



Le Métis



President's Message

descendants of the Métis people of the Red River Valley and Canada.

Upon election in 2015, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated that Canada is committed to advancing reconciliation and renewing the relationship. What is reconciliation? Unfortunately, the term reconciliation has become a new catch phrase or buzzword and used whenever there is talk of indigenous relations. At the very least it means dealing honestly and respectfully with each other, addressing past mistakes, and taking real action.

We have had successes: in 2016, we signed a historic milestone - the Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation. We committed to working with Canada, on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis, through bilateral negotiations to advance reconciliation and renew the relationship through cooperation, respect for Métis rights, and ending the status quo.

We have been working towards reconciliation with the federal government. At our 2017 AGA, Minister of Indigenous Relations, Carolyn Bennett, announced Canada's full financial support for the Métis National Heritage Centre. Also at the AGA, Minister Petitpas Taylor and I announced our joint commitment exploring new opportunities in health services with the objective of supporting a healthy, secure and prosperous Manitoba Métis Community. But, as I have said above, moving towards Reconciliation is not without its challenges, and we must deal honestly and respectfully and act meaningfully.

In the news recently, and often, is the repulsive experience of the sixties scoop. Through a shameful program based on racial superiority and colonialism, our babies and children were taken from their mothers, fathers, grandparents, extended families and nation - not because of bad parenting - but, because our families were poor and seen as less worthy. Perhaps this can be described as an act of genocide as defined by the same United Nations to which Prime Minister

Trudeau recently spoke.

Many of you may be unaware that for decades the MMF has been carefully and persistently working to help our families and children with little to no support from both the provincial or federal governments. Through the MMF's Métis Child and Family Services department, we established the Repatriation Program in the late 1990s. Through this program, we seek to reunite our Métis Nation babies and children, who we call our "Lost Moccasins", with their parents, families, culture, history and nation. The MMF repatriated our first Métis Nation baby in 1998.

The Federal government made a recent announcement that it would be resolving the issue of the sixties scoop with the First Nations. Unfortunately, the Métis Nation was left out. Our Lost Moccasins were forgotten. This is repeating past mistakes. The MMF was not made aware of the announcement ahead of time. Neither were we part of any discussions on how we might together solve the problem. Again, repeating past mistakes. Based on the new relationship we have been building with the Trudeau Government, I am confident this error can be overcome.

In the spirit of reconciliation, as had been clearly aspired to in the Prime Minister's United Nations speech, I have written to the responsible federal ministers about how we can move forward together to resolve this. We must ensure all of our Lost Moccasins are acknowledged, treated with respect, provided the opportunity to heal, and compensated like others who have suffered from Canada's colonial legacy. We will not accept Métis Nation exclusion. We must continue down the path of reconciliation.

My prayers are with our Elders, our sick, and our shut-ins. My thoughts are also with our veterans and the survivors of the sixties scoop and the day and residential schools. It is my goal that they receive respect and justice.

Meeqwetch,

Two weeks ago, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, stood before the world at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Many have said he made one of the most reflective and considered addresses of any world statesman about a state's relationship to, and reconciliation with, its Indigenous Peoples. As I recall, in his speech he specifically named the Métis Nation at least twice.

He acknowledged Canada's shameful colonial policies and history towards Indigenous peoples in this country. He spoke of the much-needed truth and went on to say that Canada is a "work in progress" and that his government is working to do better and not repeat the mistakes of the past. Indeed, the MMF has been working closely with Prime Minister Trudeau's government on this "work in progress." When past mistakes are repeated, it is because the MMF was not consulted or involved.

Our steps forward have always come with difficulty. In 1870, through treaty, we brought our homeland into Confederation and became recognized as Canada's Negotiating Partners in Confederation and Founders of Manitoba. By 1885, Louis Riel would write that Canada had not adequately fulfilled its obligations under its treaty with the Manitoba Métis. He went on to write that the Government neither protected them nor gave them justice. In 2013 Supreme Court of Canada acknowledged the MMF had a collective claim for the purpose of reconciliation between the

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

The Métis Sash

Historically, the sash has had a different meaning to the many who have shared in its origin.

But none, we believe, have celebrated and adopted the L'Assomption Sash (Ceinture fléchée) to their proud heritage as did the Métis.

L'Assomption Sash was named after a town in Quebec where it was produced. This colourful sash, as well as being distinguishable Métis apparel, had many more functional uses. It had fringed ends that served as emergency sewing kits when the Métis were out on a buffalo hunt. The sash also served as a key holder, first aid kit, washcloth, towel and as an emergency bridle and saddle blanket.

In the west, the name "L'Assomption Sash" gave way to today's term "the Métis sash." It has been said that this likely occurred because many of the sash-wearing voyageurs were of mixed-blood, and the sash was most popular among the Métis of the Red River. Today, the "Métis sash" continues to be an integral part of Métis cultural celebrations.

The Manitoba Metis Federation has, in recent times, adopted a new colour variation for the Métis sash at its Annual General Assembly. The new chosen colour variation is of the original L'Assomption coloured pattern, with one exception: the yellow has been replaced with black.

The new sash described below has a rich chapter of Métis history woven into each coloured strand.

Blue and White: are the colours of the national Métis flag. It has a white infinity symbol with a blue background. This flag was flown on June 19, 1816 at the Battle of Seven Oaks (Frog Plains) under the leadership of Cuthbert Grant. He led a Métis brigade on the Assiniboine River and seized the Company post at Brandon House. They then set off to the Red River Fough, the skirmish of Seven Oaks, in which Governor Semple and 21 of his men were killed for the cost of one Métis life.



A sample of the unique Metis Sash the Manitoba Metis Federation developed and adopted based on a variation of the original L'Assomption Sash.

Red and White: are the colours of the Métis hunting flag. It has a white infinity symbol with a red background. During a hunting expedition, the camp flag belonged to the guide of the day. In some of these hunting expeditions, great battles occurred, like the Battle of Grand Coteau. It is interesting to note that since the Sash's creation, the colour red has taken on the additional meaning of the Blood of Martyrs including Louis Riel, Elzéar Goulet, and other Métis who died or shed blood during and following the 1869-70 Red River Resistance and the 1885 Battles at Duck Lake, Fish Creek and Batoche. Another, much newer, interpretation of the red colour is a reference to Red River Settlement - the Birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Homeland.

Black: symbolizes the dark period after 1870 in which the Métis people had to endure dispossession, and suppression, suffered through colonialism. In the years that followed, the Métis were shot and beaten

on the streets of Winnipeg. Bounties were issued on those who had collaborated with Louis Riel. Many left their land and headed west; those who stayed behind moved north. Those who remained were forced off their land and became squatters, living mostly on road allowances.

Green and Gold: signifies fertility, growth and prosperity for the Métis Nation. Green and gold also mean we must move forward and reclaim our rightful place in Canadian history.

The Métis Sash has been both a practical piece of clothing and a symbol of Métis national identity and pride for two centuries. Today, this hand-woven sash is worn by many of our Manitoba Métis Citizens at our Métis celebrations and events such as Louis Riel Commemoration on November 16th, Louis Riel Day in February, and at events like the MMF Annual General Assembly.

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Manitoba Métis Elders Gathering at Grant's Old Mill



Manitoba Métis Elders gathered at the historic Grant's Old Mill site in Winnipeg on August 30 & 31, 2017. 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 Métis culture and language.

Employment Opportunity

Regional Youth Coordinator

MMF Southeast Regional Office - Grand Marais

For a complete list of required
Skills and Qualifications please visit:

www.mmfemployment.ca or www.mmf.mb.ca

Youth Resource Centre Worker

MMF Interlake Regional Office - St. Laurent

For a complete list of required
Skills and Qualifications please visit:

www.mmfemployment.ca or www.mmf.mb.ca

Please forward covering letter and resume indicating which position you are applying for by **Friday, October 20, 2017**
to the MMF Metis Employment & Training Department, 300-150 Henry Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0J7

Email to: metresumes@mmf.mb.ca or fax to (204) 947-3251

www.mmfemployment.ca



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Now Hiring:

Junior (Entry Level) Print/Digital Advertising Sales Account Manager

Job Description Overview

We are looking for an (entry level) Print/ Digital Media Advertising Sales person to coordinate with the Director of Sales/Marketing and General Manager to act as the first, and most important, point of contact with our existing clients, as well as make the initial contact with new, potential clients, gather their information and provide them with information of our services as well as answer any questions they may have in a timely, professional manner.

Ultimately, you will contribute to building profitable, long-term relationships with our clients to reach our business objectives. Previous client sales/advertising experience will be an advantage, but not a necessity.

Email resumes to: Andrew.boryskavich@mmf.mb.ca

Application Deadline: Monday, October 30, 2017

For a complete list of required Skills and Qualifications please visit: www.mmfemployment.ca or www.mmf.mb.ca

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

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