



Le Métis



President's Message

On Louis Riel Commemoration Day, on November 16, 2017, I made a historical announcement, released details, and rolled out the Manitoba Métis Prescription Drug Program. With this program your Métis Government is helping our Seniors to get their medications. No longer will they need to first pay out of their pocket for their prescriptions. This is the first time an aboriginal government has come forward and done this.

Our Métis Seniors living in poverty should not have to choose between paying their hydro bill or paying for their medication. Only one ambulance bill and their budget is blown for the rest of the year. They have been paying taxes their entire lives and, yet, when they are most in need, many find themselves without any help in making ends meet. I am delighted your Métis Government is doing so well in its businesses that it can now provide supports for its Senior Citizens in getting for their medicines.

Since the Supreme Court of Canada's Daniels decision in 2016, it has been made crystal clear that the Government of Canada has a fiduciary responsibility to

our Métis people. Yet we have not seen any benefits from the decision. Ultimately Canada must take on their responsibilities. In the interim, the MMF will make sure our Senior Citizens receive assistance and are covered for their prescription drugs.

The current federal government has shown its willingness to work cooperatively, on a Nation-to-Nation Government-to-Government basis, with your Manitoba Métis Government. We have made great strides with Prime Minister Trudeau since 2015. Our Land Claims negotiations have moved ahead at lightning speed. In addition to self-government, the negotiations will include the areas in health, education, and economic development.

Just a few weeks ago I attended and spoke at the Canada's Public Policy Forum that took place at the University of Winnipeg. The topic of the forum was economic reconciliation with the Métis. There was, of course, a strong focus on education and training. I stayed longer than I was expecting so I could hear from the Youth who were part of a panel near the forum's end.

From what I heard, it seems to me that our Youth, much like their Ancestors, are hardworking and independent. Hard work and independence can be very strong drivers of success. But sometimes these can take on less positive individualistic aspects. Positively, our Youth are thinking about how their education and training will benefit themselves. This is only natural. This is how people think. On the other hand, many are not thinking about how they

can benefit the Métis Nation while they are going to school and after they graduate.

This leads me to feel we need to strategize about how we can meet their aspirations and meet our community needs at the same time. It appeared to me that in some cases some of our Youth focus on the opportunities we have fought so long and hard for, and do not fully understand the fight we had to go through to get these opportunities, nor how they might help and give back. We will continue to work on developing options. Together we, young and old, both now and in the future, need to work hard to strengthen the Nation.

Some Métis are still hiding in plain sight. Many were never told as children who they were. We want those people to claim their identity. We want them to know their roots and know their culture. They don't have to hide anymore. I tell these people that we are here. Get involved in their MMF Local. Talk with the Elders in our community. There are so many opportunities available to get involved and help the Métis Nation.

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. I offer my prayers for our citizens, friends and neighbours who have passed on. I also offer my condolences to their families. Best wishes to everyone.

Meeqwetch,

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

MMF Announces Prescription Drug Program for Metis Seniors

In honour of Louis Riel on November 16, President David Chartrand of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) made an historical announcement by releasing new details about the Métis Prescription Drug Program. Under this innovative program, the MMF will provide Métis health benefits to its most at-risk Métis Citizens.

Métis elders, seniors, and other vulnerable Métis citizens face daily challenges in procuring prescription drugs. Under this new program, the MMF will ensure that Métis citizens who meet the eligibility criteria will have access and coverage to the prescription drugs they need to increase their quality of health and well-being. Program eligibility includes Métis Citizens who are aged 65+ with an annual individual income of \$25,000 or less, and who use MEDOCare Pharmacy for prescription dispensing and delivery. All prescription drugs dispensed and delivered under this program will be through MEDOCare Pharmacy.

“Starting today, eligible Métis Citizens will be able to apply to the program, and benefit from this new Métis-specific prescription drug coverage,” said President David Chartrand. “One ambulance bill and they’re done, they can’t afford their medication. Not anymore.”

The program includes providing an MMF calculated deductible covering prescription dispensing and delivery services of all prescription drugs directly to the eligible citizens. This will ensure that those who benefit from the program will receive their prescriptions on time without incurring additional travel costs.

In honour of Louis Riel, the MMF invited its first eligible Métis seniors to be part of this historic announcement including John Ducharme, Norma Allard, Lloyd and Pat Vermeylen, Emile and Lucienne Neault, and Terry Sommerset. During this time, they had a chance to speak to the MEDOCare’s pharmacist, January, about their prescription needs. The pharmacy offers free 2-day delivery anywhere in Manitoba. Several thousand senior Métis Citizens are registered in the MMF database, and those that



MMF President David Chartrand, MMF Minister of Economic Development Leah Laplante, and MMF Minister of Health Frances Chartrand, made an historical announce new Métis Prescription Drug Program for Métis Seniors.

fit the program criteria will be eligible to register for this new program.

“Our government is the first in Canada to take the leadership role that we will start now from this day forward, on Louis Riel Day recognizing what he contributed and what he gave up,” said President David Chartrand. “In honour of him we start this new program which we will cover all of our senior citizens



Terry Sommerset, a direct descendant of the Nolin Sisters, is one of the first Métis seniors to register for the new Métis Prescription Drug Program.

65 and up, their prescriptions and non-insured health benefits so that they will never have to worry whether they have a choice to make whether they pay their hydro bill, buy their food, or buy their medicine. They will have their medicine.”

MMF Health & Wellness Department and MEDOCare Pharmacy have entered a long-term partnership in the creation of Métis Health Benefits that will help to reduce the burden of illness and support self-management of multiple concurrent chronic conditions that are so prevalent in the Métis population.

“This one of our first pharmacies. We are moving forward in clinics and will be building more in other areas across Manitoba,” said President David Chartrand.

The MMF continues to collaborate with Canada to ensure the success and expansion of the Program along with other Métis Health Benefits.

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Veteran Monument unveiled in St. Eustache

On November 11, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) unveiled a veteran's monument in St. Eustache with the names of over 450 Métis and local veterans who served in Canada's Military. The memorial has been designed by the Manitoba Metis Government, and supported by the veterans' families as well as the St. Eustache community. The St. Eustache Métis Local identified the need for veterans' recognition and the MMF provided the necessary funding.

Getting Métis veteran recognition is important because for too long they have gone unrecognized for their contributions and sacrifices for this country. The MMF continues to honour and remember our Métis veterans. The veterans' names that are on the monument served in the First World War, Second World War, and the Korean War.

"I want to thank the Veterans and their families for their past and ongoing sacrifices in protecting our democracy, our freedoms, and way of life," says President of the MMF and Métis National Council Minister for Veterans Affairs David Chartrand.

The monument will be a permanent display of achievement and sacrifice. As Remembrance Days events are annual, the monument will be a venue for future events and a gathering place for our citizens to honour their families who have served in the Canadian Forces.



MMF President and Métis National Council Minister for Veterans Affairs David Chartrand, MMF Southwest Region VP Leah LaPlante, and Métis veteran Ken Beaudin, unveil new veteran monument in St. Eustache, Manitoba.



MMF veteran monument unveiling and Remembrance Day service in St. Eustache on November 11, 2017.

"Today the community of St. Eustache and the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis have come together at the grassroots to recognize these sacrifices here today with this monument," said President Chartrand. "This is a small step in giving them our thanks for all they have given us. We will continue to pursue that. We protect their legacy and all that is due to them and their families. I thank them."

The St. Eustache Métis Local hosts a Remembrance Day service each year to provide the opportunity for families of the veterans and community members from the St. Eustache area to remember and show respect to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.



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- Great family home on quiet residential street.
- Close to major bus routes and schools.
- One parking stall included.
- No pets and no smoking policies in effect.

For more information or to set up a viewing, please contact the Manitoba Metis Federation Housing Department at (204) 586-8474 ext. 349.



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Louis Riel

∞ THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 ∞



HAPPY HOLIDAYS JOYEUSES FÊTES



You're invited to our
*Holiday
Open House*

Friday December 8, 2017
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
150 Henry Avenue, Winnipeg

Please bring a non-perishable food item to help support Métis families in need this holiday season.

Donations will also be accepted in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Vous êtes invité à notre
*Journée portes
ouvertes des Fêtes*

Vendredi 8 décembre 2017
11 h - 15 h
150, avenue Henry, Winnipeg

Veillez apporter un produit alimentaire non périssable pour aider nos familles métisses dans le besoin pendant la période des Fêtes.

Les dons seront acceptés pour appuyer la Fondation des maladies du cœur et de l'AVC.