



Le Métis



President's Message

As your President, and in my role as Vice-President of the Métis National Council, I am always reflecting on how our Métis Nation can best protect and champion our Elders and Youth. Our Elders are the knowledge keepers of our Nation: safeguarding our culture, teaching our languages and providing our people with wise counsel and clear direction. It is vital to our culture and our way of life that we continue to recognize our Elders and treat them with the greatest respect. Our Youth are the future of our Nation: the keepers of our destiny, who will carry forward our Nation for the generations to come. We must engage our Youth to take pride in our culture and to take our rights and responsibilities as Métis Citizens to heart.

To build a strong, healthy and prosperous future for Manitoba's Métis Citizens, it is vitally important that we seek the guidance of our Elders and determine the vision of our Youth. This is why I always take special care to welcome and encourage

participation from Elders and Youth when there are discussions on how to build that future.

A prime example is our annual Elders Gathering, held this year on August 30 and 31 at Grant's Old Mill. This location is of special significance for Métis Citizens, being a living monument to Cuthbert Grant, the first leader of our Métis Nation, who brought us to the Victory of Frog Plain in 1816. Our Elders, George Fleury and Norman Meade, blessed the start of this year's Gathering, opening two days of discussion on building our Métis Nation. Our Provincial Youth Advisory Committee also attended, offering respectful attention and gratitude for the knowledge, issues and ideas shared by our Elders throughout the Gathering.

Another excellent example is the Master-Apprentice Language Learning Program being led by three Métis women in Dauphin. This program will support Elder language-keepers to transmit our Michif language heritage to younger generations, using tried-and-tested tools for immersing learners in language. Community-led projects to support the revitalization of our languages will in turn strengthen our Citizens' cultural knowledge and pride.

As we move forward together, you will see many new initiatives designed by the MMF to serve Métis Elders and support our Youth. We are developing the plans to start building seniors' homes, personal care homes, and other types of housing to address the diverse needs of our Métis Elders. We are working

to connect more Elders to our Prescription Drug Program for Seniors, so none will ever again need to choose between medicines and meals. We are also expanding and diversifying resources for Youth and students to advance their knowledge and careers, so that our younger generations have the know-how and security to pursue successful careers, keep their families strong, and to support and care for their children, parents, and grandparents.

In such ways, we are building a solid foundation that will protect our families in times ahead. This is exactly what Métis Nationhood is all about: taking care of one another, serving our Elders and protecting our Youth. This is what your Métis Government stands for and is working towards. It is a collective effort, and I encourage you to bring your knowledge, your voice and your vision to our Annual General Assembly and Youth Conference later this month from September 21 to 23. These exciting life-changing opportunities can only be seized when we work together.

In closing, I extend hope, sympathy and prayers to any who may be ill, grieving or shut in. I wish you healing, strength and comfort as summer turns into fall. To our Elders, I share my gratitude and respect for your sacrifices, your wisdom and your insight. To our Youth, I encourage you to keep connected to our culture and community as we write a new chapter in Métis Nation history. I look forward to seeing you all at our Annual General Assembly.

Meeqwetch,

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

MMF Inaugural Fundraising Golf Tournament raises over \$23,000

On August 28, the Manitoba Metis Federation hosted its 1st Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament, which raised over \$23,000 for the MMF Bereavement Fund, which helps families in need of financial support with expenses involved with the loss of a Métis loved one.

The full-day event was held at Bel Acres Golf & Country Club in Winnipeg, with many members of MMF staff and leadership in attendance. MMF President David Chartrand participated in the tournament, and his daughter and granddaughter helped run a putting contest at one of the holes.

Louis Riel Capital Corporation, Metis N4 Construction, Metis Economic Development Fund, and North End Housing Project were Gold Sponsors at the event. In total, nearly 50 organizations, businesses, and Indigenous groups helped sponsor the event, including Vickar Automotive Group and Selkirk Chevrolet Buick GMC, who each sponsored a hole-in-one vehicle prize during the tournament.



MMF looks forward to building on this success for next year's tournament. Thank you to all of the sponsors and participants that made the event a success!



Save the Date!

2018

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

∞

Defending our Nation ∞ Advancing our Rights ∞ Protecting our People

September 21-23 | ASSINIBOIA DOWNS WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Prairies to Woodlands Indigenous Revitalization Circle Launches Language Learning 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. Heather Souter, working closely with Gail Welburn and Verna Demontigny, is spearheading this program through the Prairies to Woodlands Indigenous Revitalization Circle.

The grant will allow the Circle to establish a Master-Apprentice Language Learning Program at the Dauphin Friendship Centre. The program does not teach Indigenous language directly, but rather teaches language keepers how to effectively pass on Indigenous languages to others through one-on-one immersion.

Teams of two can register for the program, with each team made up of a Master speaker of the language and an Apprentice learner. The program currently has four registered teams, including a mother and son, a grandmother and grandson, an aunt and niece, and a sister duo.

A series of workshops will also take place as part of the program, which are open for anyone to attend, even if they are not part of a master-apprentice team. The workshops are a valuable tool for sharing methods of Indigenous language transmission across communities.

"Everyone has a role to play in language revitalization," says Souter. "Revitalization needs to happen on a community-by-community basis."

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 is a traditional language of the Métis Nation, with several dialects that are critically endangered. But the program acknowledges that not every Métis community spoke Michif, with many speaking other Indigenous languages including Cree and Anishnaabemowin. Métis Citizens are encouraged to learn the languages with which they identify.

The program's first orientation takes place on September 15 and 16 at the Dauphin Friendship Centre. For more information or to register a team, call 204-647-0081 or email p2wilrc@gmail.com.



MASTER-APPRENTICE PROGRAM FOR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE LEARNING

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

Manitoba Metis Federation hosts 2nd annual Elders Gathering in Winnipeg

Métis Elders from across Manitoba gathered at the historic Grant's Old Mill site in Winnipeg for the Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) second annual Elders Gathering on August 30 and 31.

The two day gathering focused on getting Elders' perspective on Métis culture, Michif language, and self-government. Elders are the knowledge keepers of the Métis Nation, and it is crucial to create space for them to share their stories and ideas.

MMF President David Chartrand attended the event along with several MMF Ministers, including Minister of Housing & Property Management Will Goodon. Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier traveled from Ottawa to attend the event as well.

The event is organized by the MMF's Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations (TSN) department. TSN is mandated to assist the development and sustainability of the MMF and its institutions, and is committed to managing and influencing matters directly affecting the Métis Nation in Manitoba.

The annual event will continue to give Elders the opportunity to share their knowledge, stories, and guidance for the betterment of the MMF and the Manitoba Métis Community.



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