



Le Métis



President's Message

Let me begin by wishing everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May you share a restful and joyous holiday season with family and community. It has been a very busy time as we approach the end of this calendar year. I too look forward to sharing this holiday with family and friends. Your Métis Government is working very hard to ensure that 2019 brings new opportunities and resources to support all Métis Citizens.

On Friday, December 7, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hosted the First Ministers Meeting in Montreal. The Prime Minister first met privately with Indigenous leaders from the Métis National Council (MNC), Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK). At this meeting, I voiced our Métis Nation priority to secure the transfer of funds negotiated through the 2018 federal budget and the Canada-Métis Nation Accord. With the transfer secured, these funds will ensure that MNC Governing Members including the MMF, can begin acting on our commitments to invest in housing, childcare, education and training for Métis Citizens.

After our private meeting, I presented at the First Ministers Meeting to the Prime Minister, the Premiers of the provinces and territories, and the leaders of the AFN and the ITK. Here, I expressed my gratitude to our Prime Minister. True to his word, he is honouring our Nation-to-Nation relationship by returning the hard-earned tax

dollars of Métis Citizens to the Métis Nation. Now we can design and lead programs and services tailored to the distinct needs of our Citizens. I also urged the Premiers to work collaboratively with the Métis Nation as these investments are rolled out. The Métis Nation will create hundreds of jobs and establish new capital developments in cities and communities across the Homeland. This investment has been a long time coming and should be something for everyone to celebrate.

The Premier of Manitoba, however, may not be rolling out the red carpet to celebrate these long overdue investments in Manitoba's Métis Community. As I told our Citizens at the Interlake Regional Meeting in Selkirk on December 8, Pallister is focused on drawing us into the courtroom rather than meeting us on the red carpet or even at the negotiating table. I would much rather be at the table negotiating than have lawyers fight for me in a courthouse. In the absence of a true government-to-government relationship with this provincial government, the Premier forces us into court as the only place we can get justice at this point in time.

If you look at the traditional laws of the Métis Nation, to resolve any harms, the victim was always dealt with first. The needs of the victim for restitution and reconciliation come first.

British law and Canadian law move the focus from the victim to the Crown. To address harm on our behalf, the Crown is supposed to represent you and me. This is not the same as putting the victim first or including them in the resolution process.

The Métis Nation continues to prioritize the victim of harm in our laws and processes today. This is why we prefer the negotiating table to the courtroom and this is why, for vital concerns such as reconciliation for Métis Survivors of the Sixties Scoop, we ensure that Survivors' voices guide and determine the type of settlement being negotiated with the federal government.

This week, the Métis Nation launched a new Sixties Scoop Portal as an online hub for information, news, and events related to the Sixties Scoop for the Métis Nation. The Portal will allow Survivors and all Métis Nation Citizens to access up-to-date information essential for the development of a Sixties Scoop resolution agreement between the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada. Listening to and guided by Métis Survivors, we will find redress for these victims through negotiation rather than litigation. In this way, we advance reconciliation with the federal government and uphold our traditional law.

After attending the Interlake Regional Meeting in Selkirk, I flew to Ottawa for meetings with the Métis National Council and your MMF Cabinet. At these sessions, we made important headway in identifying how we will best make use of funds flowing under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord to advance our priorities for housing, childcare, education and more. Stay tuned in the new year, when we plan to have shovels in the ground and feet on the pavement to move forward in building affordable homes for Elders, youth and those in need. We also look forward to creating new opportunities for Métis families. Great things are coming for you, and it's about time! After 22 years as your President, I am very happy to be part of the transformation that you see happening today: smiling faces, growing opportunities, cutting ribbons of new buildings, opening doors for our Elders, and making sure that every Citizen has a home in our Homeland.

May you bring this good news to your own families and communities over the holidays. Please look after one another and support our Métis families and Elders who are in need throughout the season. My prayers and best wishes go to each of you for a warm and bright Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Meeqwetch,

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

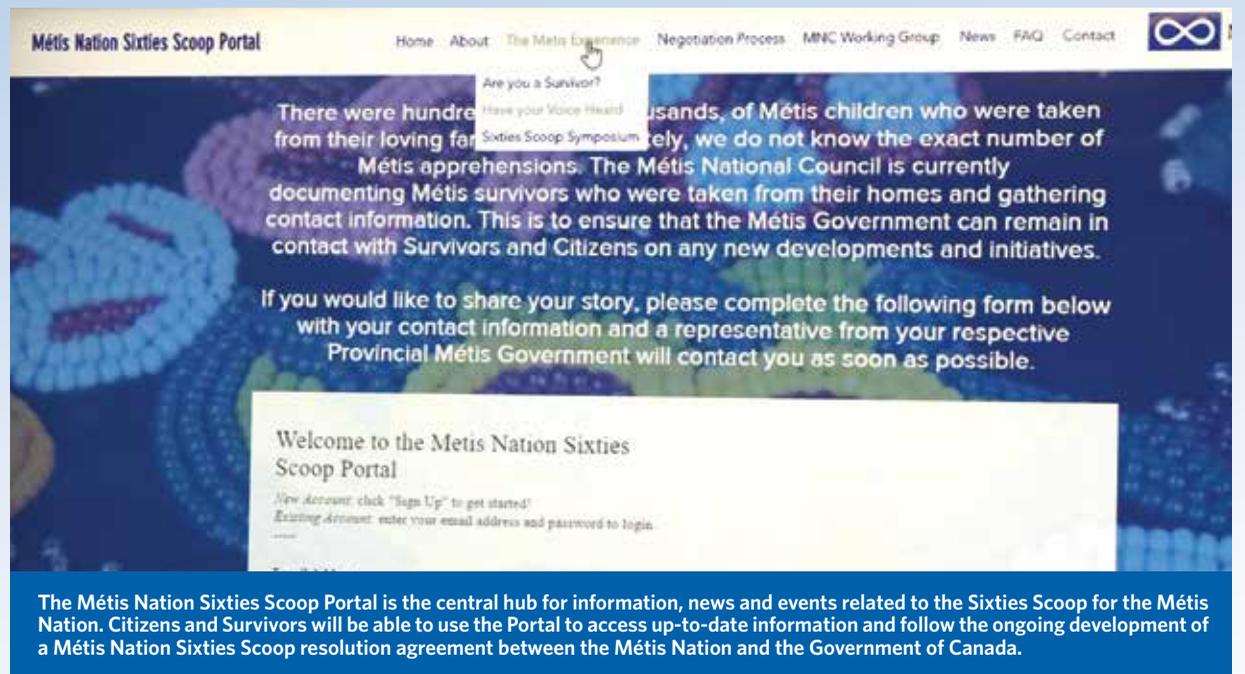
Métis National Council launches Sixties Scoop Portal to connect Métis Survivors to the reconciliation process

On December 18, the Métis National Council (MNC) launched a new website that will help Métis Nation Survivors of the Sixties Scoop connect with the reconciliation process.

Developed by MNC with support from the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), the Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Portal is the central hub for information, news and events related to the Sixties Scoop for the Métis Nation. Citizens and Survivors will be able to use the Portal to access up-to-date information and follow the ongoing development of a Métis Nation Sixties Scoop resolution agreement between the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada.

“Reconciliation of our Sixties Scoop Survivors is paramount,” said MMF President David Chartrand at the launch. “It is our responsibility, as the Métis Government, to right the wrongs that Métis Survivors suffered while enduring this cultural genocide. Going forward, we seek justice. We seek to correct and rectify the legacy of this dark chapter in Canada’s history. We will not fail Métis Survivors.”

The “Sixties Scoop” describes a child welfare policy from the 1950s to early 1990s whereby Indigenous children were apprehended from their families and placed in non-Métis homes. These children were often physically, psychologically, and sexually abused while in the care of their non-Métis families, sometime hundreds or



thousands of kilometres from the children’s home communities. The effects of the Sixties Scoop are directly linked to intergenerational trauma and socio-economic difficulties facing Métis Survivors and their families today.

The Government of Canada and the Métis National Council have agreed to work collaboratively, Nation-to-Nation, to develop a process to address the legacy of the Sixties Scoop. This process will be informed and guided by Métis Survivors. The Métis

Nation is now documenting the stories of Métis Survivors who were taken from their homes and families during the Sixties Scoop and gathering Métis Survivors’ contact information to ensure that the Métis Government can remain in contact regarding any new developments and initiatives.

The Portal can be accessed at www.sixties.scoop.metisportals.ca.

Sixties.Scoop.Metisportals.ca

1. Sign up and stay connected
2. Have your voice heard
3. Keep up-to-date

Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Portal: A Central Online Hub for the Sixties Scoop

 MÉTIS NATION

Interlake Regional Meeting Held in Selkirk

Nearly 100 Métis Citizens gathered in Selkirk on Saturday, December 8 for the Interlake Regional Meeting. Regional meetings are an integral part of MMF governance, providing Citizens with an opportunity to learn about and participate in the Métis government.

MMF Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Jack Park chaired the meeting, alongside his fellow Regional Executive members, Ministers Alfred Anderson and Mona Buors. Eight of 10 active locals in the Interlake Region participated in the gathering, which heard reports from Regional Vice-President Alfred Anderson, Regional Executive members Jack Park and Mona Buors, and Interlake Local Advisory Committee Representative, Brad Blue.

Mayor Larry Johannson also attended the meeting, welcoming Métis Citizens from across the Interlake Region to Selkirk. MMF President David Chartrand spoke to the gathering, offering updates on the work of the MMF and Métis National Council to advance Métis rights and reconciliation with the government of Canada.

"Great things are coming for you, and it's about time," said President Chartrand at the event. "I am happy to be part of the transition that you see: smiling faces, new opportunities, cutting ribbons of new buildings, and opening doors for our Elders."

Bev Webb was re-elected as a representative to the Interlake Local Advisory Committee. A new youth advisory council for the Interlake Region was also appointed by Métis youth in attendance. Lunchtime entertainment was provided by fiddler Morgan Ginther, accompanied by Keith Ginther on guitar.

For more information on the Interlake Region, visit www.intma.ca.



Find the latest news online

www.mmf.mb.ca



Manitoba Metis Federation (Official)



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ManitobaMetisMMF



MMF hosts annual open house in Winnipeg

The Manitoba Metis Federation opened its doors to the public during its annual open house on Thursday, December 6. The open house is a great opportunity for Métis Citizens and community members to tour the MMF Home Office, socialize with staff, and learn more about the Manitoba Métis Government.

The highlight of the day was MMF Vice-President Denise Thomas presenting a \$5000 cheque to the Christmas Cheer Board on behalf of the MMF. The Christmas Cheer Board puts together more than 18,000 hampers each year for families and individuals in need, a cause that the MMF is proud to donate to each year.

"You guys are fantastic and I look forward to coming here every year," said Kai Madsen, executive director of the Christmas Cheer Board. "I hope you have a very merry Christmas. Thank you so much."

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's open house and to MMF staff, who work hard every year to make the open house a success!

