



Le Métis



President's Message

and resources; achieving full recognition for the Métis Nation; and safeguarding our Métis Nation's integrity and stability.

To ensure the integrity of our Métis Nation and Homeland, we will stand firm in defending our name, our flag, and our constitutionally-protected rights. We will ensure these are not used by any individuals or groups who are appropriating our cultural and political identity for their own ends. Stopping Métis identity theft is of extreme importance for both the Métis Nation and Canada as a whole.

When it comes to defending our identity and our rights, we must be ever vigilant. The assimilationist and destructive policies of past governments leave their legacy on our people today. In the era of reconciliation, we have made great strides toward reclaiming our rightful place at the negotiating table through a distinctions-based, nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with the federal government in Canada. Unfortunately, we learned all too clearly last week how quickly some of our progress can be undone by reactionary politics.

Premier Brian Pallister's termination of the *Turning the Page* agreement turns back the page on reconciliation in Manitoba. *Turning the Page*, signed in 2014, established a clear relationship between the province of Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro and the MMF to advance reconciliation in this province.

Turning the Page supported vital investments in our Métis people and villages. To date, resources from this agreement have been used to create monuments to our Veterans; to keep community centres, hockey arenas and churches in good repair; to provide our Elders with firewood for heating their homes; and to provide our youth with cultural programs. This agreement improved the lives and communities of thousands of Métis across Manitoba. The agreement also set terms for consultation and monitoring of Hydro projects, in order to avoid costly litigation on the taxpayers' dime. The agreement laid out processes that allowed us to work together in a collaborative

way with Hydro and the Province, as opposed to creating unnecessary and expensive confrontations.

Manitobans need to keep an eye on what this Premier is up to. All we have to do is reflect on the day back in March when he came out to cancel our July, 2017 agreement. Pallister blamed that agreement for the resignation of the Board of Hydro. He held to this story even after Sandy Riley, former Chair of the Hydro Board, made it clear that the Board members resigned because Pallister would not meet with them, even once, over a period of more than a year.

This situation is not and has never been simply about Pallister's vendetta against the Métis people. We all need to ask why a Premier who has run businesses demonstrates such little regard for Manitoba Hydro as a Crown Corporation. This is Pallister politics 101: first attack the Métis to offset a deficit; second, shore up the Pallister political base by fighting against Indigenous rights; third, destabilize the finances of Hydro, a Crown Corporation; fourth, bring in new Hydro leadership and board members; and fifth, commence a review of Hydro that is suspected by many to have a privatization agenda. The truth is unfolding before us, despite Pallister's failed attempts to mislead the public. The Métis and Manitobans are not easily fooled and we will stand united and strong to defend our Crown Corporation and our Métis Nation on the public record and, if necessary, in the courts.

Our unity and strength have been made very clear in these recent days. I want to thank each of you who has taken the time to express your support, to raise your voice, and to offer your assistance to our Métis Nation. For those who are facing illness or grief, I share my deepest sympathies and encouragement. Know that times of darkness and disappointment are just passing clouds above our path to self-determination. In the words of Louis Riel, "Deeds are not accomplished in a few days, or in a few hours. A century is only a spoke in the wheel of everlasting time."

Meeqwetch,

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

In this season of remembrance, I would like to open with a message of gratitude and recognition for Métis Veterans, who risked their lives so that future generations could live to experience justice and freedom. On November 11, please keep these brave heroes in your thoughts and share your respects.

On October 27 and 28, your MMF Cabinet met with the Cabinet of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan in Regina for a Joint Summit. It's been nearly 133 years since our Leader and Martyr Louis Riel was wrongly put to death in the Northwest Territory, where Regina is now situated, on November 16, 1885. Each year at this time, we remember Riel: his leadership, his words and his deeds on behalf of our people. We mark the anniversary of his death and celebrate his life. It was by his stand, alongside other Métis leaders, that the Métis became Canada's negotiating partners in Confederation and the Founders of Manitoba.

The MMF and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan first came together in 1978, when our two Métis Governments met in Cranberry Portage, Manitoba. That meeting led to the development of the Métis National Council. Four decades later, we had much to discuss and determine about our collective past and future. To this end, our two Métis Governments shared information on the housing, education, economic development, health, and child welfare issues facing our people. The result was the *Regina Declaration*, in which the Cabinets of our Manitoba and Saskatchewan Métis Governments committed to promoting the progress and prosperity of our Métis Nation Citizens; restoring and preserving Métis lands

Métis Citizens gather in The Pas for MMF Regional Meeting

More than 100 Métis Citizens gathered on November 3 for The Pas Regional meeting. Regional meetings are an integral part of MMF governance, providing Citizens the opportunity to learn about the Métis government in their area. Regional Meetings give Locals and their Citizens a chance to bring forward their questions, suggestions, and concerns. The Pas Region has 15 locals, including Cranberry Portage, Grand Rapids, and Snow Lake.

MMF Vice-President Judy Mayer chaired the meeting alongside her fellow Regional Cabinet members, Ministers Joan Ledoux and Darrel Ferland.

“This is our government in action working for you,” said Mayer. “We are here to better the lives of Métis in The Pas and all of Manitoba.”

A harvester workshop was hosted by Natural Resources Minister Leah LaPlante, Associate Minister Shawn Nault and staff. The workshop educated Citizens on the five harvesting areas in the Grassy River and Manigotagan Regions where the MMF Annual General Assembly unanimously voted to support Métis Harvesters exercising their rights. After waiting more than two years for a response from the Pallister Government to a joint working group’s recommendation to expand the harvesting zone in these regions, Manitoba Métis Harvesters are waiting no more.

“We need our Citizens to know that we will defend them against anyone saying they aren’t allowed to harvest there, as long as they’re harvesting in accordance with our Metis Laws of the Harvest,” said Minister LaPlante.



The MMF’s Provincial Youth Advisory Committee (PYAC) also met in The Pas over the weekend. PYAC bridges the gap between the MMF and youth in communities across the province, making recommendations to MMF Minister of Sports and Youth, Richard Genaille, on issues affecting Métis youth in Manitoba. LaVern Richard, Tori Holmstrom and Charlyne Knutson were elected to the PYAC as representatives for The Pas Region. Bert Linfitt was acclaimed to The Pas Region’s Local Advisory Council.

For more information on The Pas Region, call The Pas Regional Office at **204-623-5701** or email pasreception@mmf.mb.ca.

Upcoming MMF Regional Meeting

Interlake Regional Meeting
December 8, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Selkirk Friendship Centre,
425 Eveline Street, Selkirk MB



MMF Youth Citizen honoured with 2018 Royal Conservatory of Music Gold Medal

Camryn Dewar has received a 2018 Royal Conservatory Gold Medal for achieving the highest mark in her Level 8 Voice class from the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM). Camryn is an MMF Citizen from Stony Mountain, and this is the sixth Gold Medal she has received from RCM. She is currently studying Music (Vocal Performance) at the University of Manitoba and is pursuing a career in opera.

Congratulations on this achievement, Camryn!

MMF celebrates new housing in The Pas at ribbon-cutting ceremony

On Friday, November 2, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) celebrated the completion of two new housing units in The Pas with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The new duplex on Bignell Avenue includes a 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom unit.

This is the fifth housing project completed by the MMF since partnering with Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation in 2013 to develop affordable housing for Manitobans.

"We've always seen the need to build affordable housing," said Will Goodon, MMF Minister of Housing and Property Management. "These two new houses will benefit two Métis families in this area so they can start building a home."

Herb Jacques, newly-elected Mayor of The Pas, also attended the ceremony.

"The mayor has the longest part of the ribbon because we want to keep building houses in The Pas for a long time," noted Judy Mayer, MMF Vice-President for The Pas Region.



Are you interested in an

Early Childhood Education Career?

Metis Employment & Training in partnership with Louis Riel Institute is hosting

Early Childhood Educator Training Information Session

7:00pm - November 20, 2018

Room B13-150 Henry Avenue - Winnipeg, MB

Metis Employment & Training staff will be on-site to discuss funding possibilities. This opportunity is open to **Métis, Non-Status,** and **Inuit** individuals. To register for a session or obtain more information contact:

Sharon Varga - 204-984-9480 - sharon.varga@mmf.mb.ca



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Joint Cabinet Summit makes step in defending the future of the Métis Nation



Elected cabinet members of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) at a Joint Cabinet Summit in Regina.

The elected cabinet members of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) held a Joint Cabinet Summit in Regina on October 27-28.

The summit demonstrated the importance of unity, cooperation, and common cause for both governments, and more importantly for Métis Citizens. To continue building on this relationship, MMF President David Chartrand and MN-S President Glen McCallum signed the *Regina Declaration*. The declaration is a commitment by both Métis Governments to continue working side-by-side in promoting progress and prosperity for Métis Nation Citizens, and seeking opportunities for cooperative initiatives between the MMF, MN-S, and others.

The location of the Joint Summit was significant, as Métis leader Louis Riel was hanged by the

Canadian government at North West Mounted Police barracks located where Regina sits today.

"It's been almost 133 years since our leader Louis Riel was wrongly put to death, and we continue on with his vision even in the face of challenges from those who may be unsupportive and who still oppose our Section 35 Rights, despite our numerous court victories," said President Chartrand. "We will continue to build relationships and stand united to protect our Homeland territory, our Nation, and our Citizens."

The Joint Summit also addressed the issue of those in eastern Canada who are wrongfully claiming Métis identity. MMF and MN-S agreed that full recognition and respect for the Métis Nation, its Homeland, and its Governments is of the high importance to all Métis people.

To achieve this, a starting point was the adoption of the Métis Nation Homeland map that defines the eastern boundary of the Métis Nation.

"Stopping Métis identity theft is of extreme importance for both the Métis Nation and Canada," President Chartrand went on to explain. "The work we do today will promise progress and prosperity for our Métis Nation Citizens, and indeed Canadians, for generations to come."

The first time the two cabinets met was in Cranberry Portage, Manitoba in 1978. That first meeting was the beginning of the formation of the Métis National Council. With the *Regina Declaration* in place, MMF and MN-S will continue to build on this positive working relationship for the benefit of Métis in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

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