarded to athletes at the 2017 Canada Summer Games.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Métis artists to express their creativity and be recognized for their creative innovation on a national scale should they submit a successful design," says Mona Buors, Associate Minister of Heritage, Culture, Sports & Youth for the MMF. "I encourage all interested artists - Métis, Aboriginal, and non-Aboriginal - to submit medal design ideas, and potentially become an influential part of the history and celebrations for the Canada Summer Games' 50th anniversary and our country's 150th birthday."

The chosen artist and their design will leave a lasting legacy in communities across Canada and will receive a \$2500 honorarium and other benefits. To submit your artistic qualifications, or for more information, please visit: <http://www.2017canadagames.ca/en/content/medal-design-commission-0>. The contest closes November 3rd, 2016.

Volunteering at next year's Games is another great way to participate. Being a volunteer is an exciting opportunity to be front-and-centre throughout the celebrations and showcase your Métis pride. It's also a chance to build valuable leadership skills and



MMF Associate Minister of Heritage, Culture, Sports & Youth Mona Buors (right) celebrates the torch unveiling with Manitoba Hydro CEO Kelvin Shepherd (left) and President and CEO of the 2017 Canada Summer Game Jeff Hnatiuk (middle).

networks that may lead to future volunteer or career opportunities. And if you didn't get to meet Niibin, the Canada Summer Games mascot, at the MMF's 48th Annual General Assembly - as a volunteer you'll be likely to bump into him at the Forks during the Games next summer. To register as a volunteer, or for more information, please visit: <http://www.2017canadagames.ca/en/content/volunteer-recruitment>.

The Torch that will be used to ignite the official Canada Summer Games flame next year during Opening Ceremonies was unveiled October 5th, 2016, at Manitoba Hydro Place in downtown Winnipeg. The torch will be carried proudly in the upcoming Torch Relay as a symbol of unity between all Manitobans, Canadians, and individuals involved in or attending the Games in 2017. For those looking to attend or offer their support for Métis youth who will be chosen to run in the Torch Relay, more details about this event will follow in the coming months.

Follow MMF on Facebook and Twitter for updates on next year's Games, and for more opportunities on how you can get involved in the celebration!

Find the latest news online



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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 **Monday, October 31, 2016** to:
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