



Le Metis



President's Message

This year's Annual General Assembly will be a historic milestone. It will be a time to reflect upon what has brought us to where we are and where we will go from here. The MMF continues to provide responsible and effective Métis self-governance on behalf of the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community. Your government is always accountable to you – the Métis People. The MMF's effectiveness, and its accountability back to our grassroots citizens, is due in part to our democratic reporting.

necessary authorities and jurisdictions that will give us more strength and expression in how we meet the identified needs of our Citizens. The Manitoba Metis Federation has a vision and plan to foster strong, healthy and self-reliant Métis families, local communities and businesses. We are building to create self-sufficiency, self-determination and strong, representative Métis self-government.

This is an exciting time for the Manitoba Métis and our Métis Government. Our Annual General Assembly is taking place this week where we will celebrate two important milestones for our Métis governance and leadership.

This year we celebrate 50 years of Governance and 20 years of Leadership. The MMF is continuing the traditions of governance and leadership that are rooted in the time of our Forefathers.

We have experienced much success over the years. The Métis Citizens of Manitoba are on the cusp of receiving even greater things. The Métis Government has been hard at work negotiating agreements and new relations that are built on nation-to-nation and government-to-government principles. Favourable changes in government, a renewed commitment by Canada to seek reconciliation and the support of recent Supreme Court decisions have created an environment for progress.

This year we celebrate 50 years of Governance and 20 years of Leadership. The MMF is continuing the traditions of governance and leadership that are rooted in the time of our Forefathers. Our Métis Government is deeply rooted in our historic military, political and legal struggles, as well as the buffalo hunts of the 1800s. It survived a reign of terror followed by a dark period of history lasting nearly a century. Our people rose up in the mid-1960s to advocate and revive our collective rights of self-determination and self-governance.

Our constitutionally mandated assemblies are a fundamental part of this democratic reporting. It is through the assembly that the will and authority of our People is both expressed and confirmed each year. After reviewing reports on past and current activities, and following discussion and debate, our Métis delegates give direction to their elected representatives.

I am looking forward to sharing at the Annual General Assembly what has been happening. I am also looking forward to sharing with you good news about investments the Métis Government has, and will, undertake on behalf of the Métis Citizens of Manitoba. I want to share with you my gratitude and thanks for your continued support and trust in your Métis Government. It has been my humble pleasure to serve the Métis Citizens of Manitoba these past 20 years. I am honoured to be your President.

I am honoured to be your President for the past twenty years. During our time together, we have helped our people build their future and support their families. Together, we continue to advance our Métis Agenda. It is the participation of our Métis Citizens at the Local, Regional and Provincial levels that is the essence of good participatory and representative governance. With over 3000 delegates at our Annual General Assembly, it is a sign of democracy in action.

But, importantly, the foundations of our success over the past 20 years is because of the plan we developed and began to implement back in 1997 when I became President. As I have stated before, we are in the process of negotiating a constitutionally protected, recognized self-government. This is part of the plan to ensure the Métis Government is vested with the

In closing, I send my thoughts and prayers to each of you, especially those who have cause to mourn, are shut-in or sick. May you be comforted and strengthened by family and friends. I look forward to see you at the Annual General Assembly.

Meeqwetch,

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

Métis Youth Meets Prince Charles at Canadian Museum of History

Brad Boudreau was one of three Indigenous youth to meet with Prince Charles and wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Québec. Boudreau was asked by Métis National Council (MNC) to bring greetings to the royal couple on behalf of the Métis Nation, as well as bring attention to important issues facing the Métis people.

Boudreau was only able to have a brief conversation with Prince Charles, but he managed to present the prince with a Louis Riel Coventry sash and gave Camilla a journal with Métis artwork.

Prince Charles asked about the significance of the sash he was presented. Boudreau explained the colours and what the sash represents to the Métis people.

Boudreau brought a Louis Riel Coventry sash because Louis Riel played a significant role in bringing Manitoba into confederation. This year is also Canada's 150th anniversary, and Boudreau says bringing this sash recognizes the dark times for the Métis, but also says the Métis Nation is looking forward to what their future relationship with Canada will look like.

Unfortunately, due to Prince Charles' busy schedule that day, Boudreau was unable to discuss the importance in moving forward to improve access to child care for the Métis Community as well as the importance of quality early childhood education and development.

Boudreau says it was a surreal experience meeting Prince Charles. At first, he mentioned being star struck meeting such a high profile person, but then he was able to have a brief but meaningful discussion with the Royals.



Brad Boudreau explains the significance of the Louis Riel Coventry sash to Prince Charles.

Boudreau works in the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations (TSN) department as a policy analyst. He believes early childhood education is fundamentally important. Boudreau explains how quality early childhood education contributes to a greater labour force participation, and more significant educational outcomes for Canadians. He believes investment in quality early childhood education can address the core economic and social challenges in Canada.

The royal couple were visiting the Canadian Museum of History to open the Canadian History Hall, a five-year \$30 million project.



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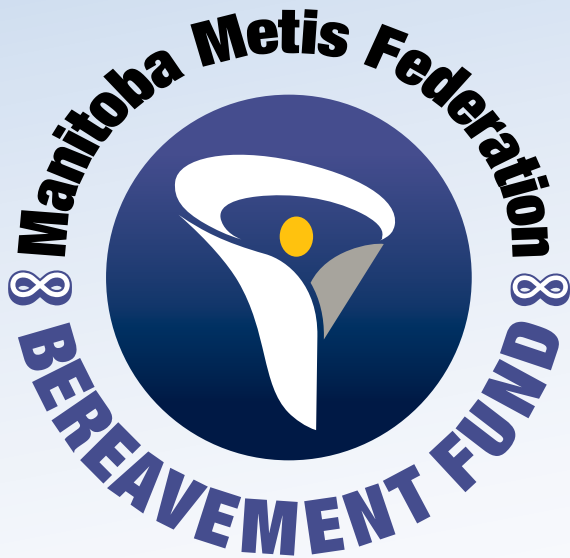


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MMF Bereavement Fund



In 2004 the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) created a fund to help our Métis families in times of great loss. The MMF has always operated from the standpoint that family is the foundation of the Métis Nation. From this perspective, the MMF wanted to ensure that we could help assist our Métis people during these difficult times. The Bereavement Fund is designed to help alleviate some of the financial burdens that can be associated with the planning and preparation of a funeral.

To be eligible for assistance through the Bereavement Fund the deceased member must be of Métis heritage. An obituary and/or a death certificate is also required when an application for assistance is made to the fund. There is no limit for the number of times a family may seek help from the fund.

The Bereavement Fund operates solely through donations received from Métis citizens and through fundraising activities that take place throughout the year. The MMF Annual General Assembly, Trapper's Festival in The Pas, and staff Christmas parties are just some of the events where donations toward the fund are regularly made.

The MMF Metis Community Liaison Department (MCLD) oversees the management of the Bereavement Fund. If you would like to make a donation to the Bereavement Fund or need to make an application for assistance, you may contact your local Metis Community Liaison Worker at any of our seven regional offices. Regional contact information can be found on www.mmf.mb.ca/regional_offices.php. You may also contact MCLD at the MMF Home Office directly.

Metis Community Liaison Department
Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.
Phone: 204-582-9809
Fax: 204-947-1816
Website: www.mmf.mb.ca

Qualico Bridge to Success Indigenous Orientation

The University of Manitoba Indigenous Student Centre hosted Qualico Bridge to Success Indigenous Orientation on Sept. 12th. Laura Forsythe, the Métis Inclusion Coordinator for the University of Manitoba, says almost 60 per cent of the indigenous student population is Métis.

Forsythe says each year the University of Manitoba hosts the annual Indigenous Orientation so indigenous and non-indigenous students can celebrate indigenous culture.

Last year the tagline for this event was I Declare Indigenous because '...', this year it's I Declare '_____' because '...', giving students and participants an opportunity to identify how they want.

"We want them to feel proud. Largely, what we found is they want to celebrate culture in different ways," says Forsythe.

This is the first year the Louis Riel Institute participated in the orientation. They brought with them traditional Métis clothing for a dress-up booth, so the students could try on the clothes and get their picture taken.

There were Métis jigging lessons with members of the dance group the Asham Stompers.

"It's always been a passion," says Vince O'Laney. He won the first season of Canada's Got Talent with the jigging group Sagkeeng's Finest.

"Growing up I always listened to fiddle music on NCI



University of Manitoba hosts annual Indigenous Orientation allowing indigenous and non-indigenous students to celebrate indigenous culture.

with my grandma," says O'Laney. "I can even play the fiddle."

Elsie Bear's Kitchen provided the traditional Métis lunch at Migizii Agamik—Bald Eagle Lodge, which included Shepard's pie, salads, and rice pudding for dessert.

Partner with the

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May 12, 2018



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

The Flower Beadwork Circle Returns

The Flower Beadwork Circle officially started back up on September 6 after their summer break. The group functions on a drop-in basis and operates from September to May each year.

The Métis have often been called “The Flower Beadwork People” – a nickname attributable to their extraordinary floral beadwork designs, which are a well-known feature of Métis culture. The Louis Riel Institute (LRI) has continued this tradition through The Flower Beadwork Circle, a group who meets every Wednesday evening from 5-8 pm to keep the craft alive. During these meetings, members work on individual beading projects and share their knowledge and ideas for beading ideas, patterns, and techniques.

Historically, Métis beadwork was largely influenced by their love of the land, flowers, and nature. The Métis were famously known for the remarkable floral beadwork decorating their saddles, saddle blankets, halters, and bridles, signifying the treasured relationships they had with their animals. Other items the Métis commonly decorated with beadwork were jackets, vests, bags, leggings, gloves, and sashes, which were prized trade items across North America and Europe and were a large component of Métis livelihood as well as culture.

This year, The Flower Beadwork Circle will host a craft table at the Manitoba Metis Federation’s Annual General Assembly (AGA) from Sept. 22-24th at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg, featuring completed projects by its members including beaded winter mitts, necklaces, earrings, pouches, key chains, and more. All funds raised from items sold will go toward hosting beading workshops, as well as providing starter beading supply kits to new group members containing needles, scissors, fabric, thread, and beads. Members of the group will also be helping out with the Youth Conference’s Beadwork Workshops. During these workshops an instructor will teach the youth beading techniques with the starter kits provided. Youth will also be taught the history and importance beadwork has in Metis culture.

LRI has a variety of local beaders of all ages attending their weekly Flower Beadwork Circle. The group welcomes all new members, novices, experts, and any skill level in between, and encourages anyone interested in learning the craft to attend a session. Those who have experience with the craft are encouraged to bring in pieces of their own. First-time attendees are given two beginner projects to learn basic Métis beading techniques. The first project is a traditional, beaded flower design on a square of fabric, and the second is a medicine bag which the



The Flower Beadwork Circle craft table at the MMF 2016 AGA.

new member will also learn to sew and put together before decorating with beadwork. After these projects are completed, members can take on any beading projects of their choosing.

Anyone wishing to learn more or join The Flower Beadwork Circle can contact group coordinator Louise Gordey by calling 204-984-9480 or emailing lgordey@mmf.mb.ca.

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

EXHIBITION

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