



Le Metis



President's Message

This is a very exciting year for the Manitoba Metis Federation. We will be celebrating our 50th year of governance and our many milestones from the last 50 years, including recent victories we have won, at our Annual General Assembly (AGA) this coming September. As the government of the Métis Nation in Manitoba, your Métis government works tirelessly to meet your needs and to secure the lasting place promised to us back in 1870. As we continue to move forward, we look to you to help guide your

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government and to tell us what is important to you as a Métis Citizen. Among the ways in which you can make known what is important is your involvement in our AGA.

This year, the Assembly will be taking place September 22-24, 2017 at the Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is always my hope and desire to see as many of our Métis community as possible in

attendance. It is your involvement that helps make our Métis government as successful as it is.

Being a Citizen of the Métis Nation has always brought me a great sense of pride. Pride not only of the hard-working members of our Nation, but also of those individuals who helped build and bring the MMF to where it is today. Without the strong direction of our leadership over the years, our Métis Nation would not be what it is today - the democratic self-government of Métis Nation in Manitoba. Today, I see professionals, artists and leaders who are all proud to share their heritage with others in Manitoba. Métis Youth are at the front lines of sharing their culture by playing traditional music on the fiddle or through dancing the Red River Jig. As the founders of Manitoba, it is without a doubt that our Métis Citizens should be proud of all that has been accomplished and all that we are still doing today. Our efforts as a small, but strong, Métis Nation helped not only shape our province, but also the course Canada has embarked upon as a bilingual and diverse country that is celebrated around the world today.

As a Métis government, we have enjoyed many great successes. Our 2013 Land Claims victory and the recent signing of a Framework Agreement to settle this claim will yield fruit that we will enjoy for generations. Then there is the recent Daniels decision by the Supreme Court of Canada which settles the question of the level of responsibility Canada has in caring for the Métis. The results of this ruling will be immense and we will be there every step of the way to faithfully negotiate the settlement of what rightfully belongs to us. In areas of Economic Development, our construction company Métis N4 Construction has also enjoyed great success and have been reinvesting profits back into the community - from arena improvements in St. Laurent, to supporting the

Christmas Cheer Board and ensuring Métis families have enough to celebrate Christmas, to making substantial donations to the Manitoba Metis Heritage fund and more. Your government is also negotiating large contracts on your behalf with other businesses that will see homemade solutions to affordable housing and investments in jobs for our Métis Citizens. These are just some prime examples of the work your Métis government is undertaking on your behalf.

My government anticipates even greater things in the very near future for the Manitoba Métis Community. I invite you to stay tuned so we can share these with you as they become our new reality as a Nation. I want to also acknowledge my cabinet - your democratically elected representatives in Métis government - for their continuous and hearty support. I also want to thank you for your continued confidence and support of your Métis government. Without you these victories would not have been possible.

Over the coming weeks, the MMF will be sending out more information regarding how to get involved with this year's AGA to all of our past sponsors and to you, our Métis citizens. This year's gathering will be monumental celebration of the many milestones along the way as we have advanced as a self-governing Métis Nation. You will not want to miss it.

Finally, I send my prayers and thoughts to those of us who are sick and shut in. Remember one another with acts of kindness and friendship. I hope you have personally experienced success during the spring harvest and wish you blessings as move closer to summer. Each season of the year bring with it many opportunities, blessings and challenges. May you meet each one with strength, resilience and your families beside you.

Meeqwetch,

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

Little Métis Sing With Me

Little Métis Sing With Me, is a program that improves family bonding. The program aims to support Métis families and build Métis pride across the province. In the program parents & children are introduced, in a fun way, to rhymes, books, and different activities that teach them about Métis culture, and the history of Manitoba and the role the Métis played in its founding.

Each week the program focuses on different activities that may range from making sashes to learning about the history of the Métis in Manitoba. Also as part of the programming, there is time for parents to connect and chat while the children have some playtime together.

Louise Gordey, Literacy Instructor of the Louis Riel Institute (LRI), has been putting on numerous training sessions for *Little Métis Sing With Me*.

For the past four years, she has been training librarians in many Winnipeg public libraries to run the program for members of the community. Gordey said that in the North West region, Vice President Chartrand ensures at least one of the regional staff members is well trained in the program so that they can either run the whole program or use pieces of it for different families.

LRI has also provided training to many Aboriginal Head Starts. In the most recent training session

members of organizations such as Child and Family, All Nations Coordinated Response Network (ANCR) and the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre in Winnipeg took part in learning how to facilitate and provide this programming.

Word of this program has traveled as far as the Métis Nation of Ontario. Recently, a staff member from their Dryden office attended a training session in order to bring back the activities and education to others, next door in Ontario. More staff members from Ontario are hoping to take part in the next round of training.

Métis National Council Election

On April 28th, 2017, in Winnipeg, MB at the Hotel Fort Garry, delegates from the five governing members of the Métis Nation gathered to elect a new president of the Métis National Council during its General Assembly.

Minister Will Goodon, of the Manitoba Métis Federation, was appointed Chief Electoral Officer for the election. Two candidates were nominated for President of the Metis National Council.

The first candidate was current MNC President, Clément Chartier, nominated by Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) President David Chartrand. In his nominating speech, President David Chartrand discussed many of the things President Chartier has done for the Métis Nation. He outlined his passion for helping each provincial Métis government move forward by supporting their ongoing efforts. He spoke of how President Chartier has a positive relationship with both the Federal Government and with the five governing bodies of the Métis Nation. President Chartrand highlighted the Métis Nation is going in a positive direction, and we are progressing, in part, thanks to President Chartier. He stated he felt we should not change our leader at this time because of the good working relationship President

Chartier has with the federal government

The second candidate was Bev New, nominated by MNS President Audrey Poitras. She is Regional Director for the Métis Nation-Alberta (MNS). President Poitras explained New is a hardworking member of the board. President Poitras stated even though New may be young, she has fresh new perspectives and ideas for the MNC. President Poitras believes she is knowledgeable and capable of performing the tasks of President well. She also indicated she is very trustworthy in her current position and is competent in her roles. President Poitras further stated that she believed having a woman as the MNC President would demonstrate the Metis Nation is a progressive and all-inclusive Nation.

During his speech, President Clement Chartier spoke on what he has helped accomplish for the Métis Nation. He spoke about his active work with the legal aspect of the MNC. He highlighted his many years of practicing law and an active member of the Bar. He said he is working to aid Métis people in the courts when they are wrongfully charged by the Canadian government. He mentioned his many years of experience as the MNC President,

and restated his belief that each citizen of the Métis Nation deserves to maintain their right to be recognized as such as long as they meet the criteria, regardless of any differences they may have, whether they be political or otherwise.

In her speech, New said she has been around the MNC for many years, and believes she is not a newcomer to the table. She spoke of her experience with politics, the MNC Board of Governors and the Métis National Council. She also stated she is the kind of person who will be straight forward with everyone and will always "tell it like it is."

Delegates then voted on the two candidates. The Chief Electoral Officer, Minister Will Goodon, shared the election results and announced President Chartier was re-elected to another term in office as President of the MNC. President Chartier once more took the floor and shared part of his vision for the Métis Nation for the next few years.

The MMF offers their sincere congratulations to President Chartier on his re-election. We look forward to working with him on his expressed desire to further dialogue with the federal government under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord.

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A Night to Remember

This past weekend, Friday, May 12th, 2017, the Manitoba Metis Heritage Fund (MMHF) in partnership with the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), hosted their first annual fundraising gala, A Night to Remember, in support of the Children's Hospital and the Children's Hospital Foundation, at the Hotel Fort Garry in Winnipeg, MB. Hosted by MMHF Board Chair Minister Denise Thomas and Honorary Chair for the 2017 gala was Mr. H. Sanford Riley. The evening was co-emceed by Rachel Lagacé from CTV as well as Métis Elder Oliver Boulette.

The MMHF is a registered non-profit charity of the MMF. Its mission is to support economically disadvantaged individuals, children, and families of the Manitoba Métis Community.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Children's Hospital Foundation in support of the Translating Emergency Knowledge to Kids (TREKK) program. The TREKK program is a network of researchers, clinicians, partners, patients and families that share the common goal of improving emergency care for children. TREKK takes a "story telling" approach used by the Children's Hospital while delivering care to children as they visit emergency rooms.

The theme for the evening was "A Night to Remember". As you walked through to the main hall, volunteers were dressed in traditional Métis clothing—some carrying baskets and others playing familiar Métis fiddle music. The cocktail hour featured a traditional Métis kitchen with Métis games, storytelling, dancing and fiddle music. Guests also were able to dress in period costumes and have their photos taken in the Métis kitchen.

Entertainment throughout the evening was provided by the young fiddlers and Clint and Riley Dutiaume in the Métis Kitchen. William Prince entertained the audience in the grand ballroom over dinner.

Elder George Fleury provided a blessing in Michif before everyone sat down for an amazing meal featuring a traditional Métis inspired menu, with



Vest designed and made by Métis artist Jennine Krauchi.

items such as bison, wild rice, root vegetables, and saskatoon berries.

Individuals attending the gala were encouraged to take part in both the Silent Auction and the Rainbow Auction throughout the evening. These auctions would not have been possible without the generous donations of different companies and organizations. The prize list included gift certificates, tickets to events and traditional artwork.

A live auction took place later on in the evening. Led by Mr. Les Kletke, the auction featured four spectacular prizes, which included: a custom tailor-made vest



President Chartrand gives greetings to those in attendance.



Dr. Darcy Beer speaks about the TREKK program.

with Métis floral beadwork by world renowned Métis designer Jennine Krauchi; a day of golf and dinner for three with MMF President David Chartrand; an all-inclusive trip to Churchill, Manitoba, including two guided tours; as well as, a trip for two anywhere Air Canada flies in North America, including Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Keynote speakers for the evening included Dr. Darcy Beer and Dr. Jon McGavock. Dr. Beer talked about the TREKK program and its success in hospitals. Dr. McGavock spoke to his research on the importance of culture in the field of pediatrics and more specifically type 2 diabetes.

The venue at Hotel Fort Garry was chosen in part by the MMHF because it is located just steps from the historic location of Upper Fort Garry. It is no coincidence that May 12, Manitoba Day, was selected for this inaugural gala. Manitoba Day is very significant to the Manitoba Métis Community, as the Métis leader of the Red River Resistance of 1869-70, Louis Riel, was instrumental in drafting the List of Rights which formed the basis of the Manitoba Act 1870 passed by the parliament of Canada in the spring of 1870, which brought the new province of Manitoba into Confederation.

The MMHF Board of Directors, along with MMF government representatives will make a public presentation of the proceeds to the Children's Hospital Foundation at a later date. Thanks to the many individuals, organizations, sponsors and volunteers who made the 2017 gala "A Night to Remember" a success.



Minister of Environment & Mining, Jean Desrosiers, and wife.



NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

As the Chief Electoral Office (CEO) appointed by the Board of Directors of the MMF Inc., I hereby announce the calling of the Thompson by-election for 2017.

Any member of the Federation, 18 years of age or older, whose name appears on the List of Electors for a local within the Thompson Region on file at the MMF Head Office may vote in this by-election. A member may only vote in the Region in which the Local he/she is a member is located.

An **Advance Poll** will take place for those who wish to vote prior to Election Day. The Advance poll will be held at Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre located at 4 Nelson Road in Thompson MB.

ADVANCE POLL

Friday, June 9, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 10, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Poll stations for Election Day will be established in such locations as may be determined .

ELECTION DAY

Thursday, June 15, 2017 - 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the position of Board Member for the Thompson Region.

To stand for election, a member must submit a Nomination Form, signed by at least twenty

(20) members whose names appear on a list of electors for the Thompson Region, and the candidate must sign, accepting the nomination. The completed form must be sent to and received by the CEO, by post marked mail or by fax, by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2017.

Within seven (7) days from the close of nominations, any elector may submit a written challenge with necessary documents or other material that support the challenge to the right of a candidate to run for the office to which he/she has been nominated.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE

Thursday, May 25, 2017

LIST OF ELECTORS

The MMF Inc. Election By-Law Article V, One (1), provides that the Preliminary List of Electors shall be distributed by the MMF Head Office within three (3) days of the CEO announcing the date of election. The Region shall post the Preliminary List of Electors at their Regional Office and shall within two (2) days of receipt and send a copy to each Local within their Region.

Members shall have twenty-one (21) days from the date of this Notice, May 11, 2017, to apply to be added to the Preliminary List of Electors if they have been omitted and to challenge and seek to remove the name of any person they believe should not be on the List of Electors. Only electors from the Thompson Region may only challenge a candidate for this by-election. Challenges if any, are to be sent to the address noted below. Written challenges will be accepted up to and including Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Evidence to support a challenge must be provided. The acceptance or rejection of each challenge will be completed within seven (7) days of receiving the challenge. When the challenges have been completed, the CEO will forward the Final List of Electors, the Rules for voting in person and the location of the Polls that are established.

David Gray, Chief Electoral Officer

Mail: Box 1178 Swan River, Manitoba, R0L 1Z0

Phone: 204-281-2274 Fax: 204-734-6359

Email: davgraylaw@gmail.com