



Le Métis



President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday season filled with laughter, love, joy and peace with all your family and friends. I have enjoyed some quality time with my own family and friends after an exceptionally busy 2016.

In the last issue of *Le Métis* I recounted the many wonderful happenings and accomplishments of 2016. The past year the MMF leadership and staff, along with our affiliated institutions MEDO, LRCC, MEDF, LRI, and others, worked hard and made considerable gains for the benefit of our Métis Citizens. I am looking forward to much more work and great accomplishments in 2017!

Soon I will be meeting again with Prime Minister Trudeau at the upcoming Métis Nation Summit between the Métis Nation and the federal government happening at the end of this month in Ottawa. We will be sitting together, nation-to-nation and government-to-government. This will be the first with Prime Minister Trudeau's government and will become a yearly meeting between Canada and its Negotiating Partner in Confederation - the Métis Nation.

During this meeting I will be representing our needs and concerns as we move towards negotiating full recognition of our self-government; a fair and equitable settlement of our comprehensive land claim; health care benefits; mutually beneficial economic development strategies and opportunities; and other important programs and services our Métis Citizens require. This is a meeting with all the governing members of the Métis Nation. I will meet with the Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers to ensure the government has a good understanding of how the Manitoba Métis and our Confederation Partner will work together.

Our Ancestors, led by our Métis Leader Louis Riel and others, ensured we would be remembered as the Founders of Manitoba. This is a legacy many Canadians have tried so hard to forget. The forward momentum we have gathered this past year means we will no longer be the Forgotten People of this country. Our partner has returned to the negotiating table to work with us in reconciliation and to right the wrongs committed against us. Truly our time has come!

Today, our grandfathers and grandmothers, fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, as well as our friends and neighbours, continue to build strong families and healthy communities. They have made great progress. Yet they face challenges and the MMF, as your Métis Government, will be there in 2017 to help them overcome the obstacles they face in meeting their needs and in reaching their goals.

Over the coming months, we will resume building on the solid foundations the MMF has carefully placed during the past year. We will implement

the plans and strategies we created for Métis health, rights and claims, and other social benefits. Economic development will continue to be a priority. Partnerships with other governments, institutions, and industry leaders will, without any doubt, continue to create new opportunities for business growth, education, training, and jobs.

We look to the future but we must never forget our past and those who walked beside us during prior years but who have passed on and now watch over us. Our departed grandparents, parents, siblings, children and cousins, as well as friends and neighbours will always be dearly remembered in our hearts. They offered us homes filled with warmth, love, and security. They nurtured us and helped us to grow. They are missed. Yet, my heart gladdens as I realize the potential, strength and resilience of the Métis Nation. We will continue to endure in our Citizens today and in our youth, children and grandchildren in the future. We will overcome and find our lasting place in Confederation.

I offer my best wishes for those who are sick or shut-in. May they be blessed with healing, health, and peace. I pray and share my heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for all our neighbours, friends, and families who have lost loved ones. On behalf of our MMF Board of Directors, staff, and citizens, I wish everyone a Healthy, Happy and Successful 2017!

Meeqwetch,

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

Metis N4 Construction in partnership with Manitoba Metis Federation Donate \$10K to Christmas Cheer Board

Donate \$10K to Christmas Cheer Board Winnipeg, MB - In keeping with the generous spirit of the Season, Metis N4 Construction in partnership with the MMF contributed \$10,000.00 to the Christmas Cheer Board at its Annual Staff Christmas Party today. This amounts to double the previous annual commitment.

"Metis N4 Construction has been fortunate to see a good return on a number of its projects and investments. As Métis people, we have a strong tradition and practice of sharing what we have with others," states Mr. Jack Park, MMF Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. "When I heard the Christmas Cheer Board was needing to assist over 18,000 families I knew this was a perfect opportunity for us to partner with the MMF and give them that extra boost they need."

Over the past 16 years, the MMF has been supporting the efforts of the Christmas Cheer Board. The Christmas Cheer Board was started in 1919 by a number of Winnipeg churches. The original intent was to provide Christmas Hampers and toys for the widows and orphans of the soldiers lost during World War One. Today the Christmas Cheer Board provides assistance to families receiving Employment Income Assistance and to many working poor.

"Our Métis government is committed to ensuring that every child from every community receives the



Metis N4 Construction in partnership with the MMF contribute \$10K to the Christmas Cheer Board at the MMF Annual Staff Christmas Party.

Christmas that they dream of and fully deserve," explains President David Chartrand, MMF, "I applaud and thank Metis N4 Construction for working with us in partnership this year to give this much needed boost to the efforts of the Christmas Cheer Board."

The MMF is impressed with the valuable work of the Christmas Cheer Board and in particular of the commitment of Mr. Kai Madsen as he tirelessly works towards ensuring every home and family are

able to enjoy the Holiday Season.

"During our final Cabinet meeting of 2016, my Ministers and I passed a motion to nominate Mr. Kai Madsen to the Order of Manitoba," states President Chartrand. "His dedication and hard work is to be commended and should be recognized by the highest honour available by the province of Manitoba. The MMF will be nominating Kai for this recognition."

Employment Opportunity

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

REPOSTED - Natural Resources Coordinator

Position is located at the MMF Home Office in Winnipeg, MB

View full job details online at www.mmf.mb.ca/employment.php

Deadline for application is January 27, 2017



Manitoba Metis Federation
Believe in Yourself - Believe in Metis

Métis Beadwork Traditions Throughout History

On January 6, 2017, Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA) hosted a lecture on *The Life of Beads* by Dr. Maureen Matthews, Curator of Cultural Anthropology at the Manitoba Museum. The lecture provided insight on the types of materials, techniques, and colours used by Métis craftswomen throughout history.

As well as being an identifier for a family or clan, the colours and patterns used were often a good indicator of when the designs were created. Dr. Matthews demonstrated a notable difference in colours of beads used before and after 1850. Brighter colours often signified the artwork was created before 1850. After 1850 it became chemically possible to make different colours and this was evident in later beadwork. The type of hide used is another indicator of Métis artwork origins; the hide used linked to animals native to the region.

The stunning and complex beaded designs were commonly used during the fur trade era for decorating jackets, vests, bags, leggings, gloves, and sashes. Other items decorated with beadwork were saddles, saddle blankets, halters, and bridles, signifying the valued relationships the Métis had with their animals. These designs are still widely admired and used today to embellish modern retail items such as moccasins, mukluks, gloves, bags, and jewelry.



Dr. Maureen Matthews, Curator of Cultural Anthropology at the Manitoba Museum explains that one of the things that turns up a lot, especially in flower beadwork is hidden messages such as the infinity symbol in the centre of the rose pictured above.



Dr. Maureen Matthews, Curator of Cultural Anthropology at the Manitoba Museum points out the differences in colours used before and after 1850.

The Louis Riel Institute (LRI) has worked to continue this Métis tradition through the *Flower Beadwork Circle*, a group who meets weekly every Wednesday evening to keep the craft alive. In addition to

beadwork, the *Flower Beadwork Circle* offers a variety of Métis cultural workshops throughout the year. Last month, members of the group had an opportunity to participate in a Capote workshop taught by Métis Artisan Nancy Gouliquer. Group members learned how to make Capotes - long coats with hoods made from woolen blankets. These were worn by the historic Red River Métis and French Canadian Voyageurs to keep them warm in winter. Nancy's next Capote workshop is scheduled for January 14th, 2017. A quillwork workshop taught by Master Beader Jeanine Krauchi is also scheduled for January 14th, 2017.

If you are interested in participating, or learning more about Métis beadwork and cultural workshops being offered, contact the *Flower Beadwork Circle* group coordinator Louise Gordey by calling (204) 984-9480 or emailing lgordey@mmf.mb.ca.



Members of the *Flower Beadwork Circle* participate in a Capote workshop taught by Métis Artisan Nancy Gouliquer.

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