



# Le Metis



## President's Message

December marks the season to reflect on this past year's good work and the changes that have and will continue to take place within our Manitoba Métis Community. This coming year again promises progress building our self-government institutions to enhance much-needed programs and to advance the rights and interests of our Métis Nation Citizens here in our province.

Recently, we have been working to increase our communications with our Métis Citizens. We sent the first *Le Metis* Harvester issue to our Citizens in the last week of November. We talked about Métis harvester rights regarding moose and bucks, safety measures for harvesters, and also what to do if a conservation officer approaches you. We want to continue to make this a valuable source of information for you, so please let us know what you would like to hear. If you did not receive this email and want to be included in future issues, please email [communications@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:communications@mmf.mb.ca).

We also emailed a climate change and green plan survey to better understand our Citizens' needs. What we have heard right off the hop is that helping households and investing in green projects and clean growth is important. There seems to be a real and true desire for greener initiatives including bike trails, green technology and more. We are going to review the results closer to ensure that we are acting in the best interests of our Citizens. Your voices matter, so thank you for taking the time to give us this valuable input.

In the spirit of the season, the MMF Home Office staff raised funds in support of Metis Child & Family Services. Each department was challenged to come up with their own fundraiser. Some examples included a bake sale, a 50/50 draw and a raffle for a custom-designed print and blanket. I'm happy to report that we raised thousands of dollars through this initiative. All of these funds will directly benefit Metis Child & Family Services and the children they work with.

On Friday, December 8, we are hosting our annual open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come down to 150 Henry Avenue for a tour of our Home Office. Each department has decorated for the holidays. There will be music, great food, delicious drinks and excellent company. Join us at noon for two special presentations: one cheque for Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre, Inc. and one to be presented to Kai Madsen of the Christmas Cheer Board. We're honoured to be able to support both of these worthwhile organizations and the excellent work they do throughout the year. The funds given to these two organizations will directly support our community.

Later this month we will be heading to Churchill to celebrate Christmas with the community. We know this is a challenging time beyond the community's control. We want them to know we are here for them. On December 17, we will be hosting a celebration, complete with music, gifts and Christmas cheer. If you live in Churchill, we look forward to seeing you. We hope the celebration and our musicians will bring you some extra joy this Christmas season.

My prayers are with our Elders, our sick and our shut-ins. I also offer them to the Citizens of Churchill. We hope that a resolution will come quickly and that your community will prosper once more.

Meeqwetch,

### Find the latest news online



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[www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca)

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

## Louis Riel Institute Revitalizing the Sash Weaving Tradition

The Métis Sash has been both a practical piece of clothing and a symbol of Métis national identity and pride for two centuries. Recently, the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) Adult Learning Centre has been offering a new art credit course for its mature Grade 12 students called Métis Art 40S which includes traditional Sash weaving.

Three different Métis art styles are taught during the class including Métis beading, Woodlands art and Métis pointillism painting, and sash weaving using a loom. Students have the option to make one of them into a larger project. Having this course as an option is a way to help bring life to an old and almost forgotten tradition.

Mary Conway, a Métis Elder from Turtle Mountain, shared her knowledge of sash weaving. She gave guidance to the creation of the course. She wanted to pass down the tradition so the Métis style of sash weaving lives on. LRI wanted to make it come alive again so that modern Métis can learn it and pass it down to their own families. Most of the patterns came from Conway; other patterns can be found online, or created and personalized to the weaver.

Teresa Byrne, LRI Métis Historic Tour Coordinator and Workshop Facilitator learned sash weaving from Conway as a way of connecting more with her Métis heritage and to revive the deep-rooted tradition. Byrne helped get the course off the ground.

"The colour I chose that represents myself and my family is turquoise. You don't normally see turquoise in a sash, but this is where it becomes more modern and a representation of my family," says Byrne. "To have that woven into my sash, and to pass that down to my three sons, it gives them hope for the future that they're able to pass on those traditions."

These patterns are chosen by the individual to represent what they are proud of and a reminder of what they don't want to forget.

"I'm proud of our infinity flag and I'm proud to be Métis, so I've incorporated that in my sash," explains Byrne. "The dark/hard times for the Métis is symbolically represented through the red and black colours."

Dwayne Chartrand is one of the mature Métis students attending LRI's Adult Learning Centre, and one of the first to take the Métis 40S as one of his credit classes. Chartrand recently chose to make a unique and personalized Sash of his own for his larger project.

"When I first started the art class they were doing a class sash project, and when I saw that, I jumped at the opportunity to do my own," says Chartrand.

Chartrand explains how he was very connected to his Métis heritage and culture, having grown up in



Métis Elder Mary Conway explains traditional sash weaving using a loom during the Back to Batoche Days event in 2016.

The Pas. His family who had a history as fishermen, originally lived in St. Laurent. He describes how they used to go further north often for fishing trips which lead them to settle in The Pas. Having grown up always being close to water he decided to incorporate that aspect in the middle part of his sash as well as the fish they used to catch.

"The middle represents water. I've grown up around water, fishing and stuff around lakes and rivers growing up in northern Manitoba especially," explains

Chartrand. "Then I incorporated the green and the yellow for walleye and perch with the heritage of my family being fishermen."

As the educational and cultural arm of the MMF, LRI works to provide community programming based on Métis culture. For more information about the cultural programs and workshops LRI offers, contact **204-984-9480** or email [lrireception@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:lrireception@mmf.mb.ca).



## 3-BEDROOM SUITE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

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



# The Man who fought for Métis rights and the rights of all Manitobans

Born in the Red River Settlement on October 22, 1844, Louis Riel Jr. was the eldest child of Louis Riel Sr. and Julie Lagimodière. At the age of 13, Riel went to study priesthood at a college in Montreal. However, after he heard the news of his father's premature death in 1864, Riel returned home.

As the Red River Resistance began, it pushed Riel directly into the spotlight. The Canadian government sent surveyors to the Red River Settlement. This increased the anxiety of the Métis people, because they did not officially their own land, and they were certain they would be forced to leave.

The group Louis Riel led called themselves the Métis National Committee, and they promised to continue to interfere with the surveyor's work unless the Canadian government agreed to negotiate with them. In early December of 1869, the Métis National Committee formed a provisional government called the Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia. Much of the Red River Settlement was sympathetic to the Métis, except for a small minority who created the Canadian Party as opposition.

After several months of delegation between Riel and a Hudson Bay Company representative sent by Ottawa, Donald Alexander Smith, they finally reached an agreement on a set of rights, so more negotiations could take place.

On February 17th, 1870, 48 men were arrested outside of Upper Fort Garry, including Thomas

Scott. Scott was believed to be very vocal about his thoughts on the Métis, calling them "savages" and would continually insult the guards. Even after being warned by Riel, Scott continued these antics. People demanded Scott be tried for insubordination. He was tried and sentenced to death by firing squad.

People took notice of Louis Riel's actions and the killing of Thomas Scott, and many labelled Riel as a murderer and not to be trusted. Representatives from the provisional government were sent to Ottawa, and they managed to talk to Prime Minister John Macdonald and Minister of Militia and Defence, George-Étienne Cartier. An agreement was quickly reached, and this was the basis for the *Manitoba Act*, and on the 12th of May 1870, Manitoba was officially part of Canada.

Louis Riel had to go into hiding after his involvement in the Red River Resistance. Despite being elected several times, he was never able to represent his people in Ottawa fully. Riel left Manitoba and spent time in Quebec, Montana, and New York. He married in 1881 to Marguerite Monet dit Bellehumeur while in voluntary exile in Montana. Riel finally settled in Montana was content to spend the rest of his life there.

In 1884, Riel was asked by Gabriel Dumont, another Métis leader from Saskatchewan, to assist with grievances people in Saskatchewan were having with the Government of Canada. In no time at all, Riel was

leading the North-West Resistance. The Métis led a robust military campaign against Canada but were ultimately defeated in the Battle of Batoche. Riel then surrendered himself to the Canadian authorities.

The trial of Louis Riel happened on July 20th, 1885. Riel was charged with High Treason for his efforts to better the people of the North-West. At the beginning of the trial, Riel's counsel tried its best to have him plead innocent because of insanity, Riel disagreed. He believed if he were to use this defence, his intentions and "work for all classes" would be rendered irrelevant and proclaimed to be nothing more than the ravings of a madman. He pled 'not-guilty' to the charge in court.

The federal government decided to have him tried outside the new country of Canada in the North-West, where an old British Law could still apply. Riel was tried in Regina where the penalty for Treason was death. At the end of a short five-day trial, the jury came back with the verdict of guilty. Although the jury also recommended clemency, the Magistrate sentenced him to the maximum penalty for Treason, death.

Riel's body was returned to his mother's home in St Vital before being sent to the Saint Boniface Cathedral, where his grave still stands to this day. His life has long since passed, but his contributions to the Métis people will never be forgotten.

## Employment Opportunity

### REPOSTED - Project Officer (Term)

*MMF Southeast Regional Office - Grand Marais*

**Deadline: Friday, December 15**

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

[www.mmfemployment.ca](http://www.mmfemployment.ca) or [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca)

### Youth Resource Centre Worker

*MMF Interlake Regional Office - St. Laurent*

**Deadline: Monday, December 18**

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

[www.mmfemployment.ca](http://www.mmfemployment.ca) or [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca)

Please forward covering letter and resume indicating which position you are applying for to the MMF Metis Employment & Training Department, 300-150 Henry Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0J7 | **Email to: [metresumes@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:metresumes@mmf.mb.ca) or fax to (204) 947-3251**

[www.mmfemployment.ca](http://www.mmfemployment.ca)



**Metis  
Employment  
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## Supporting Métis Families through Puppy Love

Puppy love and cuddles were shared by many at the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Home Office building on Friday, November 17. In support of the Annual Holiday Hampers Fundraising Initiative for Métis families in need, the MMF Tripartite Self-Government (TSN) department hosted a Puppy Circle, which was beneficial for everyone involved including the puppies.

Breaking tradition in fundraising, MMF's TSN department wanted to do something that would be outside of the usual and would have significant benefits. TSN reached out to many rescue shelters but ended up narrowing the partnership to two organizations, Spirit of Hope Rescue and Manitoba Underdogs Rescue.

For \$5, participants were able to come and get some puppy love while raising funds for a great cause. Puppies were all adoptable. The fundraiser was beneficial to help Métis families in need this Christmas as well as promoting both Manitoba rescue shelters were promoted. Donations of toys and food for the dogs were an added bonus.

Spirit of Hope Rescue and Manitoba Underdogs Rescue are both volunteer-run, non-profit organizations, foster-home based in Manitoba, that



TSN Puppy Circle fundraiser with puppies from Spirit of Hope Rescue and Manitoba Underdogs.

find permanent homes for dogs. Neither organization has a shelter for dogs, but instead relies solely on people to house the dogs until they are adopted. Spirit of Hope Rescue works with more than 30 First Nations communities in Manitoba.

This is the first time a fundraiser like this has taken place, and the results were astounding. At the end of the day, 11 puppies had applications processed for

adoption and TSN raised \$600.00 towards helping Métis families this holiday season.

"It was a great success, and a win-win-win for all parties - people who came down for puppy love had immediate gratification, and many puppies found homes, but most importantly Métis families will be supported at Christmas," says Georgina Liberty, Director of the MMF TSN department.



# 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.*