



# Le Métis



## President's Message

These legal developments, along with leadership on the part of Manitoba Hydro and the Manitoba Government, led to the Kwaysh-kin-na-mihk la paazh Agreement being signed with MMF in 2014. This agreement, which means “turning the page” in our Michif language, set out to build a new “forward-looking, productive and non-adversarial working relationship” and only required the Manitoba Government’s involvement if the MMF and Manitoba Hydro were unable to reach the committed to “negotiated agreements.”

It is also deceptive and incorrect to characterize the funding associated with this agreement as a “persuasion” payment. Based on direction from the courts and parties wanting to manage their risks in relation to resource developments, these types of agreements exist in every province and territory. There are thousands of these types of agreements in place between governments, industry and Indigenous groups. They advance collaboration and reconciliation on resource development across Canada.

Let’s talk frankly. The unprecedented and unanimous resignations of all non-government members of Manitoba Hydro’s board last week were not about a negotiated agreement with the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”). They were because Premier Pallister has failed—and continues to fail—all Manitobans.

With the Manitoba Government’s full knowledge and periodic participation over 3 years, the MMF and Manitoba Hydro engaged in discussions and ultimately negotiations based on our 2014 agreement. We identified and quantified outstanding impacts from Bipole III as well as mutually agreeable ways to deal with future projects, including the Manitoba-Minnesota transmission line. Our negotiations were informed by identifying impacts and losses to Métis rights and land use, previous agreements with First Nations as well as existing compensation models used to compensate land owners, trappers and other groups.

Instead of commending Manitoba Hydro’s leadership on our agreement that is a completely legal, reasonable and industry-acceptable agreement that provides direct benefits to Manitoba Hydro, ratepayers, and, most importantly to Métis citizens, the Premier chose to use us as a scapegoat for his own failings.

Once again, the Premier has resorted to dishonesty and deflection to attempt to divide Manitobans. Like his “race war” comments against all Indigenous peoples last year, the Métis are now the focus of his coded messaging and contempt. He has called Riel’s people—the proud founders of this great province—a “special interest group.” These comments are offensive and unbecoming of a Manitoba Premier. We do not believe his comments reflect the nature of Manitobans or that of even his party.

These negotiations resulted in our July 2017 agreement—an arrangement expressly contemplated under the 2014 agreement—and that directly addresses Manitoba Hydro’s need to manage its risks associated with project development. Finally, after years of effort, we achieved a settlement that “turned the page.” Since July, we have relied on and implemented our agreement.

Instead of educating people on Indigenous rights or trying to bring Manitobans together to protect our natural resources and promote our economy, the Premier chose intolerance, division and misinformation about our people, our rights and our place in this province.

Manitobans deserve to know the truth about the agreement we reached with Manitoba Hydro back in July 2017. It comes out of a difficult history where Métis were historically ignored and excluded from the reconciliation efforts being advanced with First Nations. This history was based on incorrect assumptions that we do not have rights or traditional lands in our own right. These assumptions led to many public disputes in regulatory processes because the MMF was not engaged by Manitoba Hydro or meaningfully consulted by the Crown.

Our July 2017 agreement does not give away Métis rights in any way. And it does not limit the ability of the MMF to participate in regulatory hearings on future transmission projects. Instead, it creates an orderly process and certainty for the MMF and Manitoba Hydro on how to work together and minimize impacts on Métis rights going forward.

Instead of respecting our agreement and receiving the significant benefits of the certainty provided under it, the Premier wants to engage in misleading, rhetorical and ultimately ill-informed commentary that will create considerable uncertainty and additional costs for Manitoba Hydro and ratepayers.

In a series of successful court challenges over the last 15 years, the premise that Manitoba Métis do not have constitutionally protected rights or claims has been repeatedly dispelled. The Supreme Court of Canada has also confirmed that the Crown has a constitutional duty to consult and accommodate Métis rights and claims. This is now the law of the land. Anyone who wants to lead this province must respect these judicial decisions.

In keeping with subsection 17(2) of the Crown Corporations Governance and Accountability Act, the Pallister government has known about our agreement for over eight months. It is a falsehood to say that the government only became aware last week or that this was the cause of last week’s upheaval at Manitoba Hydro.

Governments have a constitutional obligation to act honourably in their dealings with Indigenous peoples and the MMF will ensure that our agreement, lawfully made, is fully implemented. The antics of the Premier over the past week are disturbing and fly in the face of the honour of the Crown, good governance as well as sound public policy and fiscal decision-making.

Let’s be clear: this is not a fight we were looking for, however, in the face of intolerance and disgraceful Crown behaviour, we are left with no choice but to protect our people, our rights and our legally binding agreements in order to make Manitoba a better place for all of us. We will ensure this Premier doesn’t set reconciliation in this province back for yet another generation.

Meeqwetch,

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

# Moving Forward with Canada

On March 19, leaders from the Metis Nation met with representatives from Canada to address a number of priorities. The permanent bilateral meeting, which took place in Ottawa, is part of the commitment outlined by the Metis Nation Accord. 10 priority areas were addressed, including skills employment and training, early learning child care, new fiscal relationship, health, child welfare, housing, post-secondary education, economic development, recognition & implementation of rights framework and veterans. MMF President David Chartrand spoke to a number of those areas, which are outlined in more detail below.



MMF joined the Metis Nation in Ottawa for the permanent bilateral meeting with Canada on March 19.

## Skills, Employment & Training

The new agreement with Canada offers more funding, a 10-year commitment and flexibility in how the funds are spent. President Chartrand asked Canada to look at the agreement once more to see if additional funding could be made available to focus specifically on women, which is one of Canada's priority areas. Discussions with Canada will continue throughout the year.

## Early Learning Child Care

President Chartrand also addressed the need for a budget specific to early learning child care. He used the Aboriginal Head Start program as an example of a program which works, but for which funding does not exist. This kind of program would benefit Metis children and families. President Chartrand stressed that the investment would deliver results if only the Metis Nation was given the chance.

## Recognition & Implementation of Rights Framework

The Metis Nation voiced its approval of the implementation of rights framework. However, there are concerns that future governments may roll back the agreement or that people will suddenly come out of the woodwork, claiming to be Metis. As a result, the Metis Nation representatives, including President Chartrand, stated that Metis must be defined within the framework.

## Veterans

President Chartrand also addressed the need to

recognize living veterans. Currently First Nations veterans receive \$20,000; however, Metis veterans are not compensated in the same manner. The Metis Nation was assured that this conversation would continue in April with Minister Seamus O'Regan.

## Housing

This is the first Federal budget which includes Metis-specific housing funding. President Chartrand stressed that these funds could be used for things such as new builds, lease renewals, rent subsidies and very importantly senior assistance. Additionally, hundreds of jobs will be created and millions of dollars in wages and tax revenue will be generated. President Chartrand also noted the importance to move quickly on these projects and to not get too tied up in "trying to get it perfect".

## Post-Secondary Education

The Metis Nation is grateful for the funds allocated to post-secondary education. President Chartrand highlighted the need to look at all professions, not just the trades, even though they are important. He also re-stated the need to begin support in the early years because our children and youth don't stand a fighting chance at the post-secondary level if they aren't properly educated, using up-to-date tools and equipment, in their early years.

## Economic Development

Both Canada and the Metis Nation agreed that economic development policies and programs must include underrepresented groups. They also agreed that the Metis Nation must be included in the planning and subsequently participate in planning. President Chartrand highlighted the need to flow funding directly through to the Metis Nation versus flowing it through the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association. Canada will continue to look into improving economic development relations with the Metis Nation.

## New Fiscal Relationship

The budget tabled by Canada earlier this year was a historic one. It was distinction-based and provided funding to the Metis which has never existed before. The Metis Nation applauded the budget but acknowledged that there should be more equitable funding allowances. For instance, President Chartrand explained that Manitoba has the largest Metis population in the nation and therefore should receive funding accordingly.



Follow us on  
**Instagram!**



**Manitoba Metis Federation**  
**@manitobametisfederation**

**Provincial Youth  
Advisory Council**  
**@metisyouthmanitoba**

## Inciting the Fight for Metis Child Welfare

Metis representatives from across Canada met in Winnipeg from March 26-28 for the Metis Nation's Summit on Child and Family Services. The goal of the summit was for the Metis Nation to come together and discuss how to reform the child welfare system in a way that respects Metis culture and daily realities.

"It starts with meetings like this. Gatherings like this," said Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) President David Chartrand. "Today we're going to incite you to fight for our children."

Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, attended the second day of the summit to announce \$1 million in new funding to support consultation efforts toward child welfare reform for Metis children and families.

"This is what it looks like to work together, government to government, to explore how we can reform this child welfare system," said Philpott. "Nobody should have the right to walk into a hospital and take your baby away from you. But that's happening today, and every day."

About 80 per cent of Manitoban children in the child welfare system are Indigenous. Prevention and early intervention will be crucial to changing that statistic, according to many of the Metis ministers, lawyers, and doctors who attended the summit.

"Child welfare has a bad name," said Judy Mayer, Minister of Metis Child and Family Services. "It's going to be awhile before we're able to change that mindset. They know what happens when the government comes into their communities."

Other proposed solutions included training more Metis social workers, creating new agencies run by Metis government, and developing better support



Right: Hon. Jane Philpott listens to Metis youth share their experiences within the child welfare system during a panel on March 27, at the Fort Gary Hotel in Winnipeg.

systems for struggling families.

Throughout the summit, microphones were provided to participants who wanted to ask questions to the panelists and speakers. Other times, it was simply a platform for the audience to share their voices.

"We have suffered a lot," said one elder. "My Metis people, stand up to the plate. Stand up and say our leader Louis Riel did not die in vain. He showed us the way. Let's step up and reclaim what we lost, and my friends, let's start with our children."

The elder received a standing ovation, as did many others during the summit. It was a safe space for Metis people to speak about their experiences with

residential school, the Sixties Scoop, and other ways the government has taken Metis children away from their families throughout history and present day.

Metis children taken away from their parents often suffer a loss of culture, language, community, and belonging. It is the Metis Nation's goal to prevent this happening in the future, and keep Metis children with their families.

"We need to look back to some of those [traditional] ways, not through a colonial lens, to create laws that make sense to the Metis today," said Jason Madden, a lawyer representing the MMF. "It's a matter of national and constitutional importance."

## Employment & Training Opportunities!

- Class 1 Driver Training Program Information Session - Brandon
- Summer Students for various positions
- Carpenter training positions



## Metis Employment & Training

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



**LOUIS RIEL**  
**VOCATIONAL COLLEGE**

# Upcoming Programs



## **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](http://lrvc.ca) or contact **Sharon Varga** at **204-984-9480** or [sharon.varga@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:sharon.varga@mmf.mb.ca)

## Find the latest news online



Manitoba Metis Federation (Official)



@manitobametisfederation



@MBMetis\_MMF



ManitobaMetisMMF



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