



Le Metis



President's Message

comprehensive approach with the French language. As you may recall, it was both the English and French languages which our Métis Ancestors constitutionally protected in the *Manitoba Act, 1870*.

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The Métis Nation is a strong and proud Nation. We were born here in the Red River Valley. Our Fathers spoke the languages of Europe, our Mothers the languages of the Plains. We are a multilingual nation. The Métis speak many different languages with some speaking two and three different languages. My own first language is *Saulteaux*.

As Métis, our official language is Michif. It is a language our Ancestors created. However, not every Métis Citizen speaks it. It is challenging to reach across our diverse linguistic landscape. We have done a good job at it. However, your Métis Government is going further to cover more languages and reach more Citizens in the language of their preference.

The Manitoba Metis Federation, the democratically elected government representative of the Métis Nation in Manitoba, is committing itself to developing a language services component to its communications efforts that will better enable us to reach our Citizens in their primary language. Currently our services are all available in English. We also have many Francophone elected representatives and employees; we now have a translator on staff. We are now beginning a more

We will eventually offer services in the official Métis language - Michif. Our efforts in these areas will be guided by our Métis Citizens. The Métis Government is preparing to undertake community consultations over the next year to map the linguistic landscape of the Métis Nation in Manitoba. We will use what we learn to shape how the Métis Government will direct its communications in order to best connect with our Métis Citizens.

With the support and guidance of the Métis Community, we will develop strong communications in a variety of languages. In that spirit, the Manitoba Metis Federation has commissioned an advertorial in this week's issue of *La Liberté* - the French newspaper in Saint Boniface. This is but one of the many steps we will take in broadening our abilities to reach all Métis

Citizens in their preferred language.

Other initiatives we are undertaking are translating important documents into French. This includes the informational brochure on Self-Government and our Framework Agreement signed with Canada, which, among other negotiating topics, provides for creating a constitutionally protected and recognized self-government. Both of these documents can be found online on our website at www.mmf.mb.ca.

We are also undertaking the translation of our website into French. This initiative began earlier in the spring of this year. We anticipate having this completed by the new fiscal year. As a matter of fact, we are revamping our entire existing website to make it more user friendly, easier to locate important information, and adding a regional component so the Métis Government can share Local and Regional news in a timelier fashion.

The Métis Government would be pleased to hear from you about this initiative. I encourage you to reach out the Manitoba Metis Federation with your comments and thoughts. You may reach our Communications Department via email at communications@mmf.mb.ca or by calling (204) 586-8474 extension 324.

In closing, I send my thoughts and prayers to those who are shut-in, ill or have cause to grieve. May you be comforted by the closeness and support of your family and friends. I also send my wishes for a safe return to school for our Children and Youth. I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Annual General Assembly taking place this month at the Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg on September 22 - 24.

Meeqwetch,

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

Métis Harvest Celebration Story

On Saturday, August 26, Riel House hosted its Annual Métis Harvest Celebration. This event is also known as the Annual Corn Roast. It is a successful partnership between the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) and Parks Canada.

LRI and Parks Canada began working together in May to make this season another success. LRI provides the training and programming required for Riel House and its staff to host daily tours for guests. At the end of the season in August, Parks Canada gives the organizers a grant to host a Corn Roast for the community.

There were many members of the community present which included staff from the LRI, as well as Members of Parliament Dan Vandal, Brian Mayes, and Robert Falcon-Ouellette. Marilyn Peckett was also in attendance to bring opening remarks from Parks Canada.

Riel House Summer Program Coordinator, Julie Desrochers, has worked at Riel House for the past five years. This is her fourth year as an organizer for the annual event.

"This year, the turnout was great. There were 956 people who attended, which was around 100 more than last year," explained Desrochers. "We were already expecting these numbers, so it was well attended."

At this year's event, there was Métis entertainment from 1:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., which included music from the Dutiaume Brothers and young fiddlers from Lorette. The evening was accompanied by square dancing groups such as the Métis Club Traditional Dancers, for the second year in a row, and the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers.

Amongst the tours and the Thursday night Métis soirées, this is the largest event that occurs at Riel House during the summer. The Annual Corn Roast has been something Desrochers has enjoyed being part of during her time at Riel House.

"It's really nice for the community to be able to get together and enjoy the last moments of summer together," said Desrochers. "I'm very sad this will be my last year organizing this event."



Riel House historical interpreters celebrate the Métis Harvest Celebration, also known as the Annual Corn Roast.

Partner with the
***Manitoba Metis
Heritage Fund***
at the next annual gala
May 12, 2018



*Manitoba Metis
Heritage Fund*

**For more information visit:
www.mmf.mb.ca/mmhf_rfp_doc.pdf**

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AGA 2017: 50 Years of Métis Governance

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) 2017 Annual General Assembly (AGA) is celebrating 50 years of Métis Governance and 20 years of leadership by President David Chartrand. The AGA will take place at Assiniboia Downs from September 22-24, in Winnipeg. The AGA holds the largest gathering of Métis Citizens and delegates across Canada with more than 3,000 attendees. It allows our communities to come together to reflect on our Nation's progress as well as determine our course of action for the upcoming year. This year is an especially significant gathering where we will be celebrating our advancements since the founding of the MMF in 1967.

This event offers a chance for leaders from the Métis Government and the Manitoba Métis Community to inform Métis Citizens of developments and advances made over the past year. It also gives Citizens an opportunity to provide input on subject matters to be addressed in upcoming months. It's an occasion to reconnect and rejuvenate relationships with family members and others from across the Métis Homeland. The AGA is also a place to forge new friendships, while working together to set new goals for the Métis Government and Community.

Our annual Youth Conference, for youth age 15 - 30, will take place again this year in conjunction with the AGA. The theme for the conference this year is *Youth Leadership-Preparing for Tomorrow*. The focus will be engaging Métis youth to become more involved with the Métis Government and Youth Council. It will also be centred around creating awareness of youth programs available to Métis Youth in Manitoba.

Youth will also participate in some new activities at this year's AGA including a Snapchat scavenger hunt and a beadwork workshop. For the scavenger hunt, youth will be assigned a list with types of photos they need to take while they are at the AGA. This may include taking a photo with an Elder, a Minister, or certain area at the Assiniboia Downs where the AGA is being held. Once the youth complete their list, they will submit their photos for a chance to win a prize. Youth will also learn how to bead, and about the history and importance beadwork has in Métis culture.

Youth delegates will participate in presentations, activities, and workshops to increase awareness of the resources, training, and employment opportunities available to them. This valuable knowledge will benefit our Métis Youth in many ways as they move towards beginning their careers.

This year we are adding a Junior Youth Conference, for youth age 11 - 14 who are attending the AGA with their families. Youth in this age group will participate in various culture and history workshops, as well as resources available to them to explore future career

options and opportunities.

The annual Tradeshow Expo at the AGA will provide more chances than ever for Métis Citizens to learn useful information about the goods and services available to them. The Tradeshow offers vendors a chance to connect with Métis Citizens in person, share the abundant opportunities their businesses offer, and forge new partnerships with other businesses to strengthen and improve success.

There are also many sponsorship opportunities for any businesses interested in supporting the 2017 AGA. Sponsorship creates an enriched AGA experience

for Métis Youth, Elders, and Citizens who attend, as well as offering an excellent way for businesses to connect with Métis consumers, entrepreneurs and organizations all in one place.

To obtain more information on the upcoming AGA, to download the Sponsorship and Tradeshow Package, or to register as a delegate, visit www.mmf.mb.ca/aga2017.php. Keep checking back for updates - we'll see you at AGA this September!



Annual General Assembly September 22-24, 2017

ASSINIBOIA DOWNS ∞ WINNIPEG, MANITOBA



www.mmf.mb.ca/aga2017.php

Manitoba Metis Federation Hosts Inaugural Elders Gathering

Manitoba Métis Elders gathered at the historic Grant's Old Mill site in Winnipeg on August 30th and 31st. They met to discuss Métis culture, Michif Language, Self-Government, and experience some traditional Métis food and music. Through their knowledge and experience the MMF is working to protect and strengthen the Métis culture and language.

"How do we preserve who we are? We teach our youth," said President Chartrand regarding the importance of the Elders Gathering. "If the MMF can capture the Elders experience it can preserve the Métis culture and language and teach the youth their culture for generations for to come."

For some Elders, it was an emotional time. They haven't heard their language since their grandparents passed away. Hearing their language revived their sense of pride. Many weren't allowed to speak their language growing up. For those that haven't heard their language in sometime it was encouraging to them to know that their language is alive and well.

The Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations

(TSN) department led the meetings during the gathering. The department asked Elders how the MMF can improve the services it provides, for insight in how self-government should work, and for ways for Elders to share their stories.

"We've never lost our language. We never lost anything. It's still there. We just have to go get it," said Elder Norman Fleury, who teaches at the College of Education - University of Saskatchewan. "Then [we] bring it back together. We find it. We record it. That way it becomes consistent. It becomes parallel with who we are as a people."

"I always start off my speeches by recognizing the Elders as a way to ensure the cultural component of our existence as a people continues," said President Chartrand.

"Our leaders can't do it all. We have to do it. We're the specialists," explained Elder Norman Fleury.

In a surprise to many, President Clément Chartier of the Métis National Council (MNC) announced the proposed return of the MNC to the Métis Homeland. He said the MNC, which has its

headquarters in Ottawa, has been outside the Homeland for far too long and it is time for it to return to the Red River Settlement by 2020.

Elders were also treated to a traditional Métis meals during their visit. On the second day of the gathering they tasted elk for their lunch. The elk was harvested shortly before the gathering by the man who prepared the meals.

The MMF has always done its best to learn from its Elders by engaging the communities and hosting events in Winnipeg. This is the first time in many years that the MMF brought Elders from all over the province together to have an open discussion. This will become an annual event solely dedicated to learning from our Métis Elders. The annual Elders Gathering will give them the opportunity to share their stories and give their guidance.



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.

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