



Le Metis



I am very proud today. Proud because the Metis Nation was finally recognized by the Federal government in a distinctions-based budget. Proud because Prime Minister Trudeau and his government got the language right, recognizing the differences between Metis, First Nations and Inuit Citizens. Proud because with this budget announcement the Metis Nation has been brought back into Canada. Finally, after 148 years!

This work and these conversations with government have been ongoing for a long, long time. Some governments tried to start the work under leaders like Pierre Elliot-Trudeau and Paul Martin, while others took a step back. I applaud Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of Finance Bill Morneau for keeping their promises to the Metis Nation. THIS IS A METIS NATION BUDGET. With it we will see improvements to Metis health, housing and education. With it we finally see our hard-earned tax dollars put to work for the Metis Nation.

President's Message

THIS IS A METIS NATION BUDGET.

Some of the highlights from the budget include:

- \$500 million over 10 years for the Metis Nation Housing Strategy;
- \$325 million over 5 years in new Metis Nation employment and training funding; and
- major federal investments in an Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework and in Indigenous Child and Family Services which will include distinct allocations for the Metis Nation.

I know some of our Citizens may not think this funding announcement is enough. But this is an important step forward in our government-to-government, nation-to-nation relationship with Canada. Your Manitoba Metis Government will continue to work hard for all of you, our Citizens, to ensure that Canada keeps its word to the Metis Nation and continues to include us in future discussions.

I say with confidence that times are changing. I remember having to bang down the doors of



President Chartrand and Prime Minister Trudeau met in advance of the 2018 budget announcement. (Photo: Adam Scotti)

politicians to participate in discussions and meetings. Now Canada is inviting us to these meetings and they are listening to our words. More than that they are taking action. So I commend Prime Minister Trudeau and his Ministers for their commitment to our Nation.

In closing, I offer my thoughts and prayers for those who are shut-in or are having difficult times through failing health, sickness or loss. May you find company, encouragement and help through your connections with family, friends and community. I wish you the best as we head into the brighter and warmer days of Spring.

Meeqwetch,

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

Provincial Youth Advisory Council Update

Through the MMF Provincial Youth Advisory Council (PYAC), the MMF Government is connected to the Metis Youth across the Province. The PYAC gathers information and works to create additional programs and services to address Youth needs and the barriers they face on a daily basis, in the areas of education, employment and the history and culture of the Metis People.

Comprised of nine members, including one representative from each of the seven Regions, a Ministerial Appointment and an Infinity Women Secretariat Appointment, the PYAC comes under the portfolio of Minister Richard Genaille and his Associate Minister, Mona Buors for the Heritage, Culture, Sports and Youth portfolio.

At their most recent meeting, the Council:

- covered an overview of the new funding for Metis youth in Manitoba;
- reviewed youth applications for the MMF/THCF Spring Break Camp;
- discussed the website and social media content with the MMF director of communications to get information to Metis youth in Manitoba;

- reviewed Terms of Reference recommendations from the MMF Caucus;
- discussed the top ten priorities for the PYAC; and
- discussed next steps for the Council.

For more information and updates, be sure to follow the MMF Provincial Youth Advisory Council Facebook page and Instagram account [@metisyouthmanitoba!](#)



Provincial Youth Advisory Council

Follow us on
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Time Well Spent - Gabriel Dumont's Wild West Show

On February 18, Mona Buors, Associate Minister for Culture, Heritage, Sports & Youth saw the play "Gabriel Dumont's Wild West Show". Read her review of the sold-out show.

A truly captivating show that keeps one engaged from start to finish. Even the timing of the intermission broke with tradition by inserting it 75 percent of the way in and delivering thought-provoking delivery in the remaining 25 percent.

There were no extravagant special effects. Most stage props were theatre transportation containers and there was an overhead screen. Only professionals can take simple objects and lighting to create a mental illusion of days gone by and seamlessly insert current lifestyle vignettes that are humorous. The actors, musical genius and the hoop dancer were so compelling that you were totally absorbed by their performances. Only creative minds could take 100 years of historic data and transpose it to current day living. It was like listening to a valued grandparent sharing the past and sparing the grandchild all of the unpleasant details.

When Louis Riel said "My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back." he was absolutely right. In the final 15 minutes of the show you get a better understanding of this saying. The audience was in awed silence and left with a very warm feeling that by addressing past transgressions, we can celebrate our evolution to Citizenship and the importance of holding on to our ancestral roots.



Metis Employment & Training

Employment & Training Opportunities!

- Pharmacy Assistant - Winnipeg
- Regional Youth Coordinator - Grand Marais
- Youth Resource Centre Worker - St. Laurent
- First Aid-CPR Course - St. Laurent

Visit www.mmfemployment.ca for more information and to view all of the employment and training opportunities.

Journée Louis-Riel Day

Hundreds of people braced the cold weather to attend Journee Louis-Riel Day on February 19. The event was hosted by Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum in partnership with the Manitoba Metis Federation. From entertainment, to cultural education, to crafts, the event offered something for everyone.

"We are absolutely delighted with the turnout, and are especially thankful for our partners' and community artists' support and engagement," said Vania Gagnon, Director of Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum. "Together, we provided an astounding cultural program in a fitting heritage space that allowed for a meaningful way to mark Louis Riel Day and, just as importantly, a great way to celebrate the Métis Nation that he represented."

Every hour guests were entranced by the music in the chapel. Entertainers included Erin Okrainec, Alexandre Tétrault, Yvette Audette, Michael Audette, Miguel Sorin and Cabrel Sorin. Another guest brought his own metal spoons to round out the sound which filled every corner of the Museum.

Historians Dr. Philippe Mailhot and Lawrence Barkwell were on-site to guide guests through significant historical events including the Red River Rebellion, Louis Riel's trial and more. Some of Louis Riel's artifacts are still on loan to the Museum including his sash, field telescope and beard hair.

Upstairs kids and adults alike had the opportunity to create their own beadwork or hand weave a mini sash. This gave guests a chance to see just how much time, effort and attention to detail is required to create beautiful Metis pieces. Artisans from the Flower Beadwork Circle, Red River Roots, Gagnon Creations and Fat Daug-Hand Carved Antler Jewelry were also on-site to sell some of their own work.

Guests were treated to bannock and hot chocolate throughout the day, and had the chance to connect and embrace the spirit of the day. It was truly a day of learning and celebration in honour of the life and legacy of Louis Riel.





LOUIS RIEL
VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

Upcoming Programs



**Indigenous Focused Early
Childhood Educator**

Portage la Prairie, End of March 2018

Health Care Aide

Winnipeg, April 23, 2018

Employment Counsellor

Winnipeg, September 2018

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.

For more information about the programs or about LRVC, visit lrvc.ca or contact **Sharon Varga** at **204-984-9480** or sharon.varga@mmf.mb.ca

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