



Le Metis



President's Message

This summer we are taking the deep roots of our struggles since the early 1800s, weaving those together with today's achievements and creating a constitutionally protected self-government.

Before Confederation, the Métis had complete authority to create their own laws and exercise their inherent rights without outside interference. That gave us more strength and expression in how we meet the identified needs of our Citizens. To accomplish this again, it is time to formalize a fully recognized, independent Métis Government. Where the Métis Community stands today is a direct result of the strong leadership provided by the Manitoba Métis Federation.

When I was first elected 20 years ago, I made a promise to the Métis Citizens that I would pursue our

Land Claim and take it all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. With the full support of our Métis Citizens, and the Métis Government's elected representatives and staff, I did that: we were victorious. That win at the Supreme Court, coupled with success in other areas, will now give us the leverage to secure full self-government for Manitoba's Métis. This was a promise made and is now the promise is being fulfilled.

Formalizing a self-government agreement provides us with authorities and jurisdictions to enable Manitoba Métis Citizens to exercise their collective rights and interests without interference from other governments. Building on historical milestones, such as the policy development and legal recognition of our Métis harvesting laws, and our constitutionally protected recognition of the Manitoba Métis Government is a natural evolutionary process of governance. It will provide a strong foundation for responding to and meeting the evolving needs of the Métis Community.

It means not being affected by political ideologies and changes in other governments who may not share or recognize the vision and priorities of the Métis. It also empowers the Métis Government to negotiate stable, long-term fiscal relationships between the federal and provincial governments. Furthermore, this fulfills and protects the right of every confirmed Métis to be recognized and registered as Citizens of Manitoba's Métis Community - a right that cannot be revoked or rescinded.

I am excited to travel throughout the province this summer to share with you our progress on this important step in self-government. Also, at these scheduled community meetings, we will also be exploring how we will exercise our rights in harvesting in the area of night hunting and night lighting. Already I have met with the Citizens of Southwest Manitoba to discuss this topic. As I said at that meeting, we will never extinguish our inherent rights, though we may change how we exercise them. The laws we established under the direction of our Elders and harvesters have been accepted by the province of

Manitoba. During times where some Conservation Officers felt otherwise, we have remained victorious in the courts defending our hunting rights.

Other discussions we will be undertaking are around freshwater fish marketing. There is an opportunity for the Métis Government to explore purchasing the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. I am seeking your thoughts and input on this matter. Our Métis Fishers have traditional knowledge and wisdom on how to best manage and support a freshwater fishery. We have often been ignored and discounted when we have made our position known. Maybe it is now time to take this matter into our own hands and build a sustainable system that meets the needs of our Citizens and benefits all fishers across the province. Be sure to stay tuned to our website, Le Metis, Metis Hour x 2, and the MMF social media channels so you are kept abreast of our upcoming meetings.

As always, should you have any thoughts, concerns or opinions regarding anything your Métis Government is undertaking on your behalf, we want to hear from you. There are numerous ways you can get in contact with your elected representatives. Get involved in your Locals. The Manitoba Metis Federation is a grassroots government. All our work begins with you at the Local level. You can also engage your Métis Government representatives at the Regional level. Your leaders would love to hear from you. You can also contact your Métis Government by email at communications@mmf.mb.ca or give us a call at the Home Office. (204) 586-8474 will get you in touch with our government.

In closing, I send my thoughts and prayers to you all, in particular to those who are shut-in, sick or have cause to grieve. Be kind to each other and help share one another's load. As Manitoba's Métis Community, we are a blessed and fortunate people. Let us share our blessings with each other and thereby enrich our families, our homes and our villages. Enjoy the remaining days of summer. I wish you all health and safety.

Meeqwetch,

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www.mmf.mb.ca

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

Let the Games Begin!

The 2017 Canada Summer Games is off to a great start in the Heart of the Métis Homeland. As Official Co-Host, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is pleased to host Canada's athletes in the heart of the Métis Nation homeland. MMF Minister Mona Buors, along with President Chartrand, took the lead in promoting Métis involvement throughout the duration of the Games.

This made way for showcasing talented Métis artists, such as Tayler Fleming and Kenneth Lavallee. Tayler Fleming, who plays traditional Métis fiddle music, will play three times at The Forks during the Games. She performed during the opening ceremonies at The Forks with Elder George Fleury, and she will play another two times on the satellite stage.

Tayler is 20 years old and has been playing the fiddle for ten years. She started taking lessons with Darren Lavallee and then with Desmond Lagace through the Minitonas Fiddle Program. Tayler may seem like a master since her album release, but she still takes lessons with Patti Lameroux. Her fiddling has provided her with the opportunity to play at various events, including at this year's annual Back to Batoche Days held in Saskatchewan.

Métis artist Kenneth Lavallee designed the medals for the 2017 Canada Summer Games. He uses traditional ideas of balance, order, harmony and interconnectedness gathered from both Indigenous and Western cultures to guide his work as he explores and responds to the spaces and opportunities around him. Lavallee's other work has been shown in Winnipeg, Edmonton, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Melbourne, but he says the medal design will be his most widely seen piece.

The medal design was a collaborative and inclusive process between Lavallee and the selection



This year's medal for the 2017 Canada Summer Games was designed by Métis artist Kenneth Lavallee.



President Chartrand shakes hands with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the opening ceremonies of the 2017 Canada Summer Games.

committee. The committee included representatives from Treaty No. 1, Treaty No. 3, and the MMF. Each Indigenous group helped provide direction in creating and maintaining an image for cultural inclusiveness on their traditional homelands.

Two Métis dance groups, the Metis Prairie Steppers and the Asham Stomper's, will bring their high energy performances to the satellite stage at The Forks. Each perform traditional Métis jigging and square dancing that has been passed down through generations. A dance that both groups perform is the traditional Métis Red River Jig. These groups give youth the opportunity to learn about Métis culture and dance. They share their knowledge with the community by performing all over Manitoba, and across Canada. Older dancers mentor and teach the younger dances the steps and dances, passing down the tradition.

On July 26, Minister Buors proudly wore her Métis sash and MMF athletic pants when she carried the 2017 Canada Summer Games torch during its final legs through the city. She was cheered on by many supporters wearing Métis sashes and waving the Métis Infinity flag. MMF Minister Mona Buors (Associate Minister of Heritage, Culture, Sports & Youth) is the MMF's Co-Host lead for the 2017 Canada Summer Games.

President Chartrand used this opportunity to strengthen his government-to-government relationships with both the province and the federal leaders while they were attending some of the events. He shook hands with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the opening ceremonies, and met briefly with Premiere Brian Pallister at the opening reception.

The MMF's role as a Co-Host for the 2017 Canada Summer Games, will bring heightened national awareness and recognition for the MMF and Manitoba Métis Community by showcasing Métis culture, history and traditions. We are proud to welcome everyone to Winnipeg - formerly known as the Red River Settlement, the Birthplace of the Métis Nation.



Tayler Fleming performs at the opening ceremonies.

An All-Round Athlete

Caleb Rudkewich has always been an athletic Métis youth, even before being diagnosed with Sever's Disease. He enjoys playing anything from volleyball, basketball, soccer, badminton, baseball, and track. Even after being diagnosed with his disease, he knew he wouldn't be giving up sports.

"Sports is something that I really love to do. I love competing," Rudkewich says. "I love being out there and feeling the pressure of the fight. So I didn't really quit anything; I kept going with it."

Rudkewich describes Sever's Disease as "a growing thing" where his skeleton outgrows his tendons and ligaments. This makes his tendons tight, pulling on his bones. In some cases, like Rudkewich's shoulder, this means pulling the bone to the point of popping it out of joint.

"My arm was not fully dislocating but almost dislocating and that was causing me a lot of grief," says Rudkewich.

In July 2016, Rudkewich had surgery on his shoulder because of the disease. One year later, he competed at the 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).

He competed in the 100 meter race, long jump, high jump and 4x100 meter relay; winning third in high jump and 2nd in 4x100 meter relay.

Rudkewich competed in multiple events because

he usually does a tetrathon. A tetrathon is when an athlete competes in four events to earn points. At the end of the events, all the points are added together and compared to other athletes.

"With that one [tetrathon] the four events that are involved... are long jump, shot put, 100 meter race, and 800 metre race," Rudkewich says. "I'm not really a single event specialist, I'm an all-around athlete."

He was recruited for NAIG after he won third in Manitoba for the tetrathon. He had the surgery after he was recruited for the games, and healing afterward took patience.

"I couldn't start a job, I couldn't lift anything, I had to sit in the house for almost all summer and do nothing," Rudkewich says, "That was pretty frustrating."

Part of what got him through that time was his heritage.

"As a Métis person I feel unique," says Rudkewich. "It's honesty, it's respect, it's trust, it's responsibility, it's honour."

Rudkewich is a part of the Manitoba Metis Federation's Youth Advisory Council for the Northwest Region.

"We discuss the places to go like Batoche [Saskatchewan]," says Rudkewich. "We do reports about the [Annual General Assembly] and stuff like that."



Caleb Rudkewich shows his Métis pride at the NAIG.

Rudkewich thinks NAIG is a great example of Métis Culture.

"The Métis people are [all about] getting together," Rudkewich says, "It's always family and love and nurturing each other with respect."

NAIG 2017 took place in Toronto, Ontario July 16 to July 22, 2017. To see Results and more visit www.naig2017.to/

Riel House Thursday Night Soirée

Métis Soirée's at Riel House feature Métis music and dance from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday evening during the summer. The Soirée's kicked off July 6, 2017, and will continue until August 24. These free and fun cultural events have been made possible thanks to The Louis Riel Institute (LRI) and the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF).

Thursday, August 3, there was a large number of community members who attended the evening and enjoyed the old time fiddle tunes. The headlining performances for this particular Thursday evening were two Manitoban musicians who can often be found playing together, Patti Kusturok and Jeremy Rusu.

Patti learned to play the fiddle at the age of four, and has since performed at many high profile events such as TEDxManitoba, and the Indspire Awards. In July 2016, she was inducted into the North American Fiddlers' Hall of Fame, truly perfecting the art of the fiddle and never skipping a beat. She has also dedicated a great amount of her time to teaching young students how to fiddle over the years, whilst



Patti Kusturok (left) and Jeremy Rusu play together at the Thursday Night Soirée at Riel House.

sharing her love for the instrument.

Jeremy, who has been blind since birth, is a musical genius and can play about fifteen instruments. In addition to these many instruments, he has perfected a large array of music styles such as jazz and blues. Among his many achievements, Jeremy works in his studio and has produced a solo recording titled "The Accordion Album." At the Thursday Night Soirée, Jeremy played both the guitar and the accordion, with precision and finesse.

Patti and Jeremy have a great set-list which includes many classics and favorites. The tunes played are sure to put a smile on your face, and make you get up and dance with family and friends. This is the second night the duet are playing in this series of Thursday Night Métis Soirée's. Other artists that will be featured at the final summer soirées through the month of August include Mike Lauze and Bradd Moggie, Gerald St. Laurent, Erin Okrainek, Harry McKay and Derrick Cundy.

Southwest Regional Meeting

On Saturday, July 29, 2017, the Southwest Region of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) held their Annual Regional Meetings in Brandon, MB.

The meetings began with a prayer brought by Elder Rita Cullen. MMF Minister Leah LaPlante was appointed chair of this Regional Meeting, and started the day by going over the minutes from previous meetings and other important business.

Once business was complete for the morning, President David Chartrand addressed the attendees and shared what would be taking place in the afternoon. He also highlighted his vision for self-government and progress in developing a renewed government-to-government relationship with Canada moving forward.

After lunch, the MMF hosted a community consultation meeting on night hunting and night lighting. MMF Minister of Natural Resources, Alfred Anderson, started the afternoon by giving his opening remarks.

Minister Anderson thanked everyone in attendance for coming to the community consultation and stressed how important it is to hear from all of our Citizens, regardless of what they believe. The MMF has approximately 12,000 registered Métis harvesters in Manitoba, and their input and thoughts help focus the direction of the Métis government.

All of the different perspectives and concerns voiced by our Métis citizens will help shape our Métis Laws of the Harvest based upon the community consultation, a resolution regarding night hunting and night lighting will be brought forward to the Annual General Assembly in September for Delegates to vote upon.

As an Indigenous people, we have the right to harvest. As Minister Anderson made clear, this includes night-hunting, although as a people, we can choose not to exercise this right to hunt during the night.

Minister Anderson encouraged all Citizens, harvesters and non-harvesters, to share their thoughts on whether or not we should allow this practice. The Minister then introduced a provincial representative from Manitoba Sustainable Development, who conducted a brief presentation regarding Crown-Aboriginal Consultation with the Métis in Canada.

This presentation emphasized the rights Indigenous people have that have been recognized and affirmed as part of the Constitution of Canada highlighted in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. There have been other court cases such as the 2004 Powley Supreme Court of Canada Decision, as well as the 2009 Goodon Decision in Manitoba, that have contributed to the proper recognition of the Métis Right to hunt.

It was noted in this presentation that the province of Manitoba's laws and regulations related to night hunting are very strict, stating that night hunting is unlawful for safety reasons, however it does not apply to those who have demonstrated an Indigenous right to perform this practice.

The province identified areas it deems as a concern for this practice. Many of the identified areas are known Métis harvesting areas.

After the presentation, Citizens and harvesters were invited to share on a sheet of paper, or in person to the group, what their thoughts were on hunting at night or night lighting. Many Citizens in attendance determined that it was either unsafe, or unnecessary now that we are able to exercise our inherent right to hunt during the day, accompanied by our Métis Harvester Card. It was decided unanimously by the attendees at this first consultation that they believe the MMF should make these practices illegal in the Laws of the Harvest.

More consultations are happening across the province in each of the seven regions over the coming months, with the purpose of understanding Métis citizens' perspectives and concerns on this topic. For more information please contact Manon Soulard @ (204) 586-8474.



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