



Le Metis



President's Message

Welcome to Spring! This is such a beautiful season. With it comes more sunshine, warmer days and a rejuvenation of the spirit. Over the past couple of weeks, I have had the pleasure to participate in community consultations around child and family services legislation reform. We heard a lot of important feedback from many who have lived or are living within the system. It became even more clear in these consultations that now is the time for reform. I am thankful to Minister Scott Fielding for his work in this area.

On Monday, March 19, Minister Fielding presented a bill which will recognize customary care in legislation. This is so important. Metis Citizens have already been engaging, in an unofficial capacity, in these practices for many, many years. This bill recognizes the importance of keeping children and families together, within their home communities. It also demonstrates a greater respect for our heritage and culture. I commend Minister Fielding for his commitment to this work, for hearing the voices of our Citizens, and for translating those voices into change. I hope that the rest of the

legislative assembly will support this bill as it could make a meaningful impact for our children, families and their futures. This change marks the beginning of recognition for the Metis Government by the Province of Manitoba. We certainly aren't all the way there with them in terms of respect, but we are working to get there and the relationship is certainly better than it once was.

I'm currently in Ottawa for a variety of meetings. Earlier this week the Metis National Council held its Board of Governors meeting. On Monday, we had our semi-annual permanent bilateral mechanism meeting of 2018. This meeting was an opportunity for us to bring the priorities of the Metis Nation forward to Canada. I personally spoke to a number of key areas including veterans and the need to better support them, housing and the job and wage opportunities available now, skills, employment and training and the need to create more opportunities. Additionally, I spoke to early learning child care and the need to invest in our children, as well as child and family services and the need to provide preventative supports to children and families. I spoke about post-secondary education and the opportunity to use our knowledge and skills to prepare Metis Citizens for professional opportunities and the trades, as well as economic development and the need to provide equitable opportunities for the Metis Nation. A full report of the meeting will be available in the next issue of Grassroots News.

I'm also attending a Metis Nation Education Conference as we speak. Topics include a Metis Nation education strategy, developing Metis Nation

Centres of Excellence, early learning resource development and training and post-secondary education. It's also an opportunity for our Metis Government to showcase some of the truly excellent work we are doing, and to learn from our counterparts across Western Canada. We are looking for ways for the Metis Nation to collaborate more and offer Metis-specific opportunities across the Nation.

Next week we will host the Metis National Council Child and Family Services Summit. Delegates from across western Canada will come together to share issues and areas of improvement for the child welfare system on a national, Metis-specific scale. Ministers from Canada and Manitoba will be in attendance to hear these important discussions. I want to thank all those who have prayed for change. Your tears and your prayers will not be for nothing. Government's commitment to the Metis Nation is beginning to solidify itself. We will keep this momentum going.

Finally, I wish to send my prayers and thoughts to those of our Metis Citizens who are in mourning and grief. May you be heartened by the presence and love of family and friends. Those of you who are sick and shut-in, I also send my thoughts and prayers. Remember one another and continue to care for each other as you already do. When you are out harvesting your spring goose, I encourage you to remember our Elders. Share your bounty and blessing.

Meeqwetch,

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

Contributing to Change: Child Welfare Legislative Reform

Over the past couple of weeks, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) has hosted two community consultations regarding child welfare legislation reform in Manitoba. The consultations were held as part of the Province of Manitoba's overall legislative reform process.

Hundreds of invited participants from across Manitoba took part in the two-day events held in Winnipeg (March 8 & 9) and Dauphin (March 15 & 16). The goal of these consultations was to hear from individuals affected by the child welfare system, including youth, foster parents, grandparents, the LGBTTQ community and more. There were a number of presentations about the current system as well as panels featuring those impacted by the system. Participants engaged in several breakout sessions, led by Metis Child & Family Services Authority team members, where they offered their suggestions for change to the current legislation.

The information collected at these two consultations will be presented back to the Child Welfare Legislative Review Committee for inclusion in their report to the Province. We thank everyone who shared their stories and their voices. The MMF will continue to work collaboratively with the Province to see that your comments are translated into legislation.



Manitoba Metis Federation Upcoming Events

MMF Mobile Office Tour

March 22 & 23 2018

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Duck Bay Community Centre

Fisheries Meeting: Developing a Multi Co-operative

Date TBA

Location TBA, Winnipeg, MB

Register with Engagement & Consultation: 204-586-8474

Metis National Council Child & Family Services Summit

March 26-28, 2018

Winnipeg, MB

**Check our Facebook page and
website for more information
on community events!**

Honouring our Metis Women



INFINITY
WOMEN
SECRETARIAT ∞ INC



International Women's Day ∞ March 8

We are proud to recognize our Metis Women, who are the backbone of our culture in so many ways.

In honour of the day, here are a few facts about the women of the Manitoba Metis Federation.

- 1.** Most of the directors at MMF are women.
- 2.** The majority of our staff are women.
- 3.** We have an affiliate, Infinity Women Secretariat Inc., which provides business advisory and support services, start-up, purchase and expansion lending, mentoring and networking, learning opportunities and more.

To learn more visit infinitywomen.org.



Follow us on
Instagram!



Manitoba Metis Federation
[@manitobametisfederation](https://www.instagram.com/manitobametisfederation)

Provincial Youth
Advisory Council
[@metisyouthmanitoba](https://www.instagram.com/metisyouthmanitoba)



Metis
Employment
& Training

Employment & Training Opportunities!

- Employment & Training Counselor - Winnipeg
- Summer Student Receptionist - Dauphin
- Summer Student Receptionist - Swan River
- Family Service Worker - Brandon

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



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

Find the latest news online



Manitoba Metis Federation (Official)



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