



# Le Metis



## *President's Message*

Hello from Columbia! I am here discussing commerce opportunities and business exchanges that might be mutually beneficial for the Metis Nation and the citizens of Columbia. They are of course known for their coffee and water, and we have our beautiful beadwork, furs, mukluks and more. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet with representatives of Columbia, and am hopeful that we can make some important business connections here.

We are awaiting the Federal budget announcement, which will be made on February 27. Prime Minister Trudeau has assured me that the Metis Nation will not be forgotten this year. We expect significant announcements in areas such as health, housing and education, but of course nothing is certain until budget day. The Provincial budget is expected sometime in March, however I am not as optimistic about any announcements coming from that budget. The Province has failed the Metis Nation for many, many years. I continue to be invited to the budget announcements, only to watch funding go elsewhere.

This past week Prime Minister Trudeau announced a Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework to define and promote Indigenous rights around Section 35 of the Constitution. The MMF views this announcement as a positive step forward. It signifies another step toward being respected in a government-to-government, nation-to-nation relationship.

I have a number of upcoming meetings with Canada. On February 26, I will be attending a National Health Forum Meeting in Ottawa. Then on February 28 I will meet with Minister Carolyn Bennett to discuss the Sixties Scoop and a Metis-specific settlement. I'm pleased that Minister Bennett is following through with that meeting after the Metis Nation was left out of initial settlement discussions. After that meeting I will return to Winnipeg to discuss Reconciliation with Minister Eileen Clarke on March 1.

Last week the Province announced its conditional acceptance of proposals to operate retail cannabis locations. Not surprisingly the Metis Nation was forgotten once again. It saddens me that Manitoba continues to disrespect our Constitutional rights like this. Every time they ignore the Metis Nation, it further diminishes the relationship we have and it demonstrates the lack of respect Manitoba has for the Metis Nation, who are the founders of the Province of Manitoba. The Manitoba Metis Government will continue to defend the rights of our Citizens, because Manitoba clearly will not.

As I mentioned previously we will be holding two child welfare consultations in March. The first will be held March 8 and 9 at the Victoria Inn & Conference Centre in Winnipeg and the second will be held in Dauphin at

the 11th Avenue Hall on March 15 and 16. During these consultations we will hear from children in care, youth who have transitioned out-of-care, foster parents and more. This work is all part of the legislative review which the Province is currently undertaking, but it is also work that the Metis Nation has recognized as important for a long time. It's vital that we hear from those affected by the system because you best know how to make it better. More information will be coming from your Regional offices as we are looking for representatives to attend both events.

On February 13 we hosted our emergency fisheries meeting. I want to thank all of the fishers and processing plant owners who took the day away, in already hard times, to participate in the conversations. We have heard your concerns and I will be raising them with Manitoba and Canada in our upcoming meetings. We will also be hosting another meeting in April to discuss the option of a multi-cooperative establishment. You can read more about the meeting further on in Le Metis.

In closing, I would like to offer my thoughts and prayers to our sick and our shut-ins. This has been a particularly cold winter, and that takes a toll on physical and mental well-being. I pray and share my heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for all our neighbours, friends, and families who have lost loved ones.

Meeqwetch,

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

## Metis Business Conference a Booming Success

On February 6, 2018, Metis business owners from around the Province came together to share insights and learn from one another. The one-day Metis Business Conference was held at the Clarion Hotel in Brandon and saw over 110 business owners and entrepreneurs in attendance.

"Our organizations, the Metis Economic Development Fund (MEDF) and Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC), have hosted many business focused events throughout Manitoba over the years and can safely say that Brandon's successful conference was directly related to Minister Leah LaPlante and the Metis businesses of the Manitoba Metis Federation Southwest Region," said John Coutris, CEO of MEDF.

Noel Bernier, entrepreneur, restaurateur, owner of Hermanos, Prairie 360, Carnaval, Barley Brothers and Salisbury House restaurants, was the keynote speaker and a big draw for the event. See his video testimonial at [www.medf.ca](http://www.medf.ca) and click on success stories.

"As Minister of Economic Development, I was extremely proud of the Metis Business Conference sponsored and hosted by MEDF, LRCC and MET," said Leah LaPlante. "We had a fantastic turnout. The information and networking was appreciated by the attendees and I have had two of the participants meet with me already to discuss their business ideas. It was a great day for aspiring entrepreneurs."

Other speakers for the day included James Hayden of J&R Excavating, Matthew Sabourin of La Brasserie Nonsuch Brewing Co., Melinda Haney of Haney Grocery, Cora Champion of Champion Bookkeeping & Consulting Solutions, Paul Roy of Roy Johnston TDS and Val & Greg Hutsal of Dick Insurance Agencies.

"The true value of our conference is the unique combination of information, panelists, and friendly networking that incubates an atmosphere where our entrepreneurs feel inspired to partner together and

generate mutually beneficial business relationships," said Coutris.

The Conference was hosted by the Metis Economic Development Fund and Louis Riel Capital Corporation, in partnership with Metis Employment & Training and Metis N4 Construction. Organizers were thrilled with the sell-out event and are already looking forward to the next conference.



Left to right: Leah LaPlante, Minister responsible for Economic Development, speaks to a full house at the Metis Business Conference; Noel Bernier delivers the keynote address.

## MMF and RCMP Renew Commitment to Manitoba's Metis Nation

On Monday, February 12, 2018 the MMF and the RCMP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to extend the Metis Community Initiatives Coordinator position through March 31, 2022. The MOU also supports policing priorities throughout Manitoba.

"We are honoured to continue this important partnership with the RCMP," said Julyda Lagimodiere, Minister of the Metis Justice Institute. "The Metis Community Initiatives Coordinator position has created an important link between our Metis Citizens and the RCMP."

The MOU outlines 10 priorities for the position, including Metis community program and service enhancement, Metis harvesting and rights and community-based policing initiatives, to name just a few.

"The RCMP and the MMF have a strong, long-standing and positive partnership that is based on trust and understanding" said Assistant Commissioner Scott Kolody, Commanding Officer of the Manitoba RCMP. "The MOU signed today between the Métis Government and the Manitoba RCMP further solidifies this partnership and ensures that we will continue to have open lines of communications to



President Chartrand accepts a gift from RCMP Assistant Commissioner Scott Kolody at the MOU signing. Also pictured: Inspector and Officer in Charge Scott McMurchy and Corporal Rick Sinclair.

address issues that impact the health, safety and security of Métis Citizens and communities across the province." Corporal Rick Sinclair has filled this role since August 2010. Previous MOUs were signed in 2011 and 2016.

"We commend the RCMP for their work and continued presence throughout the Metis Homeland," said David Chartrand, President of the MMF. "This partnership has created an important and long-lasting relationship between the Metis Nation and the RCMP which has extended well beyond policing services."

## MMF Will Pay Metis Fishers Monies Owed by Fish-Buyers

Following the emergency fisheries meeting on February 13, MMF President David Chartrand announced that the MMF will be paying Metis fishers the outstanding monies owed to them by American fish-buyers. Those exact amounts are still being collected but the MMF is confident that it will be able to compensate fishers accordingly. Metis fishers can contact Engagement & Consultation at 204-586-8474 to register outstanding payments.

"Our fishers have suffered for too long and with no payment in sight from the fish buyers, the Manitoba Metis Government cannot sit back and continue to see our Citizens go without," said President Chartrand. Once the MMF settles these outstanding payments it will take the necessary legal action to receive payments from the American buyers.

### Multi cooperative establishment consultation

In April, the MMF will host another consultation to further explore the establishment of a multi-cooperative establishment. Many of the fishers at the meeting voiced their support of this idea and the positive outcomes it could bring to their communities and their families. The consultation will also explore partnerships with private investors like the MMF, First Nations, other governments and private industry.

### Overview of meeting

More than 200 people attended the meeting to discuss the current challenges related to the open-market system and also the long-term contracts imposed by Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.



Hundreds of fishers and processing plant owners from across Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta attended the Emergency Fisheries Meeting at the Clarion Hotel in Winnipeg on February 13.

The morning began with prayers from President Glen McCallum and Elder Oliver Boulette. Mr. Terry Beech, Parliamentary Secretary for the Department of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and Deputy Minister Rob Olson for Manitoba Sustainable Development brought greetings on behalf of Canada and Manitoba.

MMF Minister Responsible for Fisheries, John Parenteau and President David Chartrand spoke at length about the shortcomings of the transition to the open-market and voiced their frustrations for Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation's move to lock fishers into long-term contracts. These concerns were echoed by the fishers in attendance during the

key issues open mic session, and their families are struggling as a result.

In the afternoon, Donald Salkeld of Northern Walleye Inc. took tough but necessary questions from the fishers. Presentations around co-ops, the former Canadian Wheat Board and employment insurance and tax rounded out the afternoon.

The MMF will be taking the comments and concerns collected to its next meetings with Manitoba and Canada. We would like to thank the fishers and processing plant owners for taking the time to come to Winnipeg and be part of the conversations.



## 3-BEDROOM SUITE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**RENT: \$950.00/month plus utilities**

- Suite is 1025 square feet.
- Brand new energy efficient appliances, including washer and dryer.
- 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.



## Metis Employment & Training Job Opportunities



### METIS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING HAS POSTED A NUMBER OF EXCITING JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

- Finance Clerk
- Client Services Worker
- Project Officer
- Pharmacy Assistant

Visit [www.mmfemployment.ca](http://www.mmfemployment.ca) for more information and to view all of the job postings.

## Louis Riel Vocational College Opens Career Doors

Since 2013, Louis Riel Vocational College (LRVC) has been the unique, stand-alone educational vehicle for Indigenous students across Manitoba. It offers teaching within communities and provides students with a personalized education experience.

*"Excellent program for health workers"*  
- Jason Rendor Gonzales

In a typical learning environment, there would be very little instructor availability. That's just not the case at LRVC. Instructors are available one hour before and after classes. They're also available via text, email or phone whenever homework is assigned. All of the instructors are committed to their students' success and they take great pride in providing stellar support whenever possible.

*"The class would like to thank the instructors as well for all their support and their extreme teaching skills! We couldn't have done it without them".*  
- Maureen Smith

While the programming is Metis and Indigenous-focused, LRVC welcomes all students. Because there is limited seating for all programs, early registration is required. Funding may also be available. Applicants are advised to look into options as soon as possible.

In addition to offering diploma programs, LRVC also offers a number of one and two-day training programs including non-violent crisis intervention, public speaking, stress management and more.

For more information about the programs or about LRVC, visit [lrvc.ca](http://lrvc.ca) or contact Sharon Varga at 204-984-9480 or [sharon.varga@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:sharon.varga@mmf.mb.ca)



## MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION Metis Employment & Training

IS HOSTING AN INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE



**LOUIS RIEL**  
VOCATIONAL COLLEGE  
Knowledge • Culture • Heritage

### Indigenous Focused Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Training Program (18 Months)

*Anticipated Start Date: March 26, 2018*

**Thursday, March 01, 2018 at 2:00pm and 6:00pm**

**Portage La Prairie Friendship Centre  
20 – 3rd St NE, Portage la Prairie, MB**

*Louis Riel Vocational Staff will be onsite to provide additional information about the Indigenous Focused Early Childhood Educator Training program.*

#### **Who should attend:**

- Métis, Non-Status, or Inuit individuals
- Minimum 18 years of age
- Eligible candidate will have to produce a clean Criminal Record and Child Abuse Registry Check prior to the start of the program.

**Participants may be eligible to receive sponsorship to attend the program**

To register or obtain additional information on this opportunity contact:

Andrew Boryskavich, Recruitment Coordinator  
MET Recruitment  
Phone: 204-586-8474 Ext. 354  
Email: [andrew.boryskavich@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:andrew.boryskavich@mmf.mb.ca)



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