



Le Métis



President's Message

Manitoba and the country of Canada.

We remember we were once a displaced people ourselves, treated as foreigners in our own lands. The memories of the injustices we endured as a people continue to compel us to stand shoulder to shoulder with others who face oppression. From before the birth of Canada, we have always stood ready to defend those who called this land their home. And after Canada became a country and dominion, we continued to stand on guard for her. When she was threatened, our people always answered the call to come and lay down our lives in her defence.

I spoke with Minister Hehr recently in Ottawa about our Métis Veterans. I told him that it is a shame that Canada has never formally recognized and compensated our Métis Veterans for their sacrifice. Canada has settled with all its other Veterans and Prisoners of War of Canada's major conflicts, but not with the Métis. Our Métis Veterans fought for Canada and many died. Those Métis Veterans who did return, many bore the physical scars of harsh conflict. However, they all bore the emotional and psychological scars of warfare and loss.

You would expect our Veterans would be welcomed with open arms. Given help and support to return to life after having it so violently interrupted in the defence of our country and the defence of those under oppression. However, Canada once again forgot them. Sadly, many of our Métis Veterans have died, and many are on death's doorstep even now, without having been properly thanked or recognized for their valuable sacrifice. We are pressing Canada to correct this continued injustice.

Soon we will meet with Prime Minister Trudeau and the Government of Canada when we gather together as partners in Confederation at the rescheduled Crown-Métis Nation Summit. Already we have met with key cabinet ministers in preparation for this meeting. We have been working hard on your behalf to show Canada what is important and needed by our

Métis Citizens. We believe this coming federal budget will begin to show the fruits of our hard work. I am not saying the work is done and we will have everything we have fought so long for, however I believe we will begin to see true forward progress. Just as you can see the wind play across the prairie grass before you feel it, I believe we will begin seeing those ripples play across the Métis Nation.

As we move toward Louis Riel Day on February 20th, I encourage you to celebrate this year's holiday with your loved ones and express your pride for your Métis heritage. The MMF and the Saint-Boniface Museum have partnered to offer visitors free access to the Museum and cultural programming to highlight Métis culture and Métis Nation's contribution to the creation of the province of Manitoba. All Manitobans, Métis or not, will have the chance to discover the roots of family, fairness, democracy and diversity that our province was built on – the manifest fruits of the leadership of Louis Riel and the Métis, the Founders of Manitoba.

I am grateful for Riel, and those who stood with him, as his values continue to empower the Métis Nation and Manitobans in current times. The MMF will remain vigilant to ensure Riel's legacy continues to be safeguarded, celebrated and recognized. Our visionary leader did not give his life in vain. We, the Métis, are a Nation that has never given up and never will, as we walk onward and carve our lasting place in history.

In closing, I offer my best wishes and prayers for peace to those who are sick, shut-in, or in failing health. My deepest sympathies are with all of you who are coping with grief or a recent loss. May you find comfort, strength, and help through your community and your family and friends. I wish you all the best. Should you be traveling during these frigid winter months, I pray warmth and security will be your companion.

Meeqwetch,

A heavy sadness enveloped my heart, the hearts of our people, and those across the country when we learned the horrible news of the tragedy in Quebec. I was in Ottawa for the Crown-Métis Nation Summit. Out of respect, we decided to postpone our Summit to grieve with our brothers and sisters who lost loved ones in this unspeakable attack on community and sanctuary.

Deeply entrenched in the hearts of the Citizens of the Métis Nation are diversity, respect and acceptance for all people. The Métis Bill of Rights created in 1869 by Louis Riel and the Métis provisional government give expression to these values of equality at the heart of our Nation and our relationships. Our Bill of Rights formed the framework for the *Manitoba Act, 1870* and called on all governments to recognize and respect all people in the newly formed province of

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

The Métis in Residential Schools: A Forgotten Story

A raw onion, missing a bite-shaped piece, rests atop an old wooden desk - a powerful icon of the harsh abuses many Métis survivors of residential and day schools experienced. Corporal punishment, psychological exploitation, sexual abuse, and starvation were often used as a control mechanism. When food was limited or had supposedly run out, the children were fed raw onions. They were removed from their families by the federal and provincial governments and forced to attend residential schools to be assimilated into "mainstream" Canadian culture. These schools stripped Métis children of their culture, language, and families - their identity, and many experiences haunt survivors for the rest of their lives.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), the Louis Riel Institute (LRI), and the United Way Winnipeg came together to bring *Forgotten: The Métis Residential School Experience* exhibit to the United Way in Winnipeg from January 16-31, 2017. The exhibit, created by The Legacy of Hope Foundation, documents and gives voice to the many Métis children who were forced to attend residential and day schools.

As the exhibit name suggests, the experiences of Métis in residential schools are largely forgotten in Canadian history. Angie Hutchinson, co-chair of the Indigenous Relations Council for the United Way Winnipeg, recognized that the apology offered by the federal government to residential school survivors in 2008 did not include the Métis.

"It's important for Canadians as a country to understand this is part of our history. All those Métis people who went to a residential school deserve to have Canadians know that they were part of that experience, and the lasting impact that experience had," said Hutchinson. "It's also important to have the exhibit here including the Métis community - they have an opportunity to speak on their own experiences, and not have someone speak on their behalf."

The MMF's Minister responsible for Michif Languages and Metis Residential Schools, Andrew Carrier, says the title of the exhibit rings true to him on a personal level as he is a residential school survivor. His parents and his grandparents are also survivors. Minister Carrier emphasizes the need to recognize these issues are transgenerational, and still have a tremendous impact on our children today.

"Where did we learn our parenting skills when we were taken away, taught to be hard on each other and not to respect each other?" explains Carrier.

The countless traumas imprinted in the minds and souls across generations of Métis Residential School survivors are still causing great struggles as they



Black and white photographs from Métis residential and day schools through history - part of the Legacy of Hope Foundation's *Forgotten: The Métis Residential School Experience* exhibit at the United Way Winnipeg from January 16th - 30th, 2017.

continue on their journey toward healing. Many fight against anger issues or addictions stemming from the mental and physical childhood abuses they endured. The anguish caused by forced separation from their families at a young age means many have not had the safety, comfort and leadership of their parents to help them develop positive coping mechanisms or the skills required to overcome the challenges they face.



MMF Minister of Michif Languages & Residential Schools, Andrew Carrier, shares his personal story with exhibit attendees.

Minister Carrier says through the *Forgotten* exhibit more people will learn about the experiences of Métis children. He hopes this exposure will help those who attended Métis Residential Schools feel encouraged to speak about it, to seek any help they may need to work through persisting issues, and realize there are many people ready to walk with them towards healing.

"The pain will always be there, trust me. Because when you're being victimized, you're all by yourself in this world," says Carrier. "But there's this comfort just in knowing that you're not alone."

Carrier hopes the exhibit will also lend a greater understanding of the Métis Residential School experience to the public. When those who haven't gone through the same traumas see survivors acting out, it is hoped the images and stories from *Forgotten* will serve as a foundation of respect and understanding for those still coping with the childhood experiences at the root of these actions. This knowledge and appreciation, in turn, will help provide an opportunity to ensure our children today are encouraged to use their own voices and to speak out when they learn of or encounter similar situations of abuses.

"The Métis Nation is in the process of rebuilding our pride and looking at our accomplishments. Even through all these years of detriment, we still survived," said Minister Carrier. "I think the justice is that they did their best to get rid of us, to change us, and in the end we're still here - and thriving."

At the core of Métis Residential School survivors' story is the resilience, strength and pride of a fighting Nation. A Nation with a strong national identity that continues to grow and share its culture and values, as the Métis continue to gain recognition of our own history and make great strides toward a better future.

Revisit Nineteenth Century Winnipeg on Louis Riel Day

A horse-drawn Red River cart rolls along, wheels kicking up dust and gravel on the dirt road characteristic of the nineteenth century Red River Settlement. A dusty leather hat shades the face of the cart's driver, a Métis man wearing a brown button-up vest over a pinstriped shirt with a colourful sash tied at his waist. He tips his hat politely as the cart passes, the 13-foot-high walls of Upper Fort Garry casting a long shadow across his path. Inside the Fort, the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia - with Métis visionary Louis Riel at its head - is making history, bringing the province of Manitoba into Canadian Confederation.

To celebrate Louis Riel Day, which this year falls on Monday, February 20, the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) is providing Métis Historic Guided Tours in Winnipeg. Revisiting our city through the lens of 1800s history, when it was known as the Red River Settlement, the bus tours will be led in both English and French by knowledgeable, bilingual tour guides dressed in Métis period costume.

At each historic site tourists will be able to get off the bus, take photographs and explore - an opportunity for interactive learning as well as observation. While on the bus, attendees can try their hand at answering Jeopardy-style trivia questions for a chance to win prizes.

Over the hour and a half tour, starting and ending at Saint Boniface Museum, participants will satisfy their curiosity while uncovering hidden gems in the stories behind a number of Métis historic sites around the city, including Upper Fort Garry, Louis Riel's gravesite at Saint-Boniface Cathedral, Université de Saint-Boniface, and Elzéar Goulet Memorial Park.

The recently unveiled light and sound show at Upper Fort Garry, depicting a multisensory artistic interpretation of the renowned Métis buffalo hunt, is one of many must-see experiences on the tour. At Saint Boniface Museum, tourists will also partake in the special celebration the museum and the Manitoba Metis Federation are jointly hosting for Louis Riel Day. Warm up with bannock and hot chocolate while enjoying the museum's artisan displays, music, and many other exciting festivities during the event.

These tours are, in part, a precursor to LRI's Métis Sites and Rights app, which is tentatively set to launch in May 2017. The app will provide more in-depth stories and background information on Métis historic sites around Manitoba. This will allow LRI to host expanded tours regularly throughout the summer months when more historic locations are open for visiting, as well as allow individuals to tour sites on their own. More details about the app and summer tours will be available soon.

The tours are an affordable adventure for everyone

- Métis or not - delving into fascinating details and facts about our city and history that might otherwise have gone undiscovered. Forty spots are available at \$20.00 each for booking on Louis Riel Day: 20 spots for the morning tour at 10:30 am, and 20 spots for

the afternoon tour at 1:00 pm. Treat yourself, and your friends or family, to a behind-the-scenes look at Métis history and our holiday honouring Louis Riel.

To book your spots for the Louis Riel Day tours, please contact LRI at 204-984-9480.



Join us for
Louis Riel Day 2017
Monday, February 20th 2017 - 10am to 4pm
Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum - 494 Taché Avenue Saint-Boniface, Manitoba

The Manitoba Metis Federation and Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum are proud to announce their partnership allowing all Manitobans to celebrate Louis Riel Day.

Enjoy FREE access to the museum, cultural programming & displays, hot chocolate & bannock, Métis entertainment and more!

Bilingual Métis Historic Guided Tours 10:30am & 1:00pm - \$20 ticket
Space is limited! To book your spot for the tour, please contact Louis Riel Institute at 204-984-9480.



MET Receives Minister's Workforce Development Excellence Award

On Wednesday, January 25, 2017, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Metis Employment & Training (MET) Department was awarded the 2016 Minister's Workforce Development Excellence Award on behalf of the Manitoba Government for their outstanding work providing programs and services within the Métis community. MET has helped more than 1,000 unemployed and underemployed clients with training and job search skills, allowing Métis Citizens to find meaningful and steady employment. More than 600 clients returned to school to pursue further education and training.

MMF Minister John Fleury and MET Senior Director Kerry Smith were on hand at the Manitoba Legislative building in Winnipeg to receive this award from the Honourable Ian Wishart, Provincial Minister of Education and Training.



The Honourable Ian Wishart, Manitoba's Minister of Education and Training (left), presents MMF Minister John Fleury (middle) and MET Senior Director Kerry Smith (right) with the 2016 Minister's Workforce Development Excellence Award.

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