



Le Métis



President's Message

As your Métis Government continues to ensure your rights are protected and respected, we must resist those who think they can just push us aside because they don't want to believe we have Métis Rights.

I must say that I am dismayed, however not surprised, by the most recent actions of the Pallister government. Earlier this month, we learned Pallister had unilaterally attempted to approve the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project (MMTP). Despite his claims to the contrary, Pallister has not properly consulted with or accommodated the Manitoba Métis Community about the project. Moreover, his actions have not upheld the honour of the Crown and have turned reconciliation for the Métis in Manitoba into a fiction.

For this reason, the federal government has not approved the project. Pallister's reckless actions have placed the honour of the Crown at stake and ignored the constitutionally protected rights of Indigenous people. His disregard for Canada's Constitution, the law, and recognition and protection of Métis rights is deeply disturbing.

As you know, Pallister had already forced Hydro to renege on its \$67.5-million reconciliation and accommodation agreement with the Manitoba Métis Government, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). This agreement accommodated for impacts of the MMTP, among other projects, on the Aboriginal Rights of the Métis.

Pallister attempted to ignore the constitutionally protected rights of the Manitoba Métis Community and bully, coerce, and interfere with the operations of a Crown Corporation. Are these the actions of a leader committed to democracy or a man with a bias against

our Métis Rights? He did not object to compensation to private landowners, farmers or municipalities to replace their losses. The MMF will not allow any government to treat our people with such disdain for this and is currently in the courts to hold the Pallister government accountable and to see that the honour of the Crown is upheld.

I applaud the Trudeau government and Minister Sohi for acknowledging Métis rights and for understanding that there are outstanding impacts the MMTP will have on our Citizens that must be addressed. It would be inconsistent with the honour of the Crown for the Trudeau government and Minister Sohi to turn a blind eye and allow what the Pallister government is doing in Manitoba.

You need to know your MMF government is taking all possible steps to address our concerns including the filing of an appeal pursuant to the Environment Act of the Pallister government's approval of the Project. Just think, Pallister could have saved Manitoba taxpayers a lot of money had he not torn up our original agreement. Now his grandstanding could result in up to \$200 million in additional costs along with threatening the project itself.

Let us also not forget that he interfered with Hydro's responsibilities and negotiations only to cancel all that work. Media asked him, "What if your action holds the project up?" Pallister's response: "All hypothetical." Really?

Conversely, our partnership with the Trudeau government continues to evolve. We have signed a new agreement that will help Métis Citizens further improve their skills and find good jobs. I had the pleasure of welcoming the Honourable Patricia Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour to our Winnipeg offices for the announcement.

This new agreement for Métis Employment and Training marks another important milestone on our journey towards reconciliation. It reflects the partnership between the MMF and the Government of Canada. This agreement ensures \$106 million to assist over 15,000 Métis Citizens receive the supports they need for gainful employment. I commend Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Hajdu for their commitment to the Manitoba Métis Government.

Thanks to their vision, we have made history and ensured a legacy for our hardworking, taxpaying People. This announcement is part of a continued commitment made by the federal government, which enables the Métis Nation to identify and deliver programming and initiatives that are culturally relevant and self-empowering for you, our Citizens.

Speaking of the federal government, our Manitoba Métis Community-Based Monitoring Program and its volunteers were recently acknowledged by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna. Minister McKenna joined the MMF and the Lake Winnipeg Foundation to recognize and thank the volunteers who gather valuable scientific data in support of reducing nutrient loading to Lake Winnipeg. The Trudeau government also highlighted \$150,000 in funding for this monitoring program. This project will engage Citizens and build capacity for collecting, analyzing and sharing scientific data and local knowledge. It will also increase awareness of water quality issues and help identify "hot spots" to better focus nutrient-reducing actions to Lake Winnipeg.

Please keep in mind there will be a federal election in October and a provincial campaign this year as well. We call upon federal and provincial party leaders and their candidates to acknowledge and understand where your Métis-specific concerns fit within their party agendas and commitments. Your Métis Government will keep you posted on all political party platforms, announcements and commitments so that you can make an informed decision at the ballot box. As hardworking, tax-paying Métis Citizens, you deserve to have your voices heard and your votes count.

And finally, I conclude this message with a heavy heart. We lost one of our champions and a dear friend. Minister Jean Desrosiers had attained the great respect of his cabinet and President as a close friend and colleague, a man who was re-elected each time as he always defended the views of his Region. We will miss him and be lost without his conviction. We will miss the many times his humour and wit brought us together. May we all, in our own special way, send prayers to his family and true partner - his wife Edith.

Meeqwetch,

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

Keys Presented to First Métis Citizen in MMF's First Time Home Purchase Program

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) along with the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) presented the house keys to Dominic Bourgeois, one of the first Métis Citizens to purchase a home through the First Time Home Purchase Program.

"Home ownership provides an important head start," said David Chartrand, President of the MMF. "Our People work hard, yet many struggle and live paycheque to paycheque. They work hard to pay rent. They work hard to pay somebody else's mortgage. This Program gives them an opportunity to own a home, to invest in their own future, and to build equity."

The First Time Home Purchase Program was created to assist Métis Citizens in Manitoba cover down payments and closing costs for their first home. The Program makes home ownership a reality for those rural and urban Métis Citizens who up until now were not able to save up the required funds to purchase a home.

"The Manitoba Métis are a proud, hard-working People," said Will Goodon, MMF's Minister of Housing and Property Management. "As a People, we were Canada's negotiating partners in Confederation. For this role we were promised 1.4 million acres of land. But this promise was broken and we were dispossessed from our homes and lands. This Program revives the promise. I am proud to be able to share this



On May 14, the MMF and LRCC provided one of the first Métis Citizens keys and a head start to home ownership thanks to the First Time Home Purchase Program.

moment, to be able to help individual families realize the dream of home ownership along with the promise of security it brings."

The Program reduces barriers to mortgage financing while enhancing flexibility in the choice of housing by connecting eligible Citizens with professionals to assist with all closing costs and contracts. The goal of the Program is to give Métis Citizens a head start on life.

"I feel very honoured. When I got the call, it was a whole lot of waterworks. There was a little emotional breakdown at work," said Bourgeois, who is now living in her first home in Transcona. "It's very important to be able to have that head start, that extra little bit that was promised but never really fulfilled."

Learn more about the First Time Home Purchase Program at www.lrcc.mb.ca/first-time-home-purchase-program.

Métis Agency Receives Grant to Help Youth who are Transitioning out of Care Access Mental Health and Addictions Resources

The Metis Child and Family Services Authority has announced that its Metis Child, Family and Community Services Agency is receiving a grant of \$46,800 from the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada that will be used for a *Youth in Transition Mental Health Project* taking place over the next two years.

The grant will support young adults who have transitioned out of Metis Child, Family and Community Services Agency care in receiving private mental health and addictions counselling, as well as transportation assistance so that youth can access these resources.

"Many of today's youth struggle to find their way as they learn to navigate their entry into a complex adult world. For those who have been involved with the Child Welfare system, there are increased challenges and trauma to overcome. For many, their lives have already

been disrupted by huge emotional burden and pain. Challenged to find healing, some mask their pain by turning to alcohol, drug addiction, and self-harming behaviours," said Billie Schibler, Metis Child and Family Services Authority Chief Executive Officer. "We are very proud of the efforts and services provided by our Metis Child, Family & Community Services Agency and for the addictions resources and mental health supports they are able to offer. We join our Agency in thanking the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada for this much-appreciated grant."

The grant will also be used to enhance the agency's Metis Spirit Program. In the program, a Metis Spirit Worker position is funded by the Manitoba Metis Federation to work solely with and support youth who have left or are leaving care to access services in areas such as housing, education, health, employment assistance, and

life skills. Through this new grant, the program will be able to offer more focused workshops on mental health and addictions, as well as offer young people incentives to participate and assistance with transportation.

"Removing barriers and creating greater access to mental health supports for young people transitioning out of care is critically important to their futures," said Rebecca Green, Director of Grants and Programs at the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada.

The Metis Child and Family Services Authority is legislated by the Province of Manitoba to serve Métis and Inuit Manitobans as well as any Manitoba family that chooses to receive services through the Metis Child, Family and Community Services Agency or Michif Child and Family Services Agency.



Muktuk Annie Festival Returns in 2019

Over 200 attendees from far and wide gathered in Kinosota on the May long weekend for the Muktuk Annie Festival, hosted by the Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) Manitoba House Local. Several traditional events and contests took place over the weekend, including a competition for who could fundraise the most for the festival. The catch? Instead of youth from the community fundraising, the funds were raised by grown men dressed in wigs, dresses, and heels.

The Muktuk Annie Festival goes back into Kinosota's history, where men in the community would compete for the title of Muktuk Annie by fundraising the most money. It is a fun way for the community to get involved to help bring the festival together and have some laughs along the way.

This was the first time the festival had been held since the 1980s. Old photos from previous iterations of the festival were displayed on the walls inside the community centre, where community members got the chance to look back on photos of themselves as youth, participating in potato sack races and talent shows.

The Manitoba House Local began discussing the possibility of bringing back the festival back in February, and in the span of a few months was able to pull the event together with great success.

"I would like to thank all the volunteers, the sponsors, and all the people who donated," said Sandy Campbell, the executive chair for the Manitoba House Local. "It's so nice to see to the community come out together and have fun, and we're going to do this again next year."

Saturday was filled with events for both youth

and adults, including jigging, moose calling, trap setting, leg wrestling, best storytelling, and more. The tea boiling and bannock making events had to be cancelled due to strong winds, but organizers were quick to fill in the gap with extra activities. Each event had a \$5 entry fee, with 100% payout going to the winners.

Ten participants entered the adult talent show on Saturday evening, many brandishing accordions and other instruments to showcase their abilities. Caleb Rudkewich won first place, playing guitar and harmonica while he sang an original song about his home community of Reedy Creek.

After the talent contest, this year's Muktuk Annie winner was announced. In total, candidates raised \$5,000 in support of the festival. Everett Hunking fundraised the highest total and was crowned Muktuk Annie 2019.

Frances Chartrand, the MMF's Minister of Health and Early Learning Child Care, attended the festivities on Saturday evening, applauding the Manitoba House Local for its efforts to bring the community together.

"Congratulations to your local," said Minister Chartrand. "I thank you very, very much for celebrating Métis culture, celebrating yourselves, and for being a strong community."

Sunday was filled with family games for children and their parents or guardians. Events included a three-legged race, blindfolded pudding race, a look-alike contest, as well as a contest for best-dressed Métis.

The Manitoba House Local plans to make the festival into an annual event.



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MMF and Federal Government Ink New Agreement for Métis Employment & Training



On May 15, the MMF signed an agreement with the federal government to further advance skills and better employment opportunities for Métis Citizens.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and the federal government have signed a new agreement that will help Métis Citizens improve their skills and find good jobs. MMF President David Chartrand was joined by the Honourable Patricia Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour for the announcement on May 15, 2019.

“This new agreement for Métis Employment and Training marks another important milestone on

our journey towards reconciliation with Canada,” said President Chartrand. “This agreement reflects the partnership between the Manitoba Metis Federation and the Government of Canada. This agreement ensures that over 15,000 Métis Citizens receive the supports they need for gainful employment. That’s over 15,000 skilled Métis Citizens ready for the labour market. I commend Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Hajdu for their commitment to the Manitoba Métis Government. Thanks to their vision – a

vision based on reconciliation – we have made history and ensured a legacy for our hardworking, taxpaying People.”

The agreement is part of a continued commitment made by the federal government, which enables the Métis Nation to identify and deliver programming and initiatives that are culturally relevant and self-empowering for their Citizens. This new agreement will result in more than \$160 million being invested in MMF training initiatives.

“Up until now, our Minister of Métis Employment and Training, John Fleury, and his staff have independently developed industry partnerships and a strategic plan that have been central to ensuring the best possible outcome for Métis opportunities in the working world,” added President Chartrand. “For that I am extremely proud. I am also proud to stand today with members of the Trudeau Government as their continued commitment to our Nation will only enhance the work we have already completed against the most difficult of circumstances.”

This Agreement is one of several government-to-government agreements negotiated with the Métis Nation under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord. The MMF’s Métis Employment and Training Department operates through funds provided under the Indigenous Skills and Employment Strategy Agreement, and has been delivering services to the Manitoba Métis Community for 20 years.

Learn more about MMF’s employment services at www.mmfemployment.ca.



Metis
Employment
& Training

Information & Recruitment Session Career Opportunities with Corrections Canada

Hosted by Manitoba Metis Federation Metis Employment & Training in partnership with Corrections Canada

Tuesday June 4th, 2019 @ 10:00am | 150 Henry Avenue, Room 109

Please bring an updated copy of your resume, please call to pre-register or to obtain additional information

Met Recruitment, Andrew Boryskavich

Phone: 204-586-8474 Ext. 354

Email: Andrew.boryskavich@mmf.mb.ca

www.mmfemployment.ca