



Le Métis



President's Message

One of the most rewarding aspects of serving as your President is having the opportunity to meet with you in our cities, towns, and villages across Manitoba. I am always grateful to hear your news and to share with you the work that the MMF is doing to protect your rights and improve Métis lives in every Region.

Recently, I was able to participate in both the Southwest and Northwest Regional Assemblies. At the Southwest Regional meeting on July 28 in Brandon, and the Northwest Regional meeting on August 11 in Swan River, I was very happy to share with Citizens our good news about the many positive changes coming for Manitoba's Métis Nation.

I reported on our progress with Housing, with Employment and Training, and with Early Learning and Child Care, where successful negotiations with the Federal Government have led to new Accords and sub-Accords that will deliver millions of dollars in resources for the Manitoba Métis Community over the next decade. Together, we will use these resources wisely to create new opportunities for addressing the needs of our people, through innovative services and programs designed by and for the Métis Nation.

I also provided updates on our ongoing work to

secure justice and compensation for our World War II Veterans and for our Sixties Scoop survivors. I had a good meeting with the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Canada's Minister of Veterans Affairs, and he has sent me a letter confirming his commitment to resolving the Métis Veterans issue. There are discussions ongoing between our senior officials and I am confident that we will bring justice and respect to our surviving Veterans.

As for the Sixties Scoop, I have also met with the responsible Minister, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett. She is providing her full support for resolution of this horrible era experienced by our children and their families. We have directed our senior officials to engage and develop the processes for funding and meetings. Already we have a national working group and are planning for a Sixties Scoop Symposium for survivors and families on October 19, 20 and 21 this year.

I also spoke to the fact that, moving forward, we are about to witness changes like we have never seen before. We know that big change can happen. Through persistence, intelligent negotiation, and never giving up, we have taken important steps in securing a better future for our children and grandchildren. We are entering an era of historic, unprecedented change for the Manitoba Métis Community. We are expecting announcements across a variety of initiatives over the coming months. It goes to show that we must always hold on to our dreams for justice and prosperity for our people, as it is these dreams that fuel our determination to fight and to win.

As we open this new chapter, I'm very thankful to have the support of the people, our Regions and Locals. I am honoured to serve you and want to thank you for standing with me and your Ministers.. Together we will ensure that your rights to all future negotiated benefits are protected for our

grandchildren, great-grandkids and generations to come.

As the summer draws to a close, please take the opportunity to connect with your Local and Region. We have upcoming Regional Meetings in the Southeast in Grand Marais on September 8, in Winnipeg September 9, and The Pas September 15. There are also Métis Days hosted by several of our Locals in coming weeks, including Koushkoupayh Days in Grand Valley September 1-2, St. Eustache Métis Day September 15 and Portage La Prairie Métis Day on September 16. The MMF encourages these types of initiatives, which build community and promote our culture and Métis artists. Speak to your Regional Office if you would like to collaborate on a similar event near you.

The Annual General Assembly this year takes place September 21 through 23 at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg. Mark your calendars, fill out your registration form, and prepare your travel plans. You will want to be there, with thousands of other proud Métis Citizens. We are optimistic that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau may also join us for the event, sharing one or more announcements to mark the beginning of a new chapter in Manitoba Métis history.

To conclude, I send my thoughts and prayers to all those who are facing illness, and to those affected by events such as the tornado that passed through Alonsa or the wildfire smoke hovering over our cities and towns in recent weeks. May you find strength and resilience, supported by family and community. For those who have lost a loved one, I share my deepest sympathies. And may each of you enjoy a plentiful harvest as summer winds into fall. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual General Assembly.

Meeqwetch,

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

Métis artist honours MMIWG with star blanket mural

Métis artist Kenneth Lavalée is honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women with his newest mural in Winnipeg's west end.

The mural is modelled after a star blanket, wrapped around the Helen Betty Osborne Building at 511 Ellice Avenue. Helen Betty Osborne was a Cree woman from Northern Manitoba who was abducted and murdered in near The Pas in 1971. When Lavalée learned about Osborne's tragic story, he knew he wanted to do something to honour her and other missing and murdered Indigenous women. The new mural is the result of this effort.

Lavalée's art covers an older mural from 1998. The artist sees this as a natural evolution.

"It's all part of growth," said Lavalée. "We're in the city, things change all the time. Nothing is forever. That's kind of why I got into murals. Nothing new or fresh was going up, and I wanted to add a modern voice. I wanted a breath of fresh air. In 20 years if there's more fresh air, bring it on. I'm all for it. The more painting the better."

This is the fifth mural Lavalée has painted in Winnipeg since 2016 that is modelled on the star blanket, using vibrant colours and repeating geometric patterns. The mural was completed in partnership with Synonym Art Consultation as part of the Wall-to-Wall, a mural and cultural festival which takes place in Winnipeg every year.

Lavalée's next mural project starts this week in Vancouver.



Save the Date!

2018

ANNUAL
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

Defending our Nation ∞ Advancing our Rights ∞ Protecting our People

September 21-23 | ASSINIBOIA DOWNS
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA



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METIS GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA



Métis-led community group receives \$94,000 for Indigenous language program

A community group led by three Métis women has received a \$94,000 grant from Heritage Canada's Aboriginal Language Initiative to pilot a language learning program.

The Prairies to Woodlands Indigenous Language Revitalization Circle will use the grant to establish a Master-Apprentice Language Learning Program at the Dauphin Friendship Centre. The training program partners elder speakers of Indigenous languages with apprentices for one-on-one language immersion. Michif will be one of the Indigenous languages offered in the program, as well as Anishinaabemowin, Cree, and more. The program will also include a series of free workshops that are open to the public.

The Master-Apprentice Language Learning Program model was developed in the 1990s to address the needs of Indigenous Californians, as many of their traditional languages were disappearing. Michif, one of the main languages of the Métis Nation, currently has fewer than 1,000 speakers left.

The program kicks off with an orientation on September 15 and 16 at the Dauphin Friendship Centre. For more information or to apply, call 204-647-0081 or email p2wilrc@gmail.com.



Metis
Employment
& Training

Now Hiring

Bilingual Administrative Assistant Training Position

Reporting to and under the direction of the Winnipeg Regional Vice-President, the Bilingual Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing secretarial services and administrative support to the Winnipeg Region in both official languages.

Application Deadline: Sunday, August 26, 2018

For a complete list of required Skills and Qualifications please visit:

www.mmfemployment.ca or www.mmf.mb.ca

Please forward covering letter and resume indicating position being applied for:

MMF Metis Employment & Training Department
300-150 Henry Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0J7

Email: metresumes@mmf.mb.ca or Fax: (204) 947-3251

Preference will be given to qualified Métis applicants. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and self-identify on their resume. The MMF appreciates the interest of all applicants; however, only those individuals considered for an interview will be contacted. We offer a competitive benefits package which includes but not limited to: health and dental insurance, life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, short term and long term disability and a retirement savings plan.

www.mmfemployment.ca



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Métis Citizens come together for Northwest Regional Meeting in Swan River

Over 150 Métis citizens gathered in Swan River for the MMF Northwest Regional Meeting on Saturday, August 11.

Regional meetings are an integral part of MMF governance, providing MMF Citizens the opportunity to learn about the Métis government in their area. Locals are the cornerstone of the Métis Nation, and Regional Meetings give Locals and their Citizens a chance to bring forward their questions, suggestions, and concerns.

"I can't say enough of this Region that does a superb job of always representing us well," said MMF President David Chartrand at the gathering. "Locals, I can't thank you enough. To keep our pride going, our music going, our dancers, our fiddlers, and just getting the families together. The Locals are doing an exceptional job here."

Northwest Regional Vice-President Frances Chartrand chaired the meeting, alongside Northwest Regional Directors Richard Genaille and John Parenteau. In addition to the leaders of the Northwest Region, several other MMF ministers attended the meeting, as well as President Chartrand.

The theme of this Regional meeting was "Developing Partnerships for Success." Northwest Region has partnered with over 25 agencies and organizations that help to employ students and provide them valuable training and work experience.



The MMF's Provincial Youth Advisory Committee (PYAC) met in Swan River alongside the Northwest Regional Meeting. PYAC bridges the gap between MMF government and youth in communities across the province, making recommendations to the MMF Minister of Sports and Youth on ways to address issues that affect youth in Manitoba.

For more information on the Northwest Region, visit the Northwest Regional Office's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northwestmetis or call 204-638-9485.



Upcoming MMF Regional Meetings

SEPTEMBER 8
Southeast Regional Meeting, Grand Marais
Telephone: 204-754-2721

SEPTEMBER 9
Winnipeg Regional Meeting, Winnipeg
Telephone: 204-589-4327

SEPTEMBER 15
The Pas Regional Meeting, The Pas
Telephone: 204-623-5701

