



Le Métis



2017 was filled with many highlights. Our government celebrated 50 years of self-governance and I personally reached a 20-year milestone. We launched our mobile office, bringing the Citizenship tools closer to you and your communities. In

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President's Message

November we announced our Prescription Drug Program. The work there has just begun and I look forward to more exciting announcements in the New Year. I was deeply honoured to unveil the St. Eustache Veterans Monument. We must always remember the important sacrifices of our Veterans and pay our due respects to them. Another highlight was the first-ever "A Night to Remember" Gala in collaboration with the Manitoba Metis Heritage Fund. The event certainly lived up to its name. So much work has been accomplished thanks to the Métis Government and the MMF staff throughout the province.

A highlight of the year took place on December 17, as the Métis Government made a special trip to Churchill to bring Christmas to those affected by the downed rail line. We brought music, toys and Christmas meals, but most importantly we brought smiles to the children's faces. It was important for us to take this journey because we want Churchill to know that we stand with them and we will not forget the North. We hope that a resolution will come quickly and that the Churchill community will prosper once more. Thank you to community partners Calm Air, Pratts Food Service, Noel Bernier, Trimark, the Churchill Local, and the Town of Churchill for their support of this endeavour.

I personally know what it is like to struggle. When I started as the President of the Manitoba Metis Federation 20 years ago, we had very little, and now

look at the strength of our nation. With hard work, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Together our nation will overcome the obstacles we face, and we will become even stronger.

I am committed to working hard now and every day forward, so no one has to know the feeling of not having enough. It is one of the worst things I have ever experienced. I wish to live in a world where no one suffers this and always has enough to provide for their family.

For this reason, I have nominated Kai Madsen for the Order of Manitoba. He has helped thousands of families in Winnipeg who didn't have enough to give their children at Christmas. They call him the Santa of Winnipeg. Last year I was unsuccessful in getting him this honour, but I will not fail this year. I ask all of you to please sign the petition and share it with your friends and family. Together we can get Kai the recognition he deserves, and we can do it while he is still with us.

As we say goodbye to 2017 I wish to extend a very Merry Christmas to you on behalf of your Métis Government and the staff of the Manitoba Metis Federation. May you experience joy and peace this wonderful holiday season.

My prayers are with Minister John Parenteau and you, the Métis people of Manitoba.

Meeqwetch,

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

Manitoba Metis Federation Gives Back this Christmas

Christmas is the season of giving. The Manitoba Metis Federation has always been committed to the community and we are honoured to be able to support local organizations. At our Open House on Friday, December 8, we were able to continue that tradition by presenting two cheques.

In March of this year, we announced that we would be supporting the North End Hockey Program with a \$10,000 contribution. This program allows kids between the ages of five and fifteen the opportunity to play a sport they may not otherwise have access to.

"Sports like hockey help our Youth build valuable skills which they will one day need to become leaders in our community," said President David Chartrand.

The funds are managed by Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre, Inc. and will immediately address costs associated with registration, equipment, ice fees, transportation and training for the Youth who may not have this access otherwise.



MMF President David Chartrand presents \$10K contribution to Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre North End Hockey Program.

President Chartrand also presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Kai Madsen of the Christmas Cheer Board. "Our Métis Government has built a longstanding relationship with the Christmas Cheer Board, and we are honoured to work alongside Kai," said President Chartrand.

The annual donation will support the administrative costs associated with the Christmas Cheer Board. If you are able to help with hamper delivery, there's no need to register. Just show up at 550 Milt Stegall Drive between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the week, or between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekends.

MMF Brings Hampers, Hope to Churchill



The MMF and Métis musicians arrive in Churchill bringing gifts and music to share in the holiday spirit.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) brought more than hampers and gifts to Churchill this past Sunday. It brought hope and the spirit of the Christmas season.

"We were honoured to be able to share in the Christmas season with the people of Churchill," said President David Chartrand. "We know that they are experiencing difficulties which are beyond their control, and we are here for the community. Churchill matters and we will not forget the North."

The MMF arrived just before Santa, who also came

to Churchill to give out presents to all the boys and girls in Churchill. The MMF and its partners provided more than 100 Christmas dinners for the families in Churchill.

Joanne Stover, a music teacher, had her students perform a few Christmas songs to open the concert. "Everybody needed this, whether they knew it or not," said Stover. "It was wonderful to look around and see people smiling and laughing, dancing in their chairs and enjoying themselves. And the kids were just so proud to be out there performing, especially the wee ones."

After the opening acts several musicians who volunteered their time to join the MMF took the stage. Oliver Boulette, Al Desjarlais, Clint Dutiaume, Riley Dutiaume, Paul Hampton, Donny Ranville, Patti Kusturok, Tayler Fleming, Diana Desjardin, Colleen Bryce, Kathy Bryce performed for several hours to the delight of the hundreds in attendance.

"We are really impressed with the support from the Manitoba Metis Federation under the tremendous leadership of President Chartrand," said Churchill Mayor Michael Spence. "It was great inspiration for the community. You brought Christmas to Churchill."

Churchill is the most Northern community in Manitoba. It's already remote with no road access and became even more remote this spring when the rail line was washed out. Neither the rail line owner, nor the other levels of government have committed to fixing the problem to date.

The MMF would like to thank our community partners who helped make the day possible: Calm Air, Pratts Food Service, Noel Bernier, Trimark, Gardewine, the Churchill Local and the Town of Churchill.

"Everyone should have Christmas," said President Chartrand. "Churchill has not been forgotten by the Métis Government. We're grateful for the part we could play in bringing these celebrations to Churchill."

MMF Hosts 2017 Annual Open House

On December 8, 2017, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) hosted their Annual Open House at the MMF Home Office located at 150 Henry Avenue in Winnipeg.

Upon arrival, members of the public were given a list of hidden Métis artifacts and encouraged to visit and interact with staff in each of the MMF's departments to try and find these items. This included Louis Riel's Sash, Louis Riel's Crucifix, Louis Riel's Book of Poetry, and Louis Riel's Hunting Knife. Those who found all four items had their name entered in a draw to win a prize.

As they toured the building, guests were offered snacks and refreshments during their visit to each department. Members of the public also had the chance to make a donation and hang a heart on the MMF Christmas tree in support of the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

The MMF would like to thank everyone who visited for helping make the 2017 Annual Open House a huge success.



Metis

Employment & Training

Who can participate?

You may be eligible for our employment & training programs and services if you are:

- A Metis, Non-Status or Inuit individual and are a resident of Manitoba.
- Have barriers to employment that prevent you from securing long-term employment.
- Unemployed, under-employed or at risk of losing your job and actively seeking employment.

However, job search support assistance is available to anyone requiring assistance.

Services Available

- Employment/Career Counseling.
- Information on: employment; Manitoba's labour market; training & career options/opportunities; bursary and scholarships; community resources; educational institutions.
- Job search assistance including resume & cover letter preparation.
- Computer access for job search purposes.
- Financial assistance for skills training and employment programs and opportunities.
- Opportunities with employers to obtain valuable hands-on work experience.
- Referrals to employers for direct employment opportunities.

Contact us at **204-586-8474** or visit www.mmfemployment.ca



Metis
Employment
& Training

Recognizing Winnipeg's Very Own Santa Claus

Support Kai Madsen's Nomination to the Order of Manitoba

For nearly 50 years, Kai Madsen has been delivering Christmas joy to families across Winnipeg. In his role as head elf, he oversees the preparation of more than 18,000 hampers each year. This is no small task for a young person, let alone a man in his eighties. With reduced warehouse space and less funding, the task is becoming more and more challenging each year.

"Kai does amazing work," said President Chartrand. "His generosity reaches to each and every corner of this city, and he deserves to be recognized for the joy he brings to homes each Christmas season."

It's because of this work that the Manitoba Metis Federation, led by President David Chartrand, will once again be nominating Kai for the Order of Manitoba. The MMF has started a petition to support its nomination of Kai. We are urging all Citizens to visit our website and click the petition link. We also have paper petitions available at our Home Office. Signatures will be collected through January 22,



MMF presents annual contribution to Christmas Cheer Board and puts forth Kai Madsen nomination to Order of Manitoba.

2018, and will then accompany the MMF's full submission to the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.

"I am personally asking our Métis Citizens and all Manitobans to support Kai's nomination," said President Chartrand. "Together, we can show the

Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba and the Order of Manitoba jury that Kai's decades of service deserve this high honour."

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

December 25, 26, & 29, 2017 | January 1, 2, & 3, 2018

Happy Holidays!

From President David Chartrand,
your Métis Government, and Staff
of the Manitoba Metis Federation.

