



# Le Métis



Métis from across the homeland traced their path back to Batoche this year to celebrate their shared history and honour their Ancestors. As I do nearly every year, myself as well as family and friends, set up camp in the Batoche camp grounds for a culturally enriched weekend. After raising our Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) flag, we were ready for the festivities to commence. Over the weekend, I enjoyed traditional meals made by family and friends while we listened to the fiddle music and laughter in the

## President's Message

distance. It brings me back to my roots camping in these vast prairie lands.

During the opening ceremonies, you could see the procession of each Métis government's flags carried by our Métis youth, veterans, and dignitaries. This was accompanied by the sound of the fiddle, and the singing of the Métis National Anthem. It was an honour to bring greetings again this year. Hearing from all the leaders – provincial, regional and local – about the progress we are making was empowering. It is a time in our history to be excited for what is to come.

In past years, there have been many Métis WWII veterans who were able to attend Back to Batoche Days. We have honoured them for their service to our people and our country by creating a permanent monument at the Batoche camping grounds, which was installed on July 19, 2014. This year, one WWII veteran was in attendance, in addition to the Métis veterans of other wars and peacekeeping duties, who have served their people tirelessly. It was humbling to see all the veterans standing, some very elderly, to honour a family member that was lost in the week leading up to the event.

The sense of community and belonging that one gets by attending this gathering is endless. Our people have always known how to work hard and fight hard for what we believe in, yet we also know how to enjoy ourselves and spend time together as a family. This is one of the ways in which we come back to our culture and traditions. It is important to keep this tradition alive for all the future generations to remember the sacrifices our Ancestors made. It was a true pleasure to spend the weekend with all of our extended family and friends.

On the last day at Batoche there was a flag procession from camp to the cemetery on the National Batoche site. Upon the arrival at the mass grave site of our Métis war dead, the priest who performed a mass beforehand blessed the site and reminded us all to be grateful for the sacrifices many have made who came before us so that we may be safe.

This past weekend also marked the first trip of our mobile outreach office. Staff from the home office made the trip to Batoche to assist Manitoba Métis living out of the province to become Citizens by providing information and handing out applications. I was pleased to see the interest of Métis across the homeland and from other provinces to obtain their MMF Citizenship card. Since we have erased the boarders and residency in our Constitution when it comes to Citizenship, there is now a way for our people to obtain their card and truly come back home.

Now that summer is in full swing, I encourage you all to stay informed about when your regional and local meetings and cultural events are taking place. It is important for our Citizens to be well informed and this is the best way to take part and participate in our community. I look forward to seeing you at the next regional gathering.

Finally, I send my thoughts and prayers to all those who are wounded, plagued by sickness, or shut in. There is hope and comfort to be found in our strong Métis communities and through our loved ones. Remember all the blessings we have, and cherish those around you. Take care and enjoy the beauty of the final summer months.

Meeqwetch,

### Find the latest news online



ManitobaMetisFederationOfficial



@MBMetis\_MMF



ManitobaMetisMMF



www.mmf.mb.ca

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

## Métis Bear gets a fresh coat

During a sunny afternoon on July 18, 2017, Agnes Jorgensen, award winning painter, sits in front of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Home Office preparing to paint a bear. Not a real bear, but a life sized bear made of solid concrete. Originally sponsored in 2006 for Cancer Care Manitoba's Bears on Broadway project, the bear needed some freshening up.

Jorgensen painted two other bears for the Cancer Care project, Bling Bling Bear and Fore the Bears bear. However, the Métis Bear is unique due to the fact it is based on a very specific person.

The original design of the Métis Bear was based off of a buckskin jacket owned by MMF President David Chartrand, but it slowly morphed into more than just a jacket.

"I believe it was David, he approached me to [create] a Métis Bear," says Jorgensen with a smile. "[The Bear] reminds me of David because he's like a big bear when he hugs you, and he's kind and gentle. It was easy to do because it was a labour of love."

President Chartrand is the longest serving President of the MMF. He was first being elected in 1996. Jorgensen has known, and been friends with, the President prior to his six terms in this position.

"For many years I had wanted to do something for David Chartrand because he supported me [with my] art and we were good friends," Jorgensen says. "I've known him since '82, and I wanted to give him a gift."



The Métis Bear appearing a little weathered since originally being painted in 2006.

When Jorgensen was asked to paint the bear, she already knew she would be saying yes.

"I said 'that's what it is' because I know he is humble and he would like this better," Jorgensen says, "He is someone who would want something done for the community."

The design of the bear makes it look like it is wearing buckskin pants and jacket complete with leather tassels and Métis beadwork, a Métis Sash, and traditional Métis Moccasins. Jorgensen says painting



Agnes Jorgensen shares her love for the Métis Bear as she gives it a fresh new look.

the Métis Bear has been a fun project.

"I enjoy the tiny intricacy [in the details], the beads, and all of that," says Jorgensen.

All of those tiny beads take time; up to 64 hours of time, just to repaint the bear. The original design and painting took 112 hours to complete.

"When I originally did it I had to design them, draw them, paint them, and I was alone," Jorgensen says "It would take eight hours a day for roughly two weeks [to finish]."

Although Jorgensen isn't Métis, she isn't a stranger to the community.

"Because I was born in Manitoba, I'm really sensitive to the struggle the Aboriginal people went through," Jorgensen says, "If there's something I can do for David and the Métis community to give back somehow, I should."

The MMF has commissioned other work from Jorgensen in the past. In 2004, the MMF appointed Jorgensen to paint a portrait of Prime Minister Paul Martin, and in 2007, she painted a portrait of Flora Fleury, the oldest Métis woman aged 102.

All these years later, Jorgensen still loves the Métis Bear.

"At first I told my husband I would put a contemporary spin on him," says Jorgensen. "But you know, I just loved him the way it was, and just gave him a little bit of an uplift."

Jorgensen hasn't repainted any of the other bears she designed, and thinks the Métis Bear will be here for a long time.

"I can see the people walking by and they look at him and they say oh 'he's so wonderful'," says Jorgensen. "They've almost adopted him as the bear they love, so it's kind of cool."

Jorgensen has received regional, national, and international awards from 1982 to 2009. She has art in private and publications all over Canada, the United States, and Europe. Find more of Jorgensen's artwork at [jorgensenart.com](http://jorgensenart.com).



Agnes Jorgensen stands next to the newly painted Métis Bear.

## Métis Youth selected for 2017 Canada Summer Games Torch Relay

Daniel Chartrand was completely surprised when his Mom told him he would be carrying the torch for the 2017 Canada Summer Games.

"At first I was like 'nah, I didn't get picked,'" says Chartrand. "And she's like no, you got picked. Here's the email right here."

He ended up being nominated by two different people, thanks to his Métis heritage and playing hockey. Chartrand was selected out of 600 other nominees to receive the honour of carrying the torch.

Chartrand has played hockey since he was six years old. Now 20, Chartrand says he didn't even like hockey as a kid.

"It made my feet hurt. I hated the cold," says Chartrand. "I quit skating and quit hockey."

It took a year and a half before he decided to try skating again.

"One day we were watching hockey and I looked at my dad." Chartrand says, "I said 'Dad I want be just like those guys on the TV.'"

Chartrand joined the team half way through the season and hasn't stopped skating since. Now, he sees hockey as being more of a career path, rather than just a hobby.

"My next goal is to hopefully get a scholarship somewhere." Chartrand says, "Do schooling and play hockey at the same time."

He doesn't have a specific team that he would love to play for, as long as he is playing hockey.

"If I have to travel the world to play hockey I would," says Chartrand. "That's living my dream, just to play hockey while I can."

He ended up reaching his childhood dream after being selected by the Dauphin Kings.

"Since I was eight years old, me and my brother, Nate,



Daniel Chartrand (left) was nominated to participate in the 2017 Canada Games Torch Relay.

we would go watch all the games." Chartrand says, "We would memorize all the players, and all their numbers; everything."

Chartrand ended up finding out someone from the Dauphin Kings Hockey organization nominated him to carry the torch. He found out the other nomination came from the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Northwest Regional Office in Dauphin, Manitoba.

Chartrand has always been very connected to his Métis culture and heritage, as well as the MMF.

"All my family they said, no matter what you do in life, no matter where you go, always remember where you come from," says Chartrand. "And don't forget your culture or forget that you are Métis."

During camping trips with his family growing up, he was taught about his Métis culture and the Métis

Sash.

"We [would] go camping and go pick blueberries and stuff like that..." says Chartrand. "It was drilled into my brain. I will be a proud Métis for the rest of my life."

As the MMF is an official Co-Host of the 2017 Canada Summer Games, Chartrand was proud to display the pride he has for his culture and heritage while carrying the torch.

"I put [the Métis sash] on when I was walking with the torch." Chartrand says, "Everyone was kind of looking at me funny but, I didn't really care. That's my culture; that's where I come from. So I'm going to embrace it."

To buy your tickets for the 2017 Canada Summer Games, visit [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca).

## Métis National Council Assembly in Saskatoon

Wednesday, July 19th marked the first of two days wherein the Board of Governors of the Métis National Council (MNC) met in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

This sitting of the MNC brought forth new resolutions aiming to help the Métis Nation progress on important issues ranging from youth initiatives, to obtaining new housing agreements with the federal government.

One of the most interesting resolutions passed regarded Citizenship within the Métis Nation. This resolution aims to protect the inherent rights of citizens belonging to the Métis Nation across the

Homeland, as well as those who have moved away from their hometowns. The resolution states that no Governing Member is allowed to grand-father in previously registered Citizens who do not meet the 2002 criteria regarding Citizenship. It also assures no Governing Member can deny or strip a Métis Citizen of their right to be registered.

The MNC has focused on Citizenship criteria in the past too. Although this resolution is being brought forward today, there is also an official definition, which was accepted by the MNC in 2002. It states that in order to be eligible to be a card holding Citizen you must meet the following criteria: "Métis" means

a person who self-identifies as Métis; is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples; is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry; and who is accepted by the Métis Nation'.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) has been diligent in keeping true to this definition. Its registry already meets the criteria and standards of the resolution passed during the assembly.

It is very important to obtain and renew your MMF Citizenship card in order to stay connected to and be involved with your Manitoba Métis community. For more information about becoming a Citizen with the MMF, visit [mmf.mb.ca/membership.php](http://mmf.mb.ca/membership.php).

# 2017 Back to Batoche Days

This year, Back to Batoche Days took place from Friday, July 21st, to Sunday, July 23rd. From East to West, Métis Citizens came out to celebrate their shared history on the prairies of Saskatchewan. Batoche which holds so much history and meaning for our people and every year we commemorate the events of 1885.

Throughout the weekend there was entertainment provided by many of the provinces across the Métis Homeland, as well as some Métis games and competitions that featured activities such as axe throwing.

Manitoba Day was featured on Saturday with performances by Tayler Fleming, Tommy Dutiaume, Melissa St. Goddard, Oliver Boulette, and many more. There were also fiddling and jigging competitions during the afternoon. All in all it was a great time of remembrance and celebration with our Métis friends and relatives.



## 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](http://bac-lac.gc.ca/events)



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

