



Le Métis



President's Message

Our governance is a cornerstone of the Métis Nation. Alongside family, culture, and Homeland, governance plays a vital role in the advancement of our people.

On July 14 and 15, elected representatives of the Manitoba Metis Federation gathered for the first Caucus Meeting since our elections in May. At the meeting, elected representatives from our seven Regions across Manitoba heard important updates on the MMF's work. Reports covered key areas such as education, employment, housing, health and natural resources. I also announced new Cabinet appointments and portfolios. These appointments will support our Métis Nation Government to create a strong, healthy and prosperous future for our communities.

Your democratically elected representatives have an honoured position within our Métis government; one that carries with it enormous responsibility. To be appointed as a Minister or Associate Minister in Cabinet increases the weight of this responsibility. Ministers and Associate Ministers need to be able to demonstrate their leadership and accountability to all Métis Citizens. The role of Minister or Associate Minister also offers an unequalled opportunity to do important and meaningful work on behalf of our people.

It is critical that each role in Cabinet aligns with the Minister's and Associate Minister's unique skills, passions and knowledge. Cabinet portfolios must also match urgent priorities affecting the livelihoods of Métis Citizens. By carefully designing a Cabinet of dedicated and experienced leaders, it is my intention to set each portfolio up for success. We will define success through the benefits achieved for Métis Citizens in years to come. These benefits will be realized in practical terms through improved access to education, jobs and housing; and in less tangible, but equally critical, areas like promotion of our culture, languages and heritage. I am confident we have the right people in the right positions to advance our Métis Nation along each of these fronts.

Less than one week after the Caucus Meeting, I traveled with our MMF Caucus and officials to Saskatoon for the Metis National Council (MNC) General Assembly. As MNC Vice-President and Minister of Social Development and of Finance and Administration, I was proud to report on our accomplishments over the past year. We are setting new milestones in fiscal relations with the Government of Canada and with the negotiation of our Section 35 rights under the Constitution Act.

One of these milestones was reached on July 19, when I, the Nation's Minister and negotiator, along with Presidents of the four other MNC Governing Members, signed the Métis Nation Housing Accord in partnership with the MNC and the federal Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations. This agreement provides the MMF and other MNC Governing Members with dedicated resources to design, deliver and operate housing services tailored to the needs of our Citizens. For Manitoba's Métis Nation, this means expanding affordable housing for Elders, youth, and those

in need. It also means new job opportunities in home construction and housing services. The Housing Accord is one of many examples of Métis governance working to improve the lives of Métis Citizens.

Traveling from the MNC General Assembly to the Batoche National Historic Site this past weekend, I reflected on the sacrifices and hardships endured by our ancestors in the struggle for Métis self-determination. It is both a great honour and a great responsibility to participate in this ongoing struggle today. I am grateful for the opportunity to engage in this effort alongside many talented, capable and passionate leaders from our Métis Nation. Through gatherings like the Back to Batoche cultural festival, I am reminded that just as long as we have worked and fought for what we believe, we have also encouraged and appreciated one another through community, cultural expression and laughter. Going Back to Batoche is one of many ways we sustain our Nation for future generations.

As we return from Batoche, it is time to bring our focus back to our communities across the Homeland. I encourage you to participate in regional and local meetings and cultural events taking place throughout the rest of summer. It is vitally important for all our Citizens to be informed and engaged in building the Métis Nation.

Finally, I send thoughts and prayers to all those who are ill or shut in. There is hope and comfort to be found in our strong Métis communities and through our loved ones. Cherish those around you and enjoy the beauty offered by the rest of summer.

Meeqwetch,

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

MMF President David Chartrand appoints his Cabinet



The elected MMF representatives pose for a photo following the new cabinet appointments on June 15 at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg.

Left to right: Alfred Anderson; Richard Genaille; Darrel Ferland; Shawn Nault; David Beaudin; Vincent Parenteau; John Fleury; Denise Thomas; President David Chartrand; Anita Campbell; Jack Park; Will Goodon; Andrew Carrier; Jean Desrosiers; Vincent Parenteau; Frances Chartrand; Mona Buors; Leah LaPlante; JoAnne Remillard; Joan Ledoux; Judy Mayer; Mildred Dorion; Julyda Lagimodiere.

On June 15, President David Chartrand appointed his new cabinet at the first MMF Caucus Meeting since the leadership was elected in May.

“The direction that I have taken is carefully thought out and well-designed,” said President Chartrand. “We have the right people to take charge. Together we will continue to build the future of our Nation.”

In addition to ministerial changes, the MMF has separated the previous Culture, Heritage, Sports & Youth portfolio into two: Culture & Heritage; and Sports & Youth. A new French Language portfolio has been added, to be led by Minister and Southeast Regional representative Jean Desrosiers. The French Language portfolio, along with new bilingual staff, will help the MMF to better serve the needs of French-speaking Métis Citizens in Manitoba.

Over the next four-year term, the MMF’s 23 democratically-elected representatives will work on more than 30 portfolios, including Citizenship, Natural Resources, Michif Language, Residential Schools, Justice, Health, Metis Child & Family Services, and Provincial Education.

The MMF is committed to serving its Métis Citizens and looks forward to the progress that will be made over the next four years.

Indigenous Adult Health Internship Program September 10, 2018 - December 14, 2018

Metis Employment and Training in partnership with Southern Health-Santé is recruiting for eligible participants for a 14 week pre-employment program. The program and staff provide assistance to adults who are unemployed, and/or under-employed. The goal is to provide adults with support and guidance to either return to the education system, enroll in training opportunities, or obtain employment.



Requirements to apply for the program:

Identify as Metis, Non-Status or Inuit; 18 years of age or older; Minimum Grade 10 education; Demonstrated ability to maintain confidentiality; Demonstrated excellent attendance in training; Must submit Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check, Child & Adult Abuse Registry Check

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only those who meet the eligibility requirements and are selected for an interview will be contacted.

For more information call **Lori Valley, Project Officer, MMF Southwest Region:**

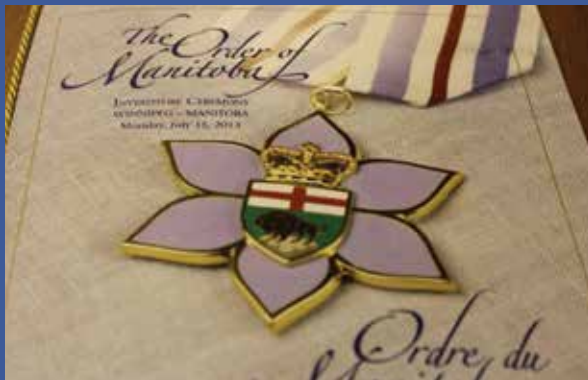
204-725-7525 or lori.valley@mmf.mb.ca

www.mmfemployment.ca



**Metis
Employment
& Training**

Order of Manitoba Honours Two Métis Citizens



Established in 1999, the Order of Manitoba is the highest honour bestowed by the province. (File photo)

Twelve Manitobans were inducted into the Order of Manitoba in a ceremony at the Manitoba Legislative Building on July 12, including two MMF Métis Citizens: Michael Patrick Belhumeur Jr. and Barbara Bruce.

Michael Patrick Belhumeur Jr. has spent nearly 40 years creating positive change through volunteerism. At a young age, he organized a volunteer community foot patrol in 1976 to support safety and wellness in his home of Winnipeg. An advocate for veterans with PTSD and a veteran himself, Belhumeur later founded the Urban Angels Ambassador Outreach Patrol, which helps homeless Indigenous veterans connect with resources and supports, and the Manitoba Coalition of Families of Homeless Veterans. Belhumeur is a long-time member of the MMF and a former Chair of the Riel Local in Winnipeg.

Barbara Bruce is an entrepreneur and elder who has spent her life working with and for the Métis Nation and First Nations' communities. Early in her career, Bruce worked for several years with the MMF, including a term as Executive Director. In 2009, she launched her own planning and consulting firm, All My Relations Inc., focused on curriculum development, facilitation and events coordination for Indigenous cultural awareness and community-building. Bruce has served on more than two dozen Boards of Directors and was directly involved in planning national events for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Bruce is a two-spirit elder who follows her traditional spiritual way of life.

The Order of Manitoba was established in 1999 as the highest honour given by the province. Other notable Métis recipients of the Order of Manitoba have included country musician Ray St. Germain and MMF President David Chartrand.

Little Moccasins celebrates one-year anniversary at Access Saint-Boniface



Mothers at the Little Moccasins program form relationships with other parents and gain insight and information about their baby's development at the Access Saint-Boniface location in Winnipeg.

The Manitoba Metis Federation's Little Moccasins program celebrated its one-year anniversary last month at their Access Saint-Boniface location in Winnipeg. The program helps new parents, and parents-to-be, to connect with each other and learn more about their baby's health and development.



Little Moccasins is a Healthy Baby Program started in 2005 as a partnership between the Manitoba Metis Federation and Healthy Child Manitoba, an initiative of the Manitoba government. A Public Health Nurse and Dietician are on site to help answer questions about pregnancy, health, nutrition, and infant development. A topic is presented at each session as well as a healthy snack. Milk coupons are available for mothers who are either prenatal or up to six months postnatal. Bus tokens are available if needed as well as on site childminding for older children.

Jennifer Sanderson, the program facilitator for Little Moccasins since July 2017, is proud to see the positive impact Little Moccasins has on children and their families.

"The program is a great place for parents to come out and mingle and connect with each

other. I've seen many friendships and supports happen in the year I've been the facilitator," said Sanderson. "St. Boniface started out with 0-3 participants for the longest time, then slowly the word got out and we are now holding at the same number of participants as our Windsor Park location which is very exciting!"



Left to right: Little Moccasins program facilitator Jennifer Sanderson, Public Health Dietician Kerri Cuthbert, and Public Health Nurse Natalie Dahl, celebrate the one-year anniversary at the Access Saint-Boniface location.

Little Moccasins runs every Thursday alternating between Access Saint-Boniface at 170 Goulet Street and Windsor Park United Church at 1062 Autumnwood Drive. The program is open to new parents from all cultures.

For more information on the Little Moccasins program, please contact the MMF's Metis Community Liaison Department at 204-586-8474.

Dig the Jig: Stompers Métis Pavilion at Folklorama, August 5-11

Formed in 2002, the Asham Stompers are a Winnipeg-based dance group on a mission to preserve the history of the Métis through traditional dance. For the first time, the group will be showcasing its talent at a dedicated Métis Pavilion during this year's Folklorama festival.

"I've been working on this for about 10 years," said Stompers manager Arnold Asham. "Finally, we incorporated the Asham Stompers and became a non-profit organization. We applied for a pavilion and were approved!"

The Asham Stompers will perform at 6:45pm, 8:15pm and 9:45pm each evening between

August 5th and 11th at the Métis Pavilion located in the Heather Curling Club at 120 Youville Street in St. Boniface.

The Asham Stompers are thankful for the support of the Manitoba Metis Federation in sponsoring the Metis Pavilion and look forward to putting on a great event for audiences.

"We're really excited," says Asham. "It's going to be a very fast-paced, high energy show."

Four students receive brand-new Métis bursary

Four exceptional Métis students in Manitoba have received the inaugural Senator Gerry and Margaret St. Germain bursary with support from the Manitoba Metis Federation.

Senator Gerry St. Germain, a retired Canadian Senator who was born in Manitoba of Métis descent, donated \$1000 to the Louis Riel Institute to help establish a new bursary for Métis students. The MMF matched this donation for a second student to receive the award. Upon reviewing and shortlisting the applicants, the selection committee had difficulty choosing just two recipients, as the top four students were all highly deserving of the award. In response, the MMF donated an extra \$2000 so that each of the students could receive the award.

Congratulations to Erin Scott, Sarah Shuttleworth, Brooklyn Toderan, and Justin Carrière. It is heartening to see such capable young Metis pursuing their education, and MMF is proud to play a role in helping them achieve their goals.

The Senator Gerry & Margaret St. Germain bursary will now be an annual award with an application deadline of April 30 each year. We look forward to helping more Metis students in the coming years.

Métis Nation gathers for 48th Annual Back to Batoche festival

From July 19-22, Métis citizens and leaders from across the country gathered in Saskatchewan for the 48th annual Back to Batoche festival. The festival began in 1970 as a celebration of Métis culture and a commemoration of the 1885 Battle of Batoche.



Entertainment over the weekend included fiddling and jigging contests, a slo-pitch tournament, voyageur games, and performances by talented Métis musicians and dancers from across the Métis Nation. The Manitoba Metis Federation sponsored the musical entertainment on Saturday, bringing talented Manitoba Métis artists including legendary country musician Ray St. Germain.

The festival is held adjacent to the Batoche National Historic Site, where the Battle of Batoche took place in 1885 between Métis and Canadian forces. The Métis, despite their smaller numbers, were remarkable in their resistance against the Canadian militia, being overtaken only after four days of heavy fighting. Batoche was the decisive battle in the North-West Resistance, and the place where Louis Riel surrendered. Bullet holes from the conflict can still be found in the walls of some buildings on site, and visitors have accidentally unearthed musket balls while walking through the area: a sobering reminder of how Métis have fought, and continue to fight, for our nationhood.

A journey to Batoche offers an unparalleled opportunity to connect with our roots, experiencing the history of this truly remarkable place.



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