



Le Métis



President's Message

We are writing a new chapter in Métis history. As we turn the page for Métis Nationhood, it is more important than ever for us to know who we are, to understand our Nation's past, and to articulate what Métis Citizenship will mean for our future generations.

Before Canada existed, the Métis were the dominant political and economic force across our Homeland, with its cultural and financial capital along the Red River. In 1816, fighting under our Nation's flag for the first time, our people were led to victory by Cuthbert Grant at Frog Plain. The flag, one of the oldest in North America, proudly carries our message today: uniting our people, defining our Citizenship, and declaring our Nationhood.

Our Nation fought again in 1869 and 1885, rising together to defend our homes, our families, our culture and our economy. Through these struggles, we shaped the terms and timeline that brought Manitoba and the West into Confederation. After the Battle at Batoche, we paid the ultimate price for defending our Nation: chased off of our land, homes and villages burnt to the ground, children stolen from mothers' arms. We suffered such injustices for nearly a century.

In 1967, some of our greatest thinkers came together once more to take a stand for our Nation. They

formulated a Government to defend our people from the abuses we faced. These abuses included ongoing destruction of our homes, communities and economies to make way for energy and urban development; and theft of our children through the Sixties Scoop. Those Métis who were not cut off from their communities had been pushed onto muskegs in remote areas, with no economic or social investment by any government: provincial or federal. The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) came alive in 1967 thanks to wise leaders who stepped forward to create our own Government, to invest in our Nation's future.

Today, thanks to the vision and hard work of MMF leaders, we are on the verge of reclaiming our true place in Confederation through a renewed, distinctions-based, nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship to Canada. Beginning in 1982, with our inclusion in Canada's Constitution, we have affirmed and advanced the rights of Métis Citizens through Supreme court rulings and tripartite negotiations. Under the terms of our 2017 *Métis Nation Accord* with the Government of Canada, the MMF and other Governing Members of the Métis National Council are working to direct resources back into our Nation, for made-by-Métis solutions to the governance, economic and social concerns of our Citizens.

In this new era, every Métis Citizen has a role. This is why we are striving to bring home our Lost Moccasins: those taken from our families during the Sixties Scoop and Residential Schools era. As we reconnect with our Sixties Scoop survivors, there are many tears shed. They speak of waking up in the middle of the night feeling lost and hurt, knowing something was missing in their lives, something was wrong. We must heal these wounds and welcome our Lost Moccasins back home. To this end, we are hosting a Sixties Scoop symposium in Winnipeg from October 19 to 21.

In reconnecting and mobilizing our Métis Citizens, we must also be vigilant. As we have seen too many times in the past, when resources are announced or money is made available, there are always some people scrambling to take it from us, just as the speculators came for our scrip. Today, we face a challenge from Eastern people who claim Métis Citizenship with no connection to our history and Homeland. They are flying our flag and wearing our sash, with no ancestral or cultural ties to our Nation. As we advance our rights and Nationhood, we must also protect our identity and our culture for future generations.

We are fast approaching the day when we finally hold our true place in Confederation. The Prime Minister, this fall, is putting forward legislation to recognize the MMF as the Government of Manitoba's Métis Nation and offer us, for the first time since 1870, the opportunity to truly govern ourselves, as we did before Canada came into being. We've been waiting a long, long time for this. I welcome you to join us at our Annual General Assembly (AGA) from September 21 to 23 to participate in your Métis Nation Government and the future we are building.

I invite all our citizens to join us at the AGA to witness an historic announcement that will make great changes to the future of our families. Come feel the excitement in person, or listen and watch the announcements streaming live online. We will be blazing a new path for our Nation.

For those unable to attend due to poor health, losses or difficulties in your lives, I send you my thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathies. To every reader, I encourage you to truly understand your history, understand who you are, and take pride in your Métis Nation.

Meeqwetch,

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

Winnipeg Regional Meeting focuses on Revitalization of Locals

More than 75 Métis Citizens participated in the MMF Winnipeg Regional Meeting on Sunday, September 9. Discussions throughout the meeting emphasized the important role of Locals in MMF governance.

The day opened with a prayer from Elder Linda St. Cyr, followed by welcoming remarks from Regional Vice-President Andrew Carrier, Regional Directors Joanne Remillard and David Beaudin, as well as Infinity Women Secretariat spokesperson Anita Campbell and MMF President David Chartrand.

“We are here today representing our Winnipeg Citizens in a solid and cohesive team,” said Vice-President Carrier, “working to meet your needs and to celebrate our successes in our first three months since the May 31, 2018 election.”

Executive reports covered financial updates, communications strategy, and the future of Winnipeg’s Metis Club as well as the search for a new office space and hall in the Winnipeg area. A significant part of the day’s discussions focused on the revitalization of Locals, through strategies of re-engagement and ongoing support for Locals to connect with and meet the needs of Winnipeg’s Métis Citizens.

Reports were provided by the St. Norbert, Kinew, Redboine, Liberty and Winnipeg North Locals, as well as the Region’s new Bison Local, based at the University of Manitoba. Laura Forsythe and Sharon Hunt were appointed to the Local Advisory Committee for the Region. Lunchtime entertainment was provided by the Kinew Local fiddle class, led by teacher Tom Dutiaume. A silent auction was held in support of the MMF’s Bereavement Fund, which supports families in need of financial support with expenses involved with the loss of a Métis loved one.

Many thanks to all who attended. For more information on the Winnipeg Region, email wpgregion@mmf.mb.ca.



Find the latest news online

www.mmf.mb.ca



Manitoba Metis Federation (Official)



@MBMetis_MMF



@manitobametisfederation



ManitobaMetisMMF



Infinity Women Secretariat develops free clothing program for Métis women



Métis women now have access to free, quality clothing thanks to Infinity Women Secretariat.

The Women's Clothing Program offers new and gently used clothing and accessories for free to Métis women who drop in on the second Thursday of each month. Nearly 200 women participated on September 13, 2018, taking home 573 free articles of clothing. As a form of recycling our clothing, they have donated 286 pieces to other local organizations.

"This clothing program was initiated as a pilot to determine need and interest by Métis women", said Anita Campbell, Infinity Women Secretariat Spokeswoman and MMF Minister of Finance & Human Resources. "We've only opened the one day each month since July 2018 and have seen almost 500 women use it over those three days, so it is a program that we will definitely be continuing to offer our women - they like it and use it - which is awesome!"

Infinity Women Secretariat is an affiliate of the Manitoba Metis Federation, dedicated to promoting, empowering and enhancing the social, cultural and economic well-being of Métis women.

The Women's Clothing Program runs next Thursday, October 11 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Infinity Women Secretariat office, Suite 11-150 Henry Avenue, Winnipeg. For more information, contact Shannon Dupont at sdupont@mmf.mb.ca.

New Southeast Youth Council established at Southeast Regional Meeting



Southeast Youth Council head Tyler Thomas (right) stands with MMF Youth Minister Richard Genaille and the newly established youth council members.

The MMF Southeast Regional Meeting was held in Grand Marais on Saturday, September 8, chaired by Regional Vice-President Denise Thomas and Regional Directors Jean Desrosiers and Shawn Nault. Much of the discussion throughout the day focused on youth engagement, culminating in the establishment of a new, six-member Southeast Youth Council.

The Southeast Youth Council is headed by Tyler Thomas, grandson of Regional Vice-President Denise Thomas. He is joined by five other motivated Métis youth: Alyssa Thomas, Zac Clemons, Ellie Longbottom, Richelle Recksiedler, and Wes Mustard. Together, they will work to increase youth participation in the Southeast Region, as well as identify the needs of youth in the area.

At the meeting, Infinity Women Secretariat also selected a new Youth Representative for the Region, Jade Sweet.

Youth are the future of the Métis Nation, and it is inspiring to see many of our youth engaging with our Métis Government and working toward a better future for our communities.

Thank you to all who attended the Southeast Regional Meeting. For more information on the Southeast Region, contact their office in Grand Marais at **204-754-2721**.



Early Learning and Child Care Framework invests in Métis Children



MMF President and MNC Vice-President David Chartrand, pictured at the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework media announcement September 17, 2018.

On Monday, September 17, MMF President and Métis National Council Vice-President and Minister of Social Development, David Chartrand, joined the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Canada's Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, and leaders from the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in the release of a co-developed Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework to improve early learning and child care for Indigenous children in Canada. The framework was developed over the past year, based on extensive consultations with Indigenous peoples.

"I'm proud to be jointly announcing the first Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework," announced Minister Duclos at the event. "It is an outstanding example for how we can be working together and how we can achieve great results."

The Framework invests \$1.7 billion dollars over the next ten years for distinctions-based early learning and childcare initiatives to support Inuit, First Nations and Métis children and families. Programs delivered under the Framework will be culturally appropriate and accessible to families regardless of where they live.

The funding includes up to \$450 million for the Métis Nation. The MMF plans to invest its share of this funding into Métis Aboriginal Head Start programs for preschool-aged children, as well as child care supports for working Métis parents.

"For the Métis Nation this is a first," said President Chartrand in welcoming the funding announcement. "Our mothers have been asking now for decades for this opportunity."

Save the Date!

2018

ANNUAL
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

Defending our Nation ∞ Advancing our Rights ∞ Protecting our People

September 21-23 | ASSINIBOIA DOWNS
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

**Manitoba Metis
Federation**
MÉTIS GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA