



Le Metis



President's Message

throughout Manitoba. The Manitoba Metis Federation is a grassroots government, built from the ground up. It is important for your Métis government to be able to reach right into our towns and villages, meeting directly with our Métis Citizens.

Many Métis do not live close by a Regional Office and have no means of getting to one. Nearly 50% of Métis Citizens in Manitoba live in rural and remote areas of the province. Without cars or bus access, many Youth, Elders and shut-ins, cannot get a ride to the Regional Office.

This mobile office will have staff to talk to, face-to-face, about Youth and Elder and many other services including helping our Métis people get the forms and assistance they need for their Métis Citizenship Cards. Other services that will be available through this mobile office will also include: helping Métis Citizens renew their CTF stickers and receive their big game tags; communicate with Métis Citizens about a variety of matters such as employment and training opportunities; and MMF consultation meetings.

Very soon, Canadians will be celebrating the 150th birthday of Canada - a country that the Métis Nation helped found. As Canada's Partners in Confederation, and the Founders of Manitoba, the Métis under Louis Riel's Provisional government created a List of Rights outlining the rights, obligations, and expectations the people of the North West had in the face of negotiating their part in Confederation. In that List, the Métis called on the federal government to, among other things, create and honour Treaties with the Aboriginal People of the North West, including the Métis. The List of Rights also stipulated that all government, legal and judicial systems be bilingual - services must be presented in both English and French. Canada is bilingual and has such a high regard for diversity because of the forward thinking of our leaders like Riel. This List of Rights would go on and

serve as the framework for the Manitoba Act, 1870 bringing the province of Manitoba into Confederation with Canada.

Also this week, the Manitoba Metis Federation, in partnership with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, and in collaboration with the Centre du patrimoine and the Saint-Boniface Historical Society, is pleased to announce the opening and hosting of a travelling exhibition that showcases some of the rich history of the Métis Nation. The Federation was an instrumental in developing the original version of the exhibition, which was so successful that it was presented at the UNESCO offices in Paris earlier this year. It is now going on the road across the Métis Nation Homeland.

From June 27 to October 28, the exhibition *Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation in the Archival Records of Library and Archives Canada* will be at the Saint-Boniface Historical Society at 340 Provencher in Saint Boniface, Winnipeg. The exhibition explores the portrayal of Métis—some of whom are “hiding in plain sight”—in reproductions of artwork and photograph collections and the accompanying descriptions. It aims to foster a better understanding of the history and the culture of the Métis Nation. I encourage each of you to visit this exhibition if you find yourself in Winnipeg. It is something I believe you will find interesting and informative.

As we head into the summer, I want to thank each of you for your continued support of your Métis government. For those of you who are sick or shut-in, I offer you my prayers and thoughts. May you be encouraged and comforted by family and friends. Remember each other. Be safe and may your activities build for each of you strong relations and many happy memories. I look forward to seeing you this summer.

Meeqwetch,

Typically during the summer months, many governments, organizations and businesses enter into a bit of a pause. Some take advantage of the warmer weather and take vacations with their family and friends. Others, however, such as the leadership and staff of your Métis government, do not slow down or take a break. We become busier!

This Summer will be no different. This year I will be once again touring the regions throughout Manitoba to meet with you face to face. Cabinet members and Regional VPs will be participating in Regional meetings, special community consultations, and various celebrations. I look forward to my Summers when I get this chance to join with each of you for these important gatherings.

Your Métis government remains committed to creating partnerships to search and find innovative ways to build healthy families, safe and secure communities, and strong local economies. I am looking forward to sharing some of these partnerships with you personally during the Métis government's summer tour.

Just this past Monday I was very pleased to introduce and launch our mobile office. This mobile office will bring Citizenship and other services directly to our Métis Citizens at home in their villages and towns

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

Ka Ni Kanichihk – 16th Annual Keeping the Fires Burning

On Thursday, June 22nd, Ka Ni Kanichihk held their 16th Annual Keeping the Fires Burning Event, held at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The theme for this year's event was "Working Together for Reconciliation and Mino Bimaadiziwin: The Good Life".

Ka Ni Kanichihk's mandate is to provide Indigenous-identified programming and services which focus on wholeness and wellness, building on the strengths and resilience of Indigenous Peoples. One way in which they meet their mandate is by holding the Annual Keeping the Fires Burning event, to honour the work being done by the many elders in our communities.

The grand entry began at 5:30 p.m. with a flag procession with officials, singing and drumming. The emcee's then greeted the attendees and introduced the entertainment for the evening. This was followed by dinner before the honouring of the elders went underway.

Dinner was accompanied by music from guitar player, Jason Tuesday, from Lake of the Woods, Ontario, and Ojibway groove-based jazz band, The Chuck Copenace Group, based out of Winnipeg.

Keeping the Fires Burning is now one of the province's largest Indigenous events, bringing more than 700 people together to honour and celebrate Indigenous cultures in Manitoba. Over the past 15 years, this event has helped to recognize and honour 113 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Grandmothers and Grandfathers who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of Indigenous peoples and aided in the transmission of traditional knowledge.

This year Ka Ni Kanichihk honoured eight special elders. Each elder was selected by one of Manitoba's Indigenous Representative governments



Bryan Thompson receives hand-quilted blanket after being nominated by MMF at Keeping the Fires Burning event.

or organizations. These included; the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF); Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs; Southern Chiefs' Organization; Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak; Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg; Manitoba Moon Voices; Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre; and Ka Ni Kanichihk.

The MMF was pleased to nominate Bryan Thompson as our Grandfather. Bryan grew up in the small community of Duck Bay, Manitoba, where he attended elementary school. He then moved to Cranberry Portage for high school. He started work at the age of 17 in the fishing industry and worked in this area for most of his life, and at age 35, he bought the fish plant and moved in there. Bryan and his family put in many long hours of work at the plant and they often found themselves working seven days a week during fishing season. Also during this time, Bryan began using his many skills to help his community by renovating homes in Duck Bay. Today, Bryan is self-employed and owns his business, Bryan Thompson Contracting.

Bryan's family consists of his wife, Bella, his children, grandchildren and great granddaughter. He has

always worked hard to provide for them so that they can live "mino bimaadiziwin", the good life. Bryan spends lots of time with his grandchildren and taught them how to grade fish at the fish plant. He has always encouraged his grandkids to hunt and fish as it has always been his way and the Métis way. Bryan continues to share his culture and laughter with his family and community in a positive way and continues to promote Métis traditions to the youth.

When his name was called upon to be honoured by receiving a hand-quilted blanket, he invited President David Chartrand to accompany him to say a few words. President Chartrand had all good things to say about Mr. Thompson. Being from the same community, the President could attest to Bryan's hardworking character, and passion for his heritage and culture.

The evening concluded an opportunity for those who attended to greet the honoured elders, and for everyone to share their gratitude for their efforts in keep the fires burning.



**Metis
Employment
& Training**

Now Hiring For:

Service Needs Determination Clerk – Dauphin

Northwest Regional Office - Dauphin, MB

For a complete list of required Skills and Qualifications please visit:

www.mmfemployment.ca or www.mmf.mb.ca

Preference will be given to qualified Métis applicants. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and self-identify on their resume. The MMF appreciates the interest of all applicants; however, only those individuals considered for an interview will be contacted. We offer a competitive benefits package which includes but not limited to: health and dental insurance, life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, short term and long term disability and a retirement savings plan.

Please forward cover letter and resume by
Thursday, July 13, 2017
to: MMF Metis Employment & Training Dept.
300-150 Henry Ave.
Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0J7
email to: metresumes@mmf.mb.ca
fax to: (204)947-3251

Metis Child and Family Services Authority's Red Hearts Ceremony to Honour Residential and Day School Survivors

On Tuesday, June 20th, staff, family and friends of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) gathered in the green space on the side of the MMF Home Office for a beautiful Red Hearts Ceremony that was put on by the Metis Child and Family Services Authority (MCFSA).

Similar Heart Ceremonies and Gardens have been done by other Indigenous peoples across the country. MCFSA thought that the Métis Nation should have our own to pay respect to the survivors and to recognize the impacts that residential and day schools have had on Métis families.

These Heart Gardens are intended to honour affected families and the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). The hearts are meant to represent the memory of the children and the impacts that families and communities continue to experience to this day. The planting of each heart is meant to represent our personal commitments to reconciliation.



Elder George Lavallee shares memories from his own personal day school experience.

The event began at 10:00 a.m. with greetings brought by MCFSA Chief Executive Officer, Billie Schibler on behalf of the Métis government. She acknowledged that we were standing in the Heart of the Métis Homeland.



Red hearts planted in the greenspace adjacent the MMF building to honour our Métis survivors.

Elder Lucy Guiboche brought a prayer for the gathering. Following the strong and supportive words, Ms. Schibler shared with the attendees that there were in fact many Métis children who participated in both residential and day schools. She shared that over 600 students in Manitoba identified as Métis, although this is not including the individuals who had already passed on.

It is widely known that Métis students were left out of the TRC's mandate. Our Métis survivors are often forgotten, although they make up many of the students who attended residential and particularly day schools.

Among the speakers was Elder George Fleury. He shared a few words regarding his own experience with day schools, and how they changed his town of St. Ambrose. He suggested that talking to family and to one another is the best way to move forward as a community and promote reconciliation.

After hearing from a number of speakers and Elders, the placing of the Red Hearts began. Staff and families were encouraged, in the days leading up to the ceremony, to create Red Hearts and to decorate them in ways which they felt communicated healing and love. After hearing some first-hand experiences,

everyone was encouraged to plant their hearts in the green space for everyone in the community to see.



Staff and family members decorated the Red Hearts in ways that communicate healing and love.

Later on in the day, an apple tree was planted in the front fenced area of the MMF. Planting this tree is symbolic of new beginnings and is also symbolic of our Métis population. Once it begins producing fruits, this tree will help provide for the people who need it by feeding both the people and their spirits.

The ceremony was followed by a reception in the MMF Home Office which included bannock, fruit and coffee courtesy of MCFSA.

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www.mmf.mb.ca

2017 Selkirk Celebrations

On Wednesday, June 21, the rain did not stop people who traveled from all over to celebrate the 12th Annual Aboriginal Day Festivities at the Selkirk Park hosted by the Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) Selkirk Local.

Families and friends attending this free event were treated to live fiddling, jigging, and singing performances by a wide range of Métis entertainers including a performance by headliner Darren Lavallee, and special guest Jerry Sereda. A free pancake breakfast that began at 9 a.m. was provided by Big Chad of Bank Approved Vickar Community Chevrolet on Regent Avenue West in Winnipeg. A petting zoo, cotton candy, and bounce-a-roos made sure everyone in attendance had a great time, rain or shine. Louis Riel Institute (LRI) also hosted a deer hide stretching and tanning demonstration in the afternoon.

During the event's opening ceremonies, MMF Minister of Energy and Infrastructure and Interlake Métis Association Board of Director, Jack Park, brought greetings to the event on behalf of MMF President Chartrand. He also shared appreciation towards the City of Selkirk for their help supporting the annual festivities.

"The support that we get from the City of Selkirk is unbelievable," said Minister Park. "If it wasn't for the City of Selkirk, and the employees they have



Big Chad of Bank Approved Vickar Community Chevrolet provides \$10,000 a year towards Métis scholarships.

throughout the City, we wouldn't be able to put this event together."

Larry Johannson, Mayor of Selkirk, stated how great it is for Selkirk to have a strong relationship with the Manitoba Metis Federation and Métis Citizens and future plans they have going forward.

"The [MMF] President and I talked about a housing initiative that is going on in Selkirk," the Mayor said. "It's going to further strengthen the ties we already have between the City of Selkirk and the MMF."

Minister Park recognized the Madeline Armstrong Local for their donation of \$500 towards this year's Aboriginal Day festivities. He also acknowledged Big Chad and Larry Vickar, President of Vickar Community

Chevrolet, for their contribution of \$10,000 per year towards Métis scholarships.

"I was just at the Red River Community College and gave away three bursaries as part of our \$10,000 yearly donation, on behalf of the [Manitoba] Metis Federation," said Big Chad during his speech. "It was a pleasure to meet the individuals that graduated from the trades who are moving on now. It was a real pleasure to be able to support them through that with the [Manitoba] Metis Federation."

A big thank-you to all the contributors, sponsors and volunteers who helped to organize and plan this free event for everyone to enjoy.

Hiding in Plain Sight: DISCOVERING THE MÉTIS NATION IN THE ARCHIVAL RECORDS OF LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

EXHIBITION

From June 27 to October 28, 2017

Centre du patrimoine, 340 Provencher Boulevard,
Saint-Boniface, Manitoba

bac-lac.gc.ca/events



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