



Le Métis



President's Message

For over twenty-years the Métis have been left out of federally-funded Indigenous Early Learning Programs. During this time, the lack of federal commitment to reconciliation with the Métis Nation has hurt our children and our families. Thanks to Prime Minister Trudeau we will now have affordable, Métis-specific, child-focused programs with support for recreation, education, and early learning development. As we went to printing this newspaper, we anticipated signing the Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Accord with the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development on Wednesday March 6, 2019. This is another example of reconciliation in action as we work in a nation-to-nation relationship with

Trudeau's federal government. I'm happy to see the Government of Canada has committed up to \$450.7 million to strengthen ELCC programs and services for Métis children and families in the Métis Homeland.

The Manitoba Métis Government stands firm in our support of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. We have never seen a greater ally of the Métis Nation than Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his government. This Prime Minister is unparalleled in his commitment to reconciling the unfinished business of Confederation with the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community. To this end, the Manitoba Métis will be the beneficiaries of not only on the Early Learning and Child Care Accord, but on many other important initiatives including Housing, Child Welfare legislation, Indigenous Languages Legislation, Métis Sixties Scoop Consultations, the Environment, and Veterans, to name a few.

In late 2018, the Métis National Council launched the Sixties Scoop web portal www.sixties.scoop.metisportals.ca. The MNC Sixties Scoop Committee will be hosting meetings this March and April throughout the Métis Nation

Homeland starting in the heart of our Homeland, Manitoba. The Committee will be meeting with Métis Survivors and their families in Swan River and Winnipeg. Stay tuned for more details. The MMF is focused on bringing those who were stolen from us back home. We cannot undo the injustice perpetrated against our People. We can, however, stand united with Métis Survivors and our families to heal, to seek justice, and to make sure that we do not let these injustices happen again.

The MMF is also focused on reclaiming the advantages promised to the Manitoba Métis Community in the *Manitoba Act, 1870*. Since launching our new housing initiative to help first time home buyers last month, the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) has had 400 applications and approved 25 applications for the Program in the first ten days.

I pray for all those who are sick or shut-in. I pray that if you need help or support in your life that you have the strength to reach out. Your Métis Government is here for you. We will help Manitoba Métis grow and thrive. Together we are strong.

Meeqwetch,

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

Indigenous Leadership Council presses province for clarity on CFS block funding

On February 11, the provincial government announced that it would be moving toward a block funding model for child and family services authorities in Manitoba. The Indigenous Leadership Council, which includes Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand, was not meaningfully consulted during the development of this new funding model.

The provincial government is supposed to work with the Leadership Council toward better outcomes for Indigenous children and families in Manitoba. Alongside President Chartrand, the Indigenous Leadership Council includes Grand Chief Jerry Daniels of the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO), and Grand Chief Garrison Settee of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO). Despite making a commitment to meet every quarter, the provincial government has failed to meet with the Leadership Council for the last two years. In that time, the new move towards a block funding model was developed without consultation from the Leadership Council.

When provincial Minister of Families, Heather Stefanson, finally met with the Leadership Council, she could not explain how the lump sum would be divided among Manitoba's four child and family services authorities. Currently, CFS



Right: MMF President Chartrand speaks at the Métis Nation's Summit on Child and Family Services held at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg from March 26-28, 2018. The goal of the summit was for the Métis Nation to come together and discuss how to reform the child welfare system. (file photo)

agencies in Manitoba are funded based on the number of children in their care. Once the block funding comes into effect, Manitoba's four child and family services authorities will collectively receive \$435 million and be forced to figure out how the funding will be split among themselves.

Metis Child and Family Services Authority (MCFSA) is one of these affected groups. It currently receives approximately \$61,000,000 per year for approximately 1,200 Métis children in care.

"We do not know if this amount will be the same, decrease, or increase for the next fiscal," said MMF President David Chartrand. "There is no information on how we are going to support prevention so that our children do not wind up in care in the first place."

Evidence shows that there is not enough funding to meet the current program and service needs in the child welfare system. While, in principle, the MMF is not against block funding, the new model has brought to the forefront more questions than answers. Block funding runs the risk of not meeting the challenges faced by our children, families, and communities. While there are possible administrative benefits, there are also dangers.

"Without transparency from the province, we have no way of knowing if our children are being short-changed," said Chartrand. "They are our future; we need to protect them."

The block funding model will come into effect on April 1, 2019.

MOBILIZING METIS YOUTH

March 24 & 25 Victoria Inn, Brandon



Metis
Employment
& Training

Youth Conference details: www.mmf.mb.ca or www.mmfemployment.ca

Métis artist unveils new art exhibition at University of Winnipeg gallery



Métis artist Katherine Boyer stands beside "Mother Berries", a beadwork piece Boyer created to honour the maternal figures in her life. (Photo courtesy of Lawrence Barkwell)

Métis artist Katherine Boyer has a new solo exhibition on display at the University of Winnipeg's gallery from February 28 to April 6.

Water Meets Body explores Métis history, land, displacement, and cultural resilience, as well as Boyer's personal family narratives. Themes of family and culture are woven throughout her art.

As part of the exhibition, Boyer will be hosting an artist-led "bead 'n' talk" on March 21 in the gallery. She is also a member of the Louis Riel Institute's Flower Beadwork Circle, which runs on Wednesday evenings at the Manitoba Metis Federation's Winnipeg office.

Water Meets Body can be viewed in the University of Winnipeg's Gallery 1C03 until April 6. The gallery is open Monday to Friday from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m., and Saturday from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. The gallery has free admission and everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information on the *Water Meets Body* exhibit please visit:

www.uwinnipeg.ca/art-gallery.



**Manitoba Metis
Federation**
METIS GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

We're hiring!

- **Regional Coordinator**
Application deadline: March 10, 2019
- **Regional Youth Coordinator**
Application deadline: March 10, 2019
- **Administrative Assistant**
Application deadline: March 11, 2019
- **Regional Registry Clerk
- St. Laurent**
Application deadline: March 11, 2019
- **Director of Communications**
Application deadline: March 20, 2019
- **Communications Specialist**
Application deadline: March 20, 2019

Visit www.mmf.mb.ca to view the complete list of duties and qualifications for all of our employment opportunities.

Métis brothers from Flin Flon excel in the wrestling ring

Métis brothers Hunter and Carson Lee have been wrestling as long as they can remember, way back to play fighting with each other and their friends as young children. But after years of training and dedication, the Lee brothers from Flin Flon, Manitoba, are now representing their home town on the world stage.

"It's really cool," said 17-year-old Carson. "We kind of get laughed at when people hear the name Flin Flon on the Canada team. They almost think I'm joking sometimes but people like to even pose with the flag, which is really kind of fun."

The brothers have not only succeeded on the local, provincial, and national levels, but have also traveled across the world to compete in tournaments. In the last year, they have traveled to Argentina, Guatemala, Croatia, Cuba, Slovakia, and Italy for tournaments and training opportunities. Traveling has given them the chance to train with world champions, as well as current and former Olympians.

But no matter where their wrestling takes them, the two always remember the community that has supported them along the way.

"We bring the Flin Flon flags everywhere we go," said Hunter, 19. "We got the names of our sponsors and anyone who has donated money for us to go on these trips written on the flags, and we bring those everywhere we go and take a picture with them just to show that we're representing Flin Flon and all the people who support us."

Their mutual passion for wrestling has kept them going for nine years. Hunter originally joined his school's wrestling team in Grade 4, and Carson signed up two years later when he was old enough. Now, Hunter studies at the University of Saskatchewan and wrestles on the men's team and Carson plans to follow suit after graduating from high school this summer.



Métis wrestling champion brothers Hunter and Carson Lee bring a piece of their hometown Flin Flon with them to tournaments in countries across the world. No matter where their wrestling takes them, the two brothers will always remember the support from their hometown community.

They agree that the key to succeeding in the sport is to put in the work.

"It's all about pushing yourself," said Hunter. "If you push yourself, you will get good at it. Some sports rely a lot on physical advantages. Like in basketball, if you're tall it helps you a lot. But with wrestling, the best guy in the room is the hardest worker."

"When you get on the mat, it's about who has trained hard enough," said Carson. "There are no teammates once you're on the mat. If you mess up it's on you, and if you win it's all on you as well."

Later this month, the Lee brothers will be heading to their next competition in Saskatchewan. Hunter will be competing in the Canadian Senior Nationals, while Carson will be wrestling in the Canadian Junior Nationals.



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