



Le Metis



President's Message

We have been left a legacy, by Louis Riel and others who have gone on before us, blazing the trail to recognition and self-governance. We must remain diligent and vigilant. We must continue the good fight managing and protecting our people, our resources and our environment. This past week I attended the COP22, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh. At this conference, attended by international leaders, I was privileged to present on responsible conservation management that considers and includes the impact of our efforts on our environment, resources, animals, culture and economy.

One of Canada's most invaluable natural resources are Manitoba's boreal forests. These forests often called "the great lung of North America" for their superior air and water filtration, and their irreplaceable ability to store carbon. Boreal forests are one of few remaining places in the world that house fully functioning ecosystems, supporting countless communities and animal species. Failing to maintain these ecosystems will lead to the disappearance of animal and plant species. Preserving boreal forests are critical in protecting the earth's current and future ecological health. It is also important for the survival of our way of life.

Sadly, the best methods of tackling these issues are often misunderstood. Conservation that doesn't focus on preserving a balance may have devastating impacts on our ecosystems and those dependent on them. Although well-intended, many resource management efforts are short-sighted and can cause a chain-reaction of long-lasting, negative effects. We must focus on ensuring both the environment and the economy are integrated in our plans.

An instance of misguided conservation can be seen with beaver trapping, which has nearly become obsolete. As a consequence, the trapping industry and the environment beavers live in have both suffered. The beaver population has grown rapidly, unrestricted by a lack of incentives for trappers

and no natural predators. Large numbers of beaver dams create enormous pools of stagnant water. Oxygen levels drop without constant water flow, killing masses of fish, and forming breeding grounds for dangerous bacteria like E.coli. Flooding caused by dams introduces harmful pollutants like methyl mercury to essential waterways. The result? A trickle-down of negative, far-reaching impacts.

The Manitoba Metis Federation has witnessed these types of adverse effects on our environment firsthand, and has worked to correct misunderstandings on responsible resource management. In 2000, The MMF launched the Lake Winnipegosis Clean-Up Project to clear creeks and streams of beavers and their dams in the Lake Winnipegosis area to help restore depleted fish levels. The Project provided meaningful jobs to people in the area benefitting the local economy. Recent observations indicate the fish population has increased since the project began. In 2012, The Lake Winnipegosis Clean-Up Project won Manitoba Hydro's Spirit of the Earth Award for its successful environmental protection approach.

Our conservation approaches must take into account of the long-term effects and impacts of our actions and policies. Wise use, well-considered decision-making, and, of course caution, will hopefully reduce negative chain-reactions. Protecting our environment and natural resources while preserving our livelihoods must go hand in hand. Together we will ensure - even in the new reality of climate change - we will have these fish and wildlife to enjoy for generations to come.

In closing I wish to bid each of you a healthy season of remembrance. May memories of your loved ones give you warmth and confidence. I also send my thoughts and prayers to those of us who mourn, are sick or shut in. May you enjoy community and help from your family and friends.

Meeqwetch,

This is the season of remembrance. On November 11th we remember those who gave their lives in sacrifice for our freedom. Canadians of all walks of life, of all ages, and of all nations, mark Remembrance Day. Once known as Armistice Day, since 1919 it marks a moment of silence on the bell's toll at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month. At that moment we pause our work, or our play, to offer our respect and thanks to those who have made sacrifices in our struggles against tyranny and oppression.

When I look back over the centuries of the Métis Nation, I am reminded of the many who have fought for our freedom, rights and recognition. From the early struggle of Cuthbert Grant, to the resistance by Louis Riel through answering the call to our Métis Veterans to fight for freedom and keep the world's peace. This Remembrance Day take a moment to recall those who gave so we may enjoy. Attend a service - say a prayer of thanks - reach out to each other and share one another's burdens .

On November 16th is Louis Riel Commemoration Day. On that date we remember the man and recall his deeds. We mark the anniversary of his death and celebrate his life. He and his government took the stand to protect our rights, our lands, and our families. It was by his stand, and of other Métis leaders, that the Métis became Canada's negotiating partners in Confederation and the Founders of Manitoba. This year we will continue to grow his legacy.

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

Manitoba Metis CFS L.I.F.E. Program Attracting National Attention For Its Innovative Approach To Keeping Families Together



LIFE mentor Joan (left), with her LIFE Mom and infant son.

We hear much in our news these days about Canada's broken Child Family Services system. Canada has some of the highest rates of children in care in the world. On any given day, there are more than 10,000 Manitoba children in care.

The Child Welfare System provides services to families with varying complex needs. As our society continues to develop and change, our communities and families do as well. For this reason, it is a constant challenge to adapt our Child Welfare System to the ever changing needs of our families.

Billie Schibler, the Chief Executive Officer of Metis Child and Family Services Authority says that Manitoba's child welfare system is a chronically overburdened system that requires an overhaul. Little has changed since Manitoba's child welfare system was devolved to include Indigenous leaders in decision-making more than a decade ago. She states that despite these changes, the provincial government continues to control the funding, which largely remains based upon children and youth coming into care, rather than funding programs that might keep them out of the child welfare system.

Manitoba's Metis Child and Family Services organizations made national news recently for paddling against the national current for delivering a program that provides an alternative to removing children from their families.

Under their LIFE Program, (Live-In Family Enhancement) rather than removing children from their parents while they are in care, the family is kept together. They live with mentors who help the family develop a safe and nurturing family environment while building capacity in the ability of the parents to

resume the primary care of their children.

The program was developed in 2008 by the Metis Child, Family and Community Services Agency and is now in the process of being expanded into the jurisdiction of their sister agency, Michif Child and Family Services Agency, which serves Northern and Western Manitoba.

The Authority and its agencies needs to recruit up to 10 LIFE families in Winnipeg as well as expand LIFE to other centres like Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas and Thompson.

So what does it take to be a LIFE mentor?

The LIFE Program Social Worker says that the qualities that make a good LIFE Foster Parent include a caring and nurturing personality, an open mind, a lot of patience and understanding, and a knowledge and appreciation of Métis culture. LIFE Mentors (Foster Parents) undergo a similar application process as regular Foster Parents, including a series of background checks, interviews and orientation. As with our participants, our LIFE Mentors come from varying circumstances and backgrounds and are selected according to their ability to provide a good match with a family.

"Joan" (We have changed the name to protect the privacy of the families involved) became involved with the LIFE program as a LIFE Foster Parent when she made the decision to change career paths and wanted to give back to her community in a meaningful and positive way. She had planned to host one LIFE family before returning to the workforce; however the valuable experience of bonding with her first LIFE family made it so meaningful that she could not

imagine life without LIFE.

"They amaze me all the time. I stay in touch with them. Once they're gone, they're still my family. They will always be my family." said Joan. "Same with the ones I have now. And I'm sure in 10 years I'm going to need a really big dinner table."

Billie Schibler says that the LIFE program can be flexible to meet the needs of its participants and its mentor families.

"While most LIFE Mentors are "stay at home" caregivers, we try to be flexible and understanding of the different circumstances of our families and their LIFE caregivers," said Schibler. "It may be possible to have outside employment, pursue an education, or have differing living arrangements and still be a LIFE Mentor."

In Joan's situation, she is currently mentoring a 23 year old mother and her infant son in her LIFE home. The mother believes that the bond she has with her child in the LIFE home is much different than it would have been if she had only had visits at a child welfare office a few times a week.

"I'm learning to cook and clean and budget with Joan - all the things you need to learn to be independent and on your own," said the LIFE program mother. "Coming here was a very good chance to keep the bond with my newborn and I feel like a lot more people should be able to have the chance."

Metis CFS encourages interested individuals to call and inquire about their LIFE program. It may be that you have the power to give the gift of keeping a Métis family together.

"If we want to keep our children in our communities in Métis homes, then our Métis people have to step up and open their homes and hearts to mentor families who need support," said Manitoba Metis Federation President, David Chartrand. "I encourage everyone to take the step to find out what it takes to be a LIFE Mentor Mom or Dad. It may be that you have the ability to make a significant impact in the lives of our families in need, help keep a Métis family together, and strengthen our community."

To find out more about LIFE:

In Winnipeg, Interlake and Eastman regions, contact Metis Child, Family and Community Services; rheanne.bisson@metiscfs.mb.ca, 204-927-7313.

In Western and Northern Manitoba, contact Michif Child and Family Services Agency; **Patricia**. arrowsmith@michifcs.com, 1-877-676-7921 or 204-622-3520.

Love Sewn Into Every Stitch



Dorothy Racine (middle w/pink top) along with members of her family received a very warm welcoming from the Siloam Mission. Staff of the Manitoba Metis Federation's Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations Janel Leiterman (first from left) and Georgina Liberty (second from left) also showed their appreciation for the generous donation.

The homeless community members of Winnipeg will have a little more to bundle up with this coming winter. Dorothy Racine, a Métis Elder from near Lake Metigoshe in the Turtle Mountains located in southwestern Manitoba, donated one hundred beautifully made denim jean quilts to Siloam Mission at 300 Princess Street, Winnipeg Manitoba. With support and encouragement of her family, Dorothy spent nearly a year cutting and sewing denim quilts.

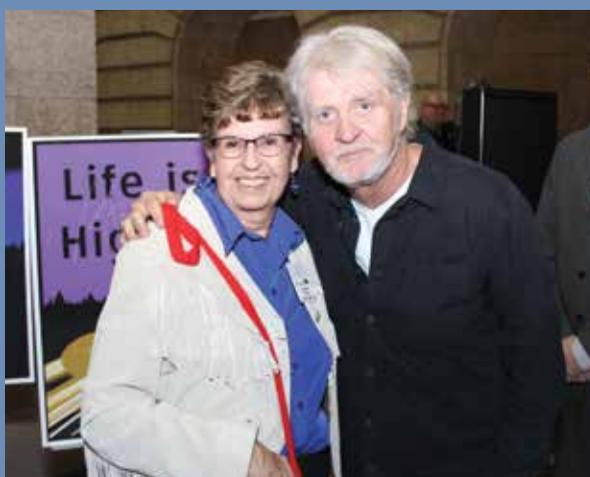
Dorothy, who is also a proud Métis Citizen, began this act of kindness when her young grandchildren asked if she could start making blankets for the homeless. Dorothy turned their request into a project and has been actively making denim quilts for the last few years. This was also not the first time she had done such a donation. In 2015, she donated quilts she sewed for the homeless community in Brandon, Manitoba.

The quilts are entirely made from denim jeans and incorporate socks sewn to the bottom of each quilt. This thoughtful gesture also originated from her grandchildren, who were afraid people would get their feet cold. Although Dorothy has paid for the majority of her supplies, she has received generous denotations from multiple sources including Value Village. Every Friday, Value Village would donate four to five boxes of denim jeans allowing her to meet her goal. Dorothy also received generous support from her family who assisted with funding, materials and transportation.

"We could not survive without individuals such as this," stated Chief Executive Officer of Siloam Mission, Dr. Gary Corbett "We could not do the work we do with our community without generous donations like this, it is beyond words what we can express."

With the majority of the homeless community population within Winnipeg being of Indigenous descent, Dorothy's donation means many struggling Métis families receive the gift of hope and encouragement. The Manitoba Metis Federation also encourages you to find how you can help support your local homeless service centre. Your love and care through a donation of resources or your time can provide someone with more than just warmth.

Life Is A Highway



Manitoba Metis Federation's Minister of Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations Denise Thomas (left) offered her congratulations to Tom Cochrane (right) on his achievement.

Order of Canada, Canadian Music Hall of Fame, and now a highway. Lynn Lake, Manitoba Musician Tom Cochrane was recently honoured with the unveiling of *Tom Cochrane's Life Is A Highway* - a 322-kilometer stretch of Provincial Road 391 that will be renamed after him. The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) was invited to the private ceremony held at the Legislative Building in Winnipeg. MMF'S Minister

of Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations (TSN) Denise Thomas attended on behalf of President Chartrand and took part in what was a celebration for all Manitoba citizens.

Among those in attendance were Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister and Lynn Lake Mayor James Lindsey. Both Premier Pallister and Mayor Lindsey praised the renaming of the highway. As part of his remarks, Mayor Lindsey said "Life is indeed a highway and provincial road 391 is a good metaphor for that notion."

Tom Cochrane, who was overcome with gratitude, couldn't help but recognize his Manitoba roots as the main reason why he has attained the success he has.

"I take a lot of my identity out of here, my roots have been strong here in the past and I'm just very, very proud to say that I'm from Manitoba."

Mr. Cochrane also took the opportunity to give great acknowledgement to the many communities of Northern Manitoba and how they represent the resilient Manitoba spirit.

"I'd like to go along the route and say hi to the

communities and pay my regards to the indigenous communities, I think that's really important," he said in accepting this recognition.

The ceremony concluded with Tom Cochrane playing a short acoustic set of his two number one hit songs 'Life Is A Highway' and 'Big League'.

If you live in Manitoba or find yourself passing through someday, don't miss the opportunity to ride down Tom Cochrane's Life Is A Highway, you may just see someone you recognize along the way.



Tom Cochrane and Bill Bell (left) concluded the ceremony with a memorable acoustic performance.

Eco-Friendly Housing Initiative to Provide High-Quality Modern Homes for Indigenous Communities

A new green housing initiative is in the works as the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) welcomed a delegation of Chinese business representatives to Manitoba on October 24th and 25th, 2016. In September, the MMF signed a historic Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) which included the MMF's construction arm Metis N4 Construction, and a leading Chinese housing developer, Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd. The JVA will provide environmentally friendly pre-fabricated steel frame homes for Canadian Indigenous peoples, including the Manitoba Métis.

Quality affordable housing is lacking in many northern and Indigenous communities in Manitoba and across Canada. Many homes are not built with materials that can adequately withstand severe northern or Canadian winter temperatures. According to a 2011 census, approximately 32,000 Métis families are in need of housing. The need for core housing is also 25% higher for Métis households compared to non-Aboriginal.

New homes resulting from the JVA between the MMF and Chinese developers will be built using innovative green technology. This technology produces environmentally friendly, highly durable, better insulated modern housing to endure cold Canadian climates. Large components of the homes, like walls, are assembled in pieces within factories, then quickly and easily built on-site in less than 40 days - making these homes more affordable than conventional home construction.

While in Manitoba, the Chinese delegation joined the MMF in Selkirk to discuss required blueprint preparations, and to visit the sites where the first homes will be built using the green technology. The first housing project produced from the JVA is expected to begin in Selkirk in January 2017.

"It's fantastic that we're being innovative, and to have these first green homes built in Selkirk is an honour and privilege," said Larry Johanson, Mayor of Selkirk, after meeting with Metis N4 and its Chinese partner. "To have this strong partnership and to see these homes going up in Selkirk is very exciting. We're thrilled about being on the forefront for this project."

The green housing technology will use steel framing



Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand (second from left) and Minister of Energy & Infrastructure Jack Park (right) welcomed the Chinese delegation on the first of their two day visit to Manitoba.

for building instead of wood. Tough, galvanized steel components with a service period of 90 years are pre-cut and assembled in factories and easily transported to building sites. Steel framing is a cheaper and more eco-friendly building material, reducing the commercial and industrial waste that accompanies wood construction.

Being heavier and denser than wood, steel does not absorb moisture. This characteristic eliminates the risk of mold, mildew, and wood pests, and improves insulation quality for a warmer home. Houses built with steel frames are also at a reduced risk for fire, as steel is non-combustible and can withstand temperatures over 1,000 degrees Celsius. In the event of a fire, this also helps prevent the blaze from spreading.

Recently, the MMF was able to view plants in China where insulation for the new housing initiative is being manufactured. In the near future, the JVA aims to bring a manufacturing plant to Manitoba, where pre-fabricated steel frame and construction materials can be produced.

In the future, the MMF and partners of the JVA will solicit Métis suppliers to provide transportation,

building supplies, and other construction related services in the assembly and manufacturing operations that are to come for this initiative. This will increase local economic development by providing education, trades training, and employment opportunities to local communities.

Short and long term benefits stemming from this new green housing initiative will address growing Indigenous housing needs in Manitoba and Canada, effectively contribute to economic development by providing jobs and necessary skills training to local communities, and help improve living conditions for these groups to secure better futures for themselves and their families.

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