



Le Métis



2016 has been an historic year for Manitoba's Métis. With the election of a new federal government in late 2015, the winds of change are beginning to blow and new opportunities are coming our way.

Immediately after forming government, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau directed his Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada - Dr. Carolyn Bennett - to engage the MMF in reconciliation discussions to settle our long standing constitutional grievance. Since my first talks with Minister Bennett, I have led Manitoba's Métis to signing an historic framework agreement that will lead to a modern-day treaty for the beneficiaries of the constitutional promise made in the *Manitoba Act, 1870*.

In March, Manitoba recognized Louis Riel as the first leader of the Province of Manitoba. This is a recognition long overdue. Under Riel's provisional government, the province of Manitoba was created and joined Confederation with Canada.

Also in March, the MMF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the 2017 Canada Summer Games to be an official Indigenous Co-Host. The MMF will be providing guidance for Métis cultural inclusiveness throughout the Games which are being held in Winnipeg - the birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland.

April past, I also had the privilege to be at the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) when it released its ruling on the *Daniels v. Canada* case and stated the Métis are recognized as "Indians" under Section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. As a result of this ruling, the federal government is now responsible

President's Message

for negotiating with the Métis as a Nation.

In June, we commemorated the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Battle of Seven Oaks or, as the Métis remember it, la Victoire de la Grenouillère. This was a critical event in the emergence of the Métis Nation during which we asserted ourselves as an independent and culturally distinct people. It marks a historic time when we emerged victorious after being forced to fight for our right to free trade, and our right to exist.

Then in July, Thomas Isaac, Canada's Ministerial Special Representative on Métis Section 35 Rights and the Manitoba Metis Federation Decision, reaffirmed the Manitoba Metis Federation as the representative government of the Métis Citizens in Manitoba and 'can forthrightly represent Métis interests in respect of any discussions and negotiations.' In his report, he also recommended the MMF and Canada move on implementing the judicial declaration granted to the MMF. This is something, with the signing of the Framework Agreement with Canada on November 15th of this past year, we are already well on our way.

In September, the Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) construction arm, Metis N4 Construction, and a leading Chinese housing developer, Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd, signed a joint venture agreement to bring new innovative green technology to Canada to meet the housing needs of Indigenous and northern communities. This agreement has led to the creation of INDECO - an innovative green housing construction company.

In November past, we signed our Framework Agreement with Canada on our land claim. This agreement will start the formal negotiations leading to the reconciliation of our constitutional grievance and the renewal of the solemn promise.

This month, I took part in the development of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. During a full and tense day of discussions and negotiations on Climate Change, we effected changes to this agreement to ensure Métis are not only mentioned but included and participants in developing a climate change solution for not only our

province but our country. This plan will be reflective of our values and needs as Métis Citizens.

Again, this month, I had the honour to represent the Métis Nation at the National Indigenous Leaders meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau at Parliament in Ottawa. Many doors are being opened for us, but we still face systematic and structural discrimination in our relationship with the federal government. We need a government wide distinctions based approach and a Métis Nation policy that addresses and meets our needs. I am confident, however, that this government under Prime Minister Trudeau is fully committed to fulfilling their promises and to creating a strong, sincere nation-to-nation relationship with the Métis Nation.

Locally, many of our departments and Métis Citizens have enjoyed success this past year. In April, Kayleen McKay ran over 445 kilometres from Duck Bay to Alexander Docks in Winnipeg to draw attention to MMIW and to help raise money for Drag the Red. In September, we celebrated new affordable Métis housing in Brandon with a ribbon cutting. November saw a number of our Métis Youth recognized at the annual Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards with Julie Desrochers, Kyle Monkman, Emma Gillespie and Alex Hosfield each receiving an award. In December, the Province of Manitoba announced the Metis Employment and Training department will be receiving the 2016 Minister's Workforce Development Excellence Award. These are just a small sampling of the many great things that have taken place over the last year. To list them all, I would not be able to fit them into this issue of Le Métis.

Finally, as you join with family and friends this Holiday Season to reminisce and make new memories, may your families and relationships be strengthened. May the generosity you share with one another warm your hearts and your homes. For those who are shut-in or are having difficult times due to failing health, sickness or loss, I offer my thoughts and prayers. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Meeqwetch,

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

Combating Climate Change with Green Technology

Evidence of climate change is all around us. It is becoming more and more prominent in our everyday lives. The rapidly melting ice caps in Canada's north are one of many cases demonstrating the need to reduce our carbon footprint. These changes must be met and mitigated. One of the ways to help address climate changes is to utilize environmentally friendly technology, construction materials, and methods.

Metis N4 Construction - the Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) construction arm, Beijing Yingdong Industrial Ltd. - a leading Chinese housing developer, and JNE Consulting have come together in partnership to create INDECO, an innovative green housing company which will build affordable, environmentally friendly housing for Indigenous Peoples in Canada, including the Métis.

Citizens of the Métis Nation, as Indigenous Peoples of Canada, are among the most susceptible to the effects of changing climate. Our lifestyle and reliance on natural resources for trapping, hunting and fishing means we are heavily impacted by environmental changes. To ensure that our cultural lifestyle and livelihoods are protected and maintained for future generations, we must turn to green technology to preserve our natural resources. In doing so, it is important to recognize the environment and the economy go hand in hand. An eco-friendly

construction approach will help us integrate these two significant areas.

The leading-edge, environmentally friendly construction methods and materials INDECO will use are cleaner and more efficient than those used in conventional construction. Steel framing components are pre-cut and assembled in factories, decreasing commercial and industrial waste on job sites. INDECO will also use a construction material called basalt, which is a form of volcanic lava rock. Material constructed with basalt creates no wastewater, gas, or other dangerous industrial waste. These materials are high-quality, durable, and provide excellent insulation and protection from fire, water corrosion, and pest problems.



All these characteristics and manufacturing methods ensure the effects of housing construction on the environment are minimized, while simultaneously providing high quality, low cost homes to endure Canada's severe winter temperatures. INDECO's strategy will also contribute to local economies by providing jobs to individuals living in areas where the green homes will be built.

During the recent COP22 Climate Change Conference held in Marrakech, Morocco during the month of November, Metis N4 Construction was proud to share details about INDECO with world leaders in attendance. A video on this important work can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLfNh3VSw4s>

At COP22, President Chartrand also spoke on the importance of responsible conservation practices and the significance of preserving Manitoba's boreal forests. His presentation highlighted that need for a balance in nature as key to preserving our natural resources and their health. You can watch the video President Chartrand shared during his presentation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcT7B4xxQwc>

PM and Indigenous Leaders Meet to Advance Reconciliation

In a press statement, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau elaborated on an earlier commitment to meet each year with each of the Indigenous peoples on advancing section 35 rights reconciliation and establishing a new relationship with Canada:

"First, we will create permanent bilateral mechanisms with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the four Inuit Nunangat Regions, and the Métis National Council and its Governing Members. In this Kelowna-like process, every year, we will meet to develop policy on shared priorities, and monitor our progress going forward. Similar meetings with key Cabinet Ministers will take place at least twice each year."

The first of those summits with the Prime Minister and the Métis Nation is being planned for January 2017. It is expected that senior officials from the government of Canada and the Métis Nation will work between meetings of Ministers and Métis Nation leaders to make progress on substantive issues.

A number of those key Ministers accompanied the Prime Minister to the talks today including Treasury Board President Scott Brison, INAC Minister Carolyn Bennett, Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould and

Health Minister Philpot.

Vice-President Chartrand was accompanied by fellow members of the MNC Board of Governors, MNO President Froh, MNA President Poitras and MNBC President Morin Dal Col. He stated: "Today's meeting between Canada's National Indigenous Leaders, the Prime Minister and a number of his Ministers was productive. I am encouraged and commend this positive approach to renewed government-to-government relationship with the Métis Nation by Canada. Many doors have been opened for us, but we still face systematic and structural discrimination in our relationship with the federal government. We need a government wide distinctions based approach and a Métis Nation policy that addresses and meets our needs. I am confident, however, that this government under Prime Minister Trudeau is fully committed to fulfilling their promises and to creating a strong, sincere nation-to-nation relationship with the Métis Nation."

MNC President Chartier was also pleased with the outcome of the meeting.

"It is good that the Prime Minister is now confirming the structure of the bilateral talks between Canada

and the Métis Nation as we move forward on section 35 rights reconciliation," said Chartier. "This will help ensure a positive outcome for our upcoming summit with him and after that will make for a robust process involving his ministers and our leadership on an ongoing basis to deal and finally resolve long outstanding issues. I applaud the Prime Minister's leadership on this."



MNC Vice-President David Chartrand and other Indigenous leaders meet with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. (Flickr. pmtrudeau. "Ottawa. 2016-12-15.")

Canada and Métis Nation Join Forces to Support Clean Growth and Combat Climate Change

In keeping with their nation-to-nation relationship, Canada and the Métis Nation have arrived at an agreed upon mechanism to address climate change at a meeting of First Ministers and the three National Indigenous leaders today in Ottawa. The implementation plan for the Pan-Canadian Framework enables the full inclusion of all the Métis Nation governments to participate effectively. Through senior level officials tables and appropriate working group efforts, the Métis Nation has designed a respectful and effective mechanism to address climate change impacts at the regional and community levels while advancing Métis Nation engagement in the changing Canadian economy.

"The Métis Nation continues to focus its efforts to maintain a healthy Métis Nation and to protect our traditional territories. The Pan-Canadian Framework, along with the Process for Ongoing Engagement with the Métis Nation, represent the plan and the means to achieve this plan", said MNC President Clément Chartier. "I appreciate the Prime Minister's involvement of the Métis Nation and look forward to implementing this plan in partnership with the Government of Canada on a Nation-to-Nation basis."

President Chartier and fellow members of the MNC Board of Governors have been working with the Government of Canada to develop the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change and the Process for Ongoing Engagement of the Métis Nation.

"This is a significant step in moving forward on addressing the issues of climate change and I am very pleased with the inclusion of the Métis Nation in

this framework," said Métis Nation British Columbia President Clara Morin Dal Col. "In British Columbia, the state of the environment and the impacts of climate change are very important to Métis people, and this framework lays out a plan to ensure our interests and concerns are addressed, and that Métis people are involved in the process."

"This framework is an historic and important step in solidifying the government to government - Nation to Nation relationship between the Métis Nation and Canada," said Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras. "The Métis Nation of Alberta is looking forward to working with Canada and Alberta to ensure that the impact of climate change can be appropriately addressed."

"I applaud the Prime Minister in the inclusion of ensuring the Métis Nation will not only be included by name but will have a chance to participate in the greatest challenge that this country and the world faces" said Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Vice-President Gerald Morin. "We want to do our part as the Métis Nation in achieving and setting that goal."

"I am pleased with the emphasis this Prime Minister is placing on the importance of balancing the effects of climate change with the need for sound economic development strategy," said MNC Vice-President and MMF President David Chartrand. "The planet is sending us a message and a challenge that we as leaders must meet. The actions we take now are not only for today, but will also form all our tomorrows. We cannot change what has been done, but we can set a better path for the future. The Métis Nation is ready to be a part of a cleaner, healthier environment.

We are ready to walk with the Prime Minister and the rest of Canada towards this goal."

According to Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh: "For Ontario Métis, the lands and waters of our Homelands are the heart, soul and lifeblood of our communities, identity and culture. Climate change puts at risk the living systems that nurture and sustain the health and well-being of all peoples and it transcends political, geographic, societal, and biological divides. The Métis Nation of Ontario welcomes this historic Framework agreement, and looks forward to working on a nation-to-nation basis with all those with which we share these lands to address the challenge before us. We will work with a view of forging collaborations and partnerships, consistent with our traditional alliances and the aspirations set out in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose. We will also work with our Métis youth, women, veterans, Elders, Captains of the Hunt, knowledge holders, elected leadership, and all interested MNO citizens toward areas of common concern on land and water protection issues, including climate change."

Today's First Ministers Meeting with the Indigenous Leaders is part of the follow up to the commitments made by Canada on climate change in Paris last year. According to Prime Minister Trudeau: "Meaningful engagement and partnership with the Métis Nation to support the implementation of this historic Framework is another step toward reconciliation and will result in a cleaner and more sustainable environment today, tomorrow and for future generations."

MMF Staff Christmas Celebrations 2016

Scenes from the MMF staff party on December 20, 2016 as staff members gathered to celebrate the Holiday Season at Assiniboia Downs.

See a special video and more pictures on our Facebook page at [ManitobaMetisFederationOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/ManitobaMetisFederationOfficial).





Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year



From President David Chartrand,
your Métis Government and the Staff
of the Manitoba Metis Federation.

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