



Le Métis



President's Message

The month of June is upon us, and not surprisingly our attempts to have our voices heard by the provincial government have fallen yet again, on deaf ears. You, the Citizens of the Métis Nation, need to know and understand, we are striving every day to have your Constitutionally Guaranteed Rights acknowledged and protected.

For instance, we continue to fight for even a morsel of accountability and consultation with the Brian Pallister government. We were not surprised to learn, The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) has been left out of the new Manitoba-First Nation Mineral Development Protocol. The Métis were ignored, and not invited to participate, despite being Manitoba's Founders, rights-holders, taxpayers and its largest Indigenous People.

It is clear that taking a stand to protect our rights and our environment means being ostracized by this government. If Pallister is contradicted, or corrected, then he has no interest in dialogue. He is making policy decisions based on personal vendettas. He ignores an important rights-bearing Indigenous people, creating discord while he damages the future of the Mining industry.

I also continue to be baffled by the province's continued insult of the Manitoba Métis People

by refusing to consult with us on the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project. (MMTP) In the last week in May, the Premier travelled to Ottawa to try and convince Prime Minister Trudeau to bypass the MMF and green light the project.

Meanwhile, strong reconciliatory leadership is again manifesting in Ottawa. The MMF supports federal Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen's proposed changes to Canada's citizenship oath. Introduced as Bill C-99, the changes will require new Canadians to swear they will faithfully observe the laws of Canada, including the Constitution, which recognizes and affirms the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Métis Nation and other Aboriginal Peoples.

This bill is another important step in the right direction towards true reconciliation.

I want to thank the leadership at the Manitoba Museum for unveiling a new exhibit chronicling a tragic and historic time in Métis History. Ni Kishkishin / I Remember Ste. Madeleine, retells the story of a forced relocation of hundreds of Métis People in Manitoba.

It's a story that needs to be told. The Citizens of Ste. Madeleine were literally burned out of their homes to make way for livestock and community pastures. I want to commend elder George Fleury for coming forward to recount that horrific story as part of the unveiling. George was just four years old at the time.

I hope all Manitobans will take the time to view this exhibit and absorb the systemic wrongs that were inflicted on these Métis Families.

And finally, please take a moment to reflect in your hearts, thoughts and prayers for the Veterans who paid the ultimate price during World War 2. I had the honour of attending the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in Normandy, France with

other leaders from around the world.

I had the opportunity to lead a delegation of Métis Veterans, family members and elected officials and took part in several official events commemorating this historic day. Almost all of our Métis Veterans who fought in World War II are no longer with us and it was bittersweet for the family members who walked on the beaches where their fathers, grandfathers or uncles once ran through incoming Nazi gunfire.

It was a proud moment for the Métis Nation and Veterans. I am heartened that we were included in this global commemoration and justifiably proud of our Citizens' bravery and sacrifice from 75 years ago.

Along with paying tribute and meeting with Veterans at the event, I also travelled to England to meet with Metis Citizen Paul DeLorme. DeLorme is a Métis Nation Veteran who now resides just outside London. He fought in several epic battles in World War 2 including Dieppe. He was even taken prisoner. Like most Metis Veterans the country he so bravely fought for turned its back on him when he returned from battle.

Thanks to close to twenty years of lobbying, and the federal government's recent commitment of \$30 million to properly acknowledge Metis Veterans, I had the privilege to personally present Mr. DeLorme with a cheque for \$20 thousand on this visit. While the money cannot erase the horrific memories of war, it will hopefully reassure Mr. DeLorme, that the country he risked his life for, is truly grateful for his courage.

In addition the announced money, the Trudeau government is working on an official apology to Métis Veterans and their families. For that and for all Veterans' service, I am exceedingly grateful. Meeqwetch,

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

Michif Child & Family Services Agency Moves to an Expanded New Location in Portage la Prairie

Community members gathered in Portage la Prairie to officially welcome the Michif Child & Family Services Agency to its new larger location on May 24.

The new location at 27 Royal Road South provides a more comfortable, private environment for families, with room to expand Michif programs and services in the future.

"In the past, the Michif CFS Agency has rented space in Portage, but with the new location, the opportunities to serve more families are now a reality," said Billie Schibler, Chief Executive Officer of the Metis Child & Family Services Authority (MCFSA). "The new Michif location will allow for the development of new programs and a more extensive service team. Our agencies work hard to support and build the capacity of parents as well as young people who are transitioning out of the child welfare system."

The MCFSA is an affiliate of the Manitoba Metis Federation, providing a community-based child and family services system that reflects its unique status, culture, and linguistic heritage.

The Michif Agency is mandated by the Province of Manitoba to provide child welfare services to Métis and Inuit families as well as any families who choose to receive services from the agency. It is one of two agencies that are overseen by the MCFSA.

For more information on programs and services, visit www.michifcfs.com.



On May 24, MCFSA had a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebration at the newly acquired location in Portage la Prairie.



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JULY 6 | THOMPSON

JULY 13 | BRANDON

JULY 22 | ST. LAURENT

Family Night at Riel House

On June 6, Riel House National Historic Site hosted some extra-special guests for an evening of Métis music and culture.

Riel House's Family Night festivities were joined by a grade 5, 6, and 7 class from Khàtinas.àxh Community School in Teslin, Yukon. The class travelled over 3,000 kilometres as part of their prize for winning the Canada's Coolest School Trip contest, where they received the opportunity to travel to various national parks in Manitoba.

The class received a tour of Riel House, the historic home of Louis Riel's family. Historical interpreters were on site dressed in traditional clothing to teach the students about the Métis Nation's struggles and way of life back in the 1880s. The site also includes interpretive panels for visitors to take self-guided tours and learn more about the founding of Manitoba.

Morgan Ginther, a 12-year-old Métis youth from East Selkirk, played fiddle throughout the evening for all attendees, and slowed down her songs to

half-speed while the Yukon students received jigging lessons. It was a great opportunity for the youth to participate and share in each other's culture and traditions.

The Louis Riel Institute, the cultural affiliate of the Manitoba Metis Federation, organizes interpretive programming and events at Riel House throughout the summer months. For more information, contact the Louis Riel Institute at 204-984-9480 or rielhouse@mmf.mb.ca.



“Nation Builder” Hartley Richardson Honoured With IDEA Award

Several Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Cabinet Ministers and Senior Staff recently attended a gala evening to honour Winnipeg business leader and philanthropist, Hartley Richardson. More than 1,500 business, academic and community leaders attended the event at the RBC Convention Centre.

The president and CEO of James Richardson & Sons, Ltd. was presented with the University of Manitoba's 2019 International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award (IDEA).

Hartley Richardson has been a friend to MMF for a number of years, most recently lending his support and expertise to our Land Claims efforts.

It was also learned at the gala that the Hartley T. Richardson Student Support Fund, created in his name, has raised \$2 million towards the creation of bursaries to increase opportunities for Asper School of Business students.

At the event, Victor Dodig, chair and CEO of CIBC, referred to Mr. Richardson as a “nation builder.”

Richardson attended the University of Manitoba and received his Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) in 1977. He is the seventh family president of James Richardson & Sons, Ltd., one of Canada's largest private, family-owned corporations. Founded in 1857, it has developed into an international business, specializing

in agri-business and food processing, oil and gas exploration and marketing, real estate, insurance, and financial services.

Mr. Richardson received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Manitoba in 2004 and the University of Winnipeg in 2012. He was appointed to the Order of Manitoba in 2008, and also appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 2007 and then promoted to an Officer within the Order of Canada in 2013.

Métis Nation Attends D-Day Commemoration Ceremony in Normandy

On June 6, members of the Metis National Council (MNC) and the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) gathered with leaders from around the world to mark the 75th Anniversary of D-Day at Juno Beach in Normandy, France.

Following the ceremonies at Normandy, MMF President David Chartrand made his way to London, England, to personally honour Métis Veteran Paul DeLorme. DeLorme, who is originally from Saskatchewan, left for Europe to fight during the Second World War. He fought in several legendary battles, including Dieppe. During his tour of duty, he was also taken prisoner.

DeLorme's story is like those of thousands of Métis Veterans who volunteered and fought for Canada in campaigns around the world. As part of their service, Métis Soldiers were promised that upon their return from the horrors of war, they would have access to funds and services to help them get a head start and rebuild their lives. Instead, they returned to indifference and systemic discrimination.

President Chartrand personally presented DeLorme with a cheque for \$20,000 during his visit.

"While the money cannot erase the horrific memories of war, it will hopefully reassure Mr. DeLorme that the country he risked his life for is truly grateful for his courage," said President Chartrand.

The federal government has recently committed \$30 million to properly commemorate Métis Veterans and to address past wrongs. It is also working on an official apology to Métis Veterans and their families.

"I have spent the better part of the last two decades fighting for compensation for both former Métis Soldiers and their Families," said President Chartrand, who is also the Métis Nation's Minister Responsible for Veterans. "Even on this day of reflection, I am even more motivated to move forward and ensure that the sacrifice and bravery of Métis Soldiers are not forgotten."

"NAMOOYA KA LI VYEU IWUK,
KII-YAA-NAAN KAA NA-KA-TI-KAA-SHOO-YAAHK
KA LI VYEU WINAAN;
LAAZH NAMOOYA KA AYESH-KOO-YI-KOOWUK.
MIINA NAMOOYA LII Z'AANII KA
OOH-TA-MII-YI-KOO-WUK.
KAA-ITI PAH-KI-SHI-MOOHK PI DAAN LI
MATAEN.
KA KISH-KI-SHI-NAAN WII-YA-WOW.
KA KISH-KI-SHI-NAAN WII-YA-WOW."



This Michif poem of remembrance was in the minds of the Métis Nation delegation this week but especially for Frank Godon, Jr., who made a gift to the Juno Beach Centre museum in Courseulles-sur-Mer, Normandy, France on June 5.

Godon's father, Francis Godon, Sr., was one of the 14,000 Canadian soldiers who stormed the beach against Nazi forces on June 6, 1944. Godon Sr. survived the rifle and mortar fire and the execution of several prisoners of war, only to be kept in forced labour concentration camps for the remainder of the war. The scars of battle, both in body and in spirit, would stay with him the rest of his life. Sadly, Godon passed away in January of this year and was not able to attend the 75th Anniversary.

MMF Minister Will Goodon, who was Godon Sr.'s nephew, was on hand to watch his cousin gift the uniform of Godon Sr., to be kept on display at the Juno Beach Centre museum.

"I was extremely proud of my Uncle Frank today and of my cousin, Frank Jr., for the symbolism of this gift today," said Minister Goodon. "Our Métis Veterans deserve all this recognition and more. They did the hard work to win our freedoms."

By June 7, the uniform was on proud display at the museum. It will be there for future generations of Métis to see the accomplishments of the Métis Nation and its honoured Veterans.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.
We will remember them."



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www.mmf.mb.ca