



Le Métis



President's Message

Summer is quickly passing. I hope you have had the chance to enjoy all that the Métis Homeland has to offer such as Métis Days at our Locals, Métis historic sites like the Battle of Seven Oaks, also known as the Victory of Frog Plain or "la Victoire de la Grenouillère," as well as the fiddle entertainment at Riel House in St. Vital on Thursday evenings. These are just a few among the many places to visit.

My family, friends and I have been fortunate to carve time out of our very busy schedules to do some of that and more, such as spending time together fishing, visiting, camping and playing golf. I cherish these long days, the beautiful weather and time with those I love and appreciate.

This summer has been full of great times and gatherings. Your Métis Government has been traveling around the province meeting face-to-face with Métis Citizens. We have heard about the wonderful things that have been happening in our regions. Among the meetings we have been having recently are the night hunting consultations.

In 2012 the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) signed a Points of Agreement with the province of Manitoba that saw the province agree to a recognized harvesting zone and to respect our Métis Laws of the Harvest and Harvester Identification Card. This important milestone means laws we have followed since the days of the Buffalo Hunt are recognized for their attention to conservation and responsible management of our resources. As Métis Harvesters, we agree and support efforts that serve to maintain our heritage for generations to come.

Our Métis Laws of the Harvester were developed through consultation with our Métis Elders, Citizens and Harvesters. They are a reflection of our community knowledge and traditions. The night hunting and night lighting consultations we are having in the MMF's

seven regions continue the spirit of this work by exploring how we, as a Métis Community, desire to exercise our inherent right to harvest.

For many years it was illegal for our Métis Harvesters to hunt and exercise their inherent right to provide for their families. For protection from the arbitrary provincial laws and harassing actions of officers, some harvesters often waited until the cover of night to hunt for food for our families. They were guided and assisted by the light of the moon and stars. For others, it is a traditional practice to call in moose at night during the rut or wait at salt licks until a moose showed up. Clearly there are different reasons for hunting at night or with lights. There are differing opinions on whether we should continue these practices

We are talking to our Métis Elders, Citizens and Harvesters to determine how we wish to proceed. As I have said before, we will never extinguish, or give up our inherent rights. But as a Métis Community, we can collectively determine for ourselves how we choose to exercise those rights. If, as a Community, we decide to change how we Harvest, it does not mean we are surrendering or giving up any right. No, it is instead a thoughtful discussion and agreement how we will continue to exercise our hunts.

For your opportunity to share your thoughts, I encourage you to attend an upcoming meeting. You can also provide your thoughts and comments by filling out a form and sending to Manon Soulard at manon.soulard@mmf.mb.ca or by calling her at (204) 586-8474. The list of upcoming meetings and comment forms can be seen on our website, and downloaded and printed if needed. Simply click the graphic for Night Hunting on the MMF homepage at www.mmf.mb.ca.

Some comments we have heard regarding Harvesting include questions on how we will manage and address Métis Harvesters who do not abide by the accepted and recognized Laws of the Harvest. For those who follow the laws set out by the Métis Community, they are supported by our Métis Government. In times past, some recent, we have had overzealous Conservation Officers try to take matters into their own hand and, sometimes fraudulently, attempt to defeat our right to harvest. During those times, the MMF has had to defend our Métis Harvesters in the courts. The courts recognize our rights and our Harvesters have carried the day.

As the self-governing democratic representative of Manitoba's Métis Community, the MMF is committed to the protection, promotion and preservation of our inherent rights as a Community. We will not be bullied or harassed for diligently and responsibly exercising those rights. Our rights and conservation ethics are closely related and are truly sustainable.

Regarding the management of those Métis Harvesters who do not follow the laws of our Métis Community, we will be working with our Métis Citizens to determine appropriate actions to take. Our Métis Community is empowered and can determine what is or isn't appropriate for our Community including hunting outside our laws. As a community, we will determine for ourselves how we will manage our resources. Our laws are made by the Métis, for the Métis and to protect our Métis traditions and heritage.

In this message, I have focused upon our right to harvest. However, the jurisdictions and authorities we define in an upcoming self-government agreement will do much more than assist us in protecting and advancing our harvesting rights. This agreement will give us the necessary tools to advance other areas such as education, employment, economic development, healthcare, housing and much more. This is an historic time. We are on the cusp of something that has never been done in Canada. We are creating a fully recognized Métis self-government - a third order of government - with the jurisdictions and authorities to maintain a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with Canada and the province.

For information on what we are doing in self-government, visit www.ManitobaMetisGovernment.ca. Also, get involved in your Locals and Regional Meetings. Share your voice and strengthen your Métis Government.

In closing, I send my thoughts and prayers to you all, in particular to those of you who are sick, shut-in or have cause to grieve. Be near each other. Help one another. I hope you enjoy these last weeks of Summer. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Annual General Assembly on September 22nd, 23rd and 24th at the Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg.

Meeqwetch,

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

Métis Pride Proudly Displayed at Canada Games



Center James Lavallée wins Bronze medal in a kayak race. Photo: 2017 Canada Summer Games

The 2017 Canada Games began in Winnipeg on July 28th, followed by the Canada Games Festival at The Forks which opened on July 29th. As an official Co-Host along with Treaty 1 and Treaty 3, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) proudly represented the Métis Nation for the duration of the event.

The MMF's role as a Co-Host brought heightened national awareness and recognition for the MMF and Métis Nation. Métis culture, history, and traditions, were proudly displayed throughout the games and events held in Winnipeg this summer.

James Lavallée, a 19-year-old Métis athlete, says it was amazing to be on the Métis Homeland and compete in his second Canada Games. He wasn't always aware of his Métis heritage. After taking a course in native studies in high school it helped him discover his own identity.

"Like a lot of Métis, that was hidden," says Lavallée about his Métis heritage. "Being a Métis [participant] in the Games [with the ability] to showcase my Métis pride, and to hopefully inspire others who may have grown up in the same situation as me, and to be proud of their heritage, was really special to me."

Now Lavallée works at learning more about Métis

culture and making it more part of his life.

Three years ago when Lavallée's grandfather passed away, his family was taking the ashes out of the funeral home when he heard geese flying over his head. When he was competing in the K-1 race he wasn't expected to place. Shortly before the race ended he saw a flock of geese flying overhead. He says his grandfather was with him and he placed bronze. Lavallée competed in kayaking and won two bronze medals and one silver.

The thousands of people who gathered at The Forks were able to learn and experience many forms of traditional Métis culture. The Indigenous Artisans Tent near the Scotiabank Stage was set up during the entire festival to showcase Indigenous artisans.

"The tent was set up for us to display our culture and heritage. It was a chance for us to [educate] Canada about our departments and showcase as much as possible," says MMF Associate Minister of Heritage, Culture, Sport and Youth, Mona Buors.

With the MMF pushing for Métis inclusion in the games, it allowed Tayler Fleming, who plays traditional Métis fiddle music, to play for the crowds at The Forks twice during the Games. She performed

during the opening ceremonies at The Forks with Métis Elder, George Fleury.

Two Métis dance groups, the Métis Prairie Steppers and the Asham Stompers, also brought their high energy performances to the satellite stage at The Forks. The satellite stage was situated in front of the Scotiabank Stage. Both dance groups performed traditional Métis jigging and square dancing that has been passed down through generations.

Arnold Asham, 67, started jigging when he was 50 and still jigs with the Asham Stompers.

"I've spent my last 17 years trying to bring this [dance] to the world," says Asham.

"The Aboriginal people take so much negative flak, so our kids are living with a lack of self-esteem so I try to give them a sense of pride," says Asham as he explains why he tries to bring hope and positivity to the kids. Asham owns a curling shop but says his activities with the Asham Stompers is saving lives so he has made that his priority.

"I'm guessing we've done 1700 performances all over the world."

On July 26, Minister Buors proudly wore her Métis sash and MMF athletic pants while 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 infinity flag. Minister Buors is the MMF's Co-Host lead for the 2017 Canada Summer Games.

Norman Meade, who gives guidance to students at the University of Manitoba, gave a closing prayer at the closing ceremonies held at the Investor's Group Field. While the athletes were walking in for the ceremonies, the Asham Stompers jiggled the entire time.

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

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Finding success as a Métis Entrepreneur



Alix Loisel, owner of La Belle Baguette.

Visiting La Belle Baguette, the French bakery located at 248 de la Cathédrale Avenue, means belonging to the community. After opening its doors in 2015, the quaint French bakery is quickly becoming a staple of the Saint-Boniface neighborhood.

"This location is perfect for me", said the young Métis owner, Alix Loisel. "My grand-parents lived on Langevin Street and I built a house two minutes from here. I know everyone around here because I grew up here."

La Belle Baguette is a friendly place where neighbours wave at one another, hold the door for you and people sitting on the patio always look happy.

The friendly owner greets customers with a grin. It's clear that his current success stems from his love for his grand-parents. His grand-father often stops by the bakery, and his late grand-mother inspired his menu. He included some of her original recipes, like her famous pet de sœur and tourtière, and tweaked others, like her pie crust.

However, baking wasn't his first career choice.

"I studied to become a music teacher at the University of Brandon. I took time off from this program," says Loisel, "but I didn't want to just sit idle for a year."

So he decided to take a culinary arts class at Louis Riel Art & Technology Centre.

"That's where everything changed. That's where I met my mentor, Helmut Mathae," says Loisel. "He really influenced me to keep going with baking and bread making. He became more than a teacher, he was really a mentor in my life. I still talk to him today. Without him, I'd probably be teaching music somewhere in Saint-Boniface."

Loisel was able to translate his artistic skills from music to food.

"My entire family is involved in music, as an artist, I find that pastry gives room for more creativity [than cooking]."

Loisel also completed a pastry program at the Cordon Bleu at the Ottawa Culinary Arts Institute.

"It was a very intense experience, we had to recreate, the same day, the recipes that were showed to us in the morning without any previous practice. They brought in all the chefs and even the ingredients from France."

After Cordon Bleu, he worked at a number of high-profile restaurants such as the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise in Alberta and the Ritz-Carlton in Montreal.

He happened to be working in Montreal when his grand-mother fell ill.

"My grand-mother was the reason I wanted to come back to Winnipeg. She played a huge role in our life because she raised us. I wanted to be here for her."

He also indicated that living in a big city and working for a major hotel was stressful.

"Things were getting intense in Montreal, [working there,] it takes a toll on you", he said.

Like most entrepreneurs, Loisel admits he didn't want to work for anyone else.

"There weren't a whole lot of options in Winnipeg when it came to pastry shops and bakeries. It wasn't as popular or trendy at the time," says Loisel. "After all the good and bad experiences I'd had [in this industry], I was tired of working for others."

As soon as the location came up for sale, Loisel knew he was going to go ahead with his bakery.

"I had La Belle Baguette all figured out. My business plan was ready, I had the logo picked out and I knew that I wanted to apply with LRCC; they really helped me out with their funds, I could have never done it without them."

The Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC), an affiliate of the Manitoba Metis Federation, is a Manitoba Métis Owned Lending Institution created to finance the start-up, acquisition and/or expansion of viable Métis small businesses based in Manitoba.

On July 29, Loisel opened a second location at 1850 Ness Avenue which is 4 times the size of his initial location. Business is currently booming and in total, the two La Belle Baguette locations employ around 20 employees.

"I have contracts with Alt Hotel and Café Postal, we make their sandwiches and pastries. I also make wedding cakes and desert tables."

When asked if he'd consider opening a third, he replied with a smile:

"[The opening of the second location] is still fresh. But when I opened this [Saint-Boniface] location, I said I would not open a second, and now, I say no to a third. So..."

For more information about the entrepreneurship programs offered by the Louis Riel Capital Corporation, go to: www.lrcc.mb.ca.

French version of this story available at www.mmf.mb.ca/docs/la_belle_baguette.pdf.

Inauguration of Thompson Regional Director

On August 2nd, 2017, Ms. Donna Sanoffsky was inaugurated into the position of Thompson Regional Director and into the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF). Elder Julyda Lagimodière provided a prayer for the ceremony, offering words of faith and wisdom for our government, in the spirit of Louis Riel.

Ms. Sanoffsky took her oath with pride in front of a room filled with Métis Elders, Youth, Staff, and Guests. The Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the

Honourable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M., was present for the ceremony and sat alongside Ms. Sanoffsky for the signing of her oath.

The MMF and staff would like to congratulate Ms. Sanoffsky on her inauguration into the position of Thompson Regional Director. The Manitoba Métis Government looks forward to working with Ms. Sanoffsky, and is pleased to welcome another Métis woman into office.



Donna Sanoffsky (left) was inaugurated into the position of Thompson Regional Director and the MMF Board of Directors.

Manitoba Metis Federation Holding Night Hunting/ Night Lighting Consultations

The Manitoba Métis Community are an Aboriginal and Indigenous People. As such, we have the unextinguished right to harvest through our preferred methods which include night hunting and night lighting. Accordingly, the Manitoba Métis Community has the collective decision-making ability to determine whether we choose to exercise the right to harvest at night or not. This is an issue much discussed by the Manitoba Métis across the province.

Back in 2012, the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) signed the Points of Agreement: Metis Harvesting in Manitoba. Section C. 6 of the agreement states that "MB agrees to consult with the MMF prior to implementing any changes to the current regulatory regime that may infringe Métis Harvesting Rights, unless urgency makes such consultation impractical". Night hunting and night lighting are consultation issues.

Your Métis Government is undertaking night hunting and night lighting consultation meetings within all seven MMF Regions to understand the Manitoba Métis Community's perspectives on this issue. The MMF is seeking feedback and recommendations from the Manitoba Métis to provide direction on how to incorporate night hunting and night lighting into the Metis Laws of the Harvest. Manitoba Métis Citizens are the right holders and their voices are critical to this process.

The questions asked during the night hunting and night lighting consultations are as follows:

- Should we ban hunting at night by the light of the moon and stars?

- Should we ban hunting at night with lights (includes handheld spotlights, vehicle lights, etc.)?
- Should we ban hunting at night with lights in bush regions (i.e. remote forested Crown Lands)?
- Should we ban hunting at night with lights in agro regions (i.e. agricultural private lands)?

To date, night hunting and night lighting consultations have taken place in Brandon, Selkirk, Dauphin and Swan River. During these consultation meetings, Manitoba Sustainable Development made a presentation which was followed with a questions, concerns and comments period among the Manitoba Métis Community Citizens including Harvesters. At the end of the questions, concerns and comments period, the MMF Natural Resources Coordinator collected the comment cards and questionnaires distributed at the beginning of the meeting. The comment cards and questionnaires will be used to guide the MMF in understanding our position on night hunting and night lighting. A final report will be shared with Manitoba Sustainable Development and will be used to guide any changes proposed regarding how we exercise our inherent right as a Community.

Métis Citizens and Métis Harvesters are encouraged to share their opinions by attending an upcoming Community Consultation Meeting, submitting their comments to Manon Soulard at the MMF by emailing manon.soulard@mmf.mb.ca or by calling (204) 586-8474. During the MMF Annual General Assembly in September, results of these consultations will be finalized in a formal Resolution for the Métis Citizens to vote upon.

Métis Baseball Player Makes National Team

Brittney Langlais, who has Métis roots, was one of 31 girls selected for the Women's National Baseball Team 2017 Summer Program. Every second year, the team picks 20 girls to play at the World Cup; between that time, the team picks up more girls to play exhibitions games in the United States.

"Last year they went to Korea and two years before that they went to Japan," says Langlais. "But I didn't [play on] those teams. This is my first year making Team Canada."

This year, the National Team played for one week in Washington, DC from August 9th to 13th.

"They split the teams evenly so all ages [could play]," says Langlais. "I think the youngest was 16. We [also] had girls that were 25 and older."

The National Team recruited Langlais after seeing her play in the Women's Invitational Championships in Windsor, Ontario.

"Last year was my first year at that tournament." Langlais says, "I was pretty excited. I was hoping I would make it [on the National Team] the whole weekend. I knew I had to perform good to make it."

Langlais has dreamt of making the National Team since she started playing baseball eight years ago.

"As a little kid, it was always my goal to make Team Canada," says Langlais. "It's like, a dream for a lot of young girls playing baseball, and I guess I found out about [the National Team] online or something as a little kid. I just always wanted to make Team Canada."

Just because Langlais made the National Team this year, it doesn't mean she is guaranteed a spot next year.

"You have to [tryout to] make the Team every year," says Langlais. "You train individually all year and try to be the best you can. If you make the Team next year, you train for a week or so [with the team] before World [Cup] and then you leave for Worlds [Tournament]."

Even though Langlais will have to make the tryouts for next year's Team, she has high hopes for getting back onto the Team to play at the World Cup.

"I think I can do it," says Langlais. "But I have to push myself to get there...I'll have to work [towards this goal] if I want to make it, but it is reachable."

For more information on the Women's National Baseball Team 2017 Summer Program you can visit www.baseball.ca.



NIGHT HUNTING AND NIGHT LIGHTING CONSULTATIONS

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is undertaking consultation meetings within all 7 MMF Regions to hear from our Métis Citizens and harvesters about their perspectives on night hunting and night lighting in Manitoba.

Grand Marais	August 24, 2017	Grand Marais Recreation Association, Matilda Avenue	17:30
The Pas	August 27, 2017	Metis Club Room, 1515 Gordon Avenue	13:00
St.Malo	September 9, 2017	Blessed Margaret Poll Catholic Church, 5 Saint Malo Street	13:15
Thompson	September 16, 2017	Thompson Regional Office, 171 Cree Road	TBD
Winnipeg	September 22, 2017	Assiniboia Downs, 3975 Portage Avenue	TBD



