



LeMetis



President's Message

Minnesota Transmission Project (MMTP) and Aboriginal rights impacted.

The Courts have taught us that consultation and agreements with Indigenous peoples is the way to address the impacts. The Manitoba NDP government was beginning to learn this lesson before the last provincial election. Following the 2014 Turning The Page Agreement, the MMF and Manitoba Hydro negotiated and reached our 2017 agreement.

Ignoring the Courts - and trampling over the Honour of the Crown - Premier Pallister now ignores our Metis government. Pallister called the MMF a special interest group. But he didn't stop there. Pallister engineered a Manitoba Government Cabinet directive to Manitoba Hydro that should concern all Indigenous peoples. In his directive he tells Manitoba Hydro they can no longer negotiate agreements with Indigenous peoples.

Interestingly, Manitoba Hydro can still negotiate agreements with farmers and private landowners. This looks very much like a race based directive. This is dog-whistle politics meant to be heard by his core supporters. But others see what is happening and we have received support from all over the province from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and leaders.

Our Manitoba Hydro - MMF agreement for \$67.5 million is not just about MMTP. It also includes the entire Bipole III line that impacts our people. These projects will have great losses over hundreds of hectares now used by our people for berry picking and hunting.

Premier Pallister, at first, suggested Metis have no rights. Then he says the MMF was giving away the rights of future generations. We are not giving anything away. Then hypocritically he implies he is concerned about future generations of Metis children. He is either trying to confuse people or he himself is confused. Maybe he thinks that our people are not educated. Maybe he has just been caught spinning a web of untruths.

He suggests that maybe "next time" there will be a future agreement with the Metis. I say we have waited too damn long. There will be no next time. There will likely not be a big transmission line built for a lifetime. And the Bipole III and MMTP will operate and impact our rights and our traditional lands for generations. We must deal with this now. We will not let anyone

take advantage of our people ever again.

Full and proper consultation and accommodation must always be top of mind and a priority when any development is being done. For instance, we have serious concerns about the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel projects. The Manitoba Government website says this project is intended to reduce flooding and improve regulation of Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin. Are these the only affects of the project? We don't know - Consultation has not been done with the Metis and many others.

Changing water conditions can have impacts on commercial fishermen and trappers, and recreational users. Changing the water flows and levels can impact fish spawning, movement and populations. In some cases there can be future problems with invasive species, water quality, and algae blooms. There can be other issues concerning cottage properties, shorelines, docks, and boating. We must remember that this action is to create a PERMANENT channel. It is not temporary.

How are these being addressed? What is the full extent of concerns? What are the protections? We don't know the full extent of the issues and how to prevent further damage because full and proper consultation has not been done. It is important that we take all steps to protect the rights and interests of residents on Lake Manitoba, Lake Francis, and Lake Winnipeg and all those who may be impacted.

The Premier is trying to push this through. He is railroading the project. This is a good example of the Premier taking action without proper consultation and consideration for present and future generations. He is trying to scare people with his tactics. I assure Manitobans I will make the Premier take pause to do things right. Yes we are concerned about flooding, and we care about damages, but we need to develop the channels with processes that include proper studies and consultation, and agreements with all the affected Indigenous peoples.

In the past there has been much damage to First Nation and Metis Nation Citizens and others in the Lake St. Martin and Lake Manitoba regions and beyond. Now we must do this right for the benefit of all Manitobans. It is important that we find ways to solve problems. And it is important that we do this with good government and full consultation. The MMF will ensure this Premier hears the voice of the Metis Nation and wake up to our rights.

For the Metis people, our priority has always been the wise, balanced, and sustainable use of our natural resources. Our future depends on it. The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) continues to take the necessary steps to ensure our traditional economies, environmental protections, and our Metis rights protections are integrated into decision-making.

Many Metis are business owners and employees who work hard in the bush and on the lakes. These workers, their families, and their local communities rely on the wood, berries, fish, and fur for their money income, and meat for their kitchen tables. Our Metis rights help to safeguard the ways we traditionally feed our families and support our local communities.

With our wins in the courts, and our increasing strength, we can no longer be ignored when industry and government want to build roads, dams, channels and floodways, and transmission lines that will impact our rights and our traditional lands. Before construction can start, there must be meaningful consultation of the Metis Nation's Manitoba Metis Community. And there must be agreements including accommodation such as compensation.

We have protected our Metis rights in many legal battles and political struggles. We have fought to get our rights recognized by other governments and industry. The MMF leads consultations of our people when our lands and our rights may be affected. We have never and we will never give up our rights. We take this responsibility seriously. We will never surrender our rights.

Our traditional economies of berry picking, fishing, forestry and others are important to the health and future of the Metis Community. There must be negotiations, when, for instance, when transmission lines are built, such as Bipole III and Manitoba

MMF Announces Legal Action against Manitoba Government



The MMF announced it will take legal action against the Manitoba Government for terminating a legally bound agreement negotiated in 2014 between the MMF, Manitoba Hydro, and the Province of Manitoba, that was officially signed in July 2017.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) has announced it is initiating legal proceedings against the Manitoba Government in a challenge to Premier Brian Pallister's cabinet direction to Manitoba Hydro to cancel the legally binding July 2017 agreement between the MMF and Manitoba Hydro.

The legal dispute began in March after nine out of ten members of Manitoba Hydro's Board of Directors resigned, citing "inability to have meaningful dialogue with the government" and "lost confidence" in the Manitoba Premier as reasons for their departure.

In his response, Premier Pallister alleged that the board resignations were because of disagreement over the 2017 agreement, claiming the \$67.5 million that would be paid to the MMF over 50 years as part of the agreement was "persuasion money".

The \$67.5 million, which amounts to roughly \$1.3 million annually spread over 50 years, would cost considerably less than the price of going through litigation with MMF. It is not "persuasion money" as the Premier claims, but rather it is part of a negotiated and legally binding agreement made in good faith between Manitoba Hydro and the MMF.

"Since the current government led by Premier Pallister believes it can disregard the Constitution, Supreme Court of Canada judgments, as well as its legal duties and obligations owing to the Manitoba Metis Community, the Manitoba Metis Government has authorized me to initiate legal proceedings in order to defend our legally binding agreements and to uphold the honour of the Crown in this province," said President Chartrand.

The MMF litigation will focus on how the Manitoba Government's actions in March breach the honour of the Crown and the legally binding commitments in the 2014 Turning the Page Agreement. Based on the honour of the Crown and contract laws, the MMF's July 2017 agreement with Manitoba Hydro remains in place today. The MMF continues to implement and rely on that legally enforceable agreement.

"It is a sad reality that 148 years after we founded this great province, we are still having to turn to the courts to hold the Crown to its promises," said President Chartrand.

Following the MMF's announcement of legal proceedings, Crown Services Minister Cliff Cullen agreed to host a meeting between MMF, Manitoba Hydro, and the Manitoba government. President Chartrand will be attending the April 20 meeting.



MMF Announces 2018 Election

The Manitoba Metis Federation has officially announced the 2018 election, to be held on May 31, 2018.

Nominations are now open for the positions of President, Vice-President, and two Regional Directors for each of the seven Regions. Persons wishing to run for any office will have until May 1, 2018 to file the necessary nomination papers with the Chief Electoral Officer.

All voters in the upcoming election must be citizens of the MMF and live in Manitoba. If you meet the

voting requirements, be sure to confirm your name on the Preliminary List of Electors before the May 8 deadline. The Preliminary List of Electors can be found posted in MMF's Head Office in Winnipeg, and a copy will also be available in every Regional Office across the province by April 20. Eligible Metis citizens are highly encouraged to vote.

MMF's current elected membership ends September 2018. For more information on the upcoming election, please visit www.mbmetsiselections.ca or call toll free 1-888-480-9014.

Sharing our Knowledge Across the Nation

On March 20 and 21, the Metis Nation came together for an education conference in Ottawa. The goal was to share knowledge, learn from one another and discuss moving toward a Metis Nation education strategy.

The meeting commenced with President Chartier, who provided an overview of education in the Metis Nation followed by President Chartrand, the MNC Minister of Education, who gave a recap of the Education Discussion at the Federal/Metis Nation Leaders Meeting. President Glen McCallum, MNC Associate Minister of Education also spoke about what he valued in education. Finally, Marc LeClair provided a presentation on the state of Metis education across Canada with a Metis perspective of how we need to move forward.

Representatives from the Metis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC), Metis Nation of Alberta (MNA), Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS), Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and of course the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) each provided the current landscape in each of their prospective provinces. Many shared their relationships with their provincial governments, and/or overview of the current programs and services offered through their education arms.

Another topic of importance was the development of Metis Nation Centres of Excellence with a special panel highlighting the initiatives being undertaken by Louis Riel Institute (LRI), Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and Rupertsland Institute as well as their vision for the future. One of the needs LRI identified was developing more Metis resources to support teachers in classrooms.

The second day focused on the Metis Nation Early

Learning Approach, with the day commencing with Catherine Adams, who is overseeing the Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare Framework. The review is almost complete and the Federal Government projects there will be funds for Metis Early Learning by the fall of 2018.

Other representatives from Canada were in attendance to hear the conversations and discuss the work they are undertaking to benefit the Metis Nation. GDI shared their early learning resource development, the support they provide to Metis teacher candidates through SUNTEP and online resources available through their virtual museum www.metismuseum.ca.

LRI and MMF shared highlights and developments in Early Learning Educator Training. LRI now has Early Childhood Educator training available across Manitoba and is partnering with the MMF's MET department to offer training in the regions. Recruitment has already started in the Southwest but will commence in other regions this year as well.

The 2-day Metis Education Conference finished with a visit from the Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services, who talked about the work the Federal Government has been doing with the Metis Nation. She stressed the Metis Nation's need for a plan for education, which led to a promise of more education meetings to plan for our future.



MMF joined the Metis Nation in Ottawa to share knowledge with the goal of moving toward a Metis Nation education strategy.

Employment & Training Opportunities!



**Metis
Employment
& Training**

- **Carpenter training positions**
- **Summer Student Positions in all MMF Regions**
- **It's My Community Too - Employment Training Program in Winnipeg**

Visit 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 or contact **Sharon Varga** at **204-984-9480** or sharon.varga@mmf.mb.ca

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