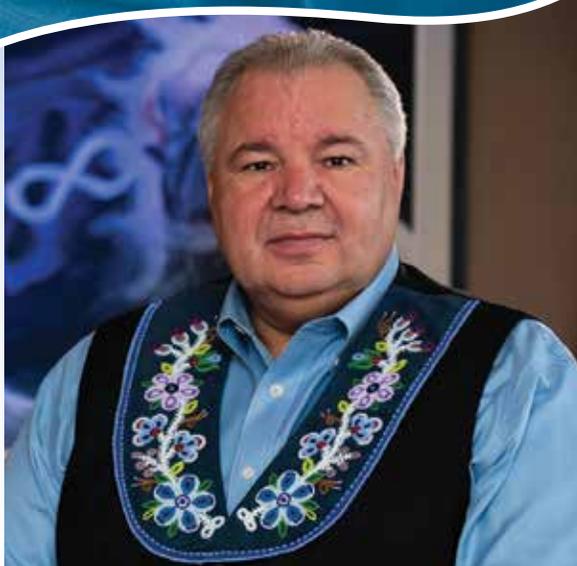




Le Metis

President's Message



I think over these past couple of weeks we can finally say summer has arrived. We can finally take a moment and sit outside in the sun and think about how blessed we are to live in such a wonderful area of Canada.

Recently, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) announced a new affordable housing initiative within the historic Metis settlement of St. Boniface on Eugenie Street. Giving our Metis Citizens access to affordable housing is critical to your Metis Government.

We are using our list of Metis contractors and Metis businesses to help construct and supply these projects to the best of our ability. It is incredibly important that these projects have a large economic impact within the Manitoba Metis Community. This will truly provide H.O.P.E. by Helping Our People's Economy. Now is the time to invest in ourselves and our people.

It is also important that we are finding these lands and planning these projects in locations where plenty of proud Metis Citizens already live. We are doing our due diligence when planning and developing these projects. We need to ensure that our Metis Citizens do not have to leave their kin or Community behind in order to access services.

Our ancestors negotiated the Manitoba Act with the same thoughts in mind. They wanted to make sure that kinship ties were maintained and that they were not forced to disperse and lose that crucial connection. As we proved in the *MMF v. Canada* Supreme Court case in 2013, those lands were never distributed. Not only were our people removed from the Red River Settlement, but in the following decades they were also forcibly removed from their lands in St. Madeleine, Rooster Town, and many other settlements across the Homeland.

As your Manitoba Metis Government, it is our responsibility to make sure that we protect our future generations from displacement. Over the past number of months, we have been searching the province far and wide for available land that we could develop and use to provide services to our Metis Citizens.

In the Northwest Region, we have been purchasing land and are now in the process of working with the local leaders to make sure projects move forward smoothly. Recently, I had the opportunity to go to Dauphin to meet with the mayors of Dauphin and Swan River to discuss the construction of daycare facilities as well as offices to serve our active Locals in the area. These plans are not exclusive to the Northwest Region.

We are also currently looking at opportunities across the province to find places to build more Local Offices, daycare facilities, pharmacies, and housing facilities. These Local Offices are a huge step forward in our governance. During this COVID pandemic, we discovered opportunities for growth in our governance system, and are working towards a better communication strategy with our grassroots level of government.

The COVID-19 crisis also forced us to adapt and modernize our online infrastructure. We have been utilizing video conferencing platforms for our meetings whenever possible and have incorporated these into our weekly Cabinet meetings. We also began to use our website in ways that we never considered essential before. Our website is reaching record numbers of visits due in part to our daily video updates and livestreams.

Another event we would have never considered before COVID is the *Metis Jig & Jam* that will be livestreamed on June 21. This eight-hour variety show is part of our celebration of Manitoba 150, National Indigenous Peoples Day, and Father's Day, featuring the best in Metis entertainment. There will be world-class jiggers and fiddlers mixed with historical vignettes, Metis art, and teaching moments from our Metis Elders. In these unique times you can tune in on our website, mmf.mb.ca, from 12 pm to 8 pm, and watch on TV as there will be a one-hour feature on CTV News at 4 pm.

Another special event that we will be sure not to miss is convocation season, celebrating our Metis graduates. The Manitoba Metis Federation has been working on a provincial ceremony to acknowledge graduation for our Metis university and college graduates. Your Metis Government looks forward to accompanying our Metis students on their lifelong learning journey. Events are occurring across the province between June 19 and 25.

Rest assured, your Manitoba Metis Government, much like our Citizens, will emerge from this crisis evolved and, in some respects, further ahead than the way we entered.

On June 6, people across Canada and the world observed the 76th anniversary of D-Day. On June 6, 1944, the Allied Forces stormed a five-mile stretch of beaches in Normandy. Metis soldiers fought side-by-side with First Nations and non-Indigenous soldiers in all of Canada's pivotal battles, including D-Day. Though the Metis Nation was mistreated before and after the War, many felt that it was their patriotic duty to enlist and fight tyranny across the globe.

I hope everyone took time this past weekend to reflect and honour all Veterans, and if not, please take some time after reading this to honour all Veterans for their sacrifices.

Recently, we honoured our 23rd Veteran. WWII Metis Veteran William Hurteau received his \$20,000 Recognition Payment in Sudbury on June 2. As the Minister responsible for the Metis Veterans file, I typically would go and spend a day talking with our heroes and listen to their inspirational stories. Unfortunately, as a result of pandemic protocols, I was unable to do that, but I was well represented by Brian Black, President of the Ontario Metis Veterans Council, and had the opportunity to talk on the phone with Veteran Hurteau.

It is critical that our WWII Metis Veterans and their families know that they will not be forgotten despite the pandemic.

I hope everyone is staying healthy and keeping their spirits up. Remember to tune into *The Beat Goes On* every Thursday at 7pm, and please note that, we will now broadcast our Saturday shows on Tuesdays at 7 pm instead. The first Tuesday show will be on June 16. *Red River Cart Adventures*, our video series for Metis children presented by the Louis Riel Institute, also airs Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings at 10 am.

We are facing a new time during this COVID-19 era. I keep in my prayers all those affected by COVID-19 or facing struggles and loss. We know these are not easy times with the challenges we face. The MMF is working diligently on providing a new way forward with HOPE.

Your Manitoba Metis Government is here for you, now and always. Always remember: The MMF has got your back!

Meeqwetch,

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



Meet the stars of *Red River Cart Adventures*

The stars of the Manitoba Metis Federation's (MMF) newest video series are a Metis mother-son duo, bringing education, entertainment and traditional Metis knowledge right to the homes of Citizens weekly.

Teresa and Mason Byrne make up two-thirds of the regular cast of *Red River Cart Adventures*, a children's show-style video series that streams on the MMF website every Tuesday morning at 10 am, presented by the Louis Riel Institute (LRI).

"We wanted to make sure that families that were self-isolating had something to watch and to learn," said Teresa, who also works as Metis History and Culture Coordinator for LRI.

COVID-19 resulted in the closure of daycares and schools province-wide, leaving parents to teach their own children. Without many Metis-specific resources out there geared towards early learners, MMF President David Chartrand requested that the Louis Riel Institute begin developing an online show for Metis children and their families to help entertain and educate them.

LRI jumped into action. Originally intended as a once-a-week show, the first episode of *Red River Cart Adventures* aired on April 28, 2020 on the MMF website and official Facebook page, starring LRI's Executive Director Sharon Parenteau, Teresa, and Mason.

"It was exciting for me to bring Mason on," said Teresa, who is also a beader and sash weaver. "We don't use a script – we just know our stuff. Being in front of the camera, it makes it easy because I'm just explaining crafts to Mason."

The response to the pilot episode was incredible. Over 3,300 Citizens tuned in to watch: a storytime, with Parenteau reading *Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?* by Rita Gray, the very first Michif word of the day, "Taanshi", a singalong song to help remember the word, and a lesson on making "birdnoculars" out of construction paper, led by Teresa and Mason. Also, viewers had the opportunity to pre-register for the show and enter for the chance to win a special prize: the episode's selected book.

Quite a few fans were made after that first episode – even some unexpected ones.

"After the first episode, President Chartrand loved it and asked us to do two more a week," said Teresa.

Shortly thereafter, two new weekly shows were added to the schedule, for a total of three shows a week: Tuesday's *Red River Cart Adventures*, Thursday's *Meet Up with Mason* and Sunday's *Did You Know?*, starring LRI Metis History and Culture Instructor Shirley Delorme Russell.

"There's all those tidbits of information hidden around the city about the Metis Nation that a lot of people don't know, and Shirley just loves that type of information," said Teresa about *Did You Know?*. "She's so good at expressing it and digging into it. To me, it's like another adventure!"

While *Red River Cart Adventures* was aimed more for Metis early learners (ages three and up) and *Did You Know?* is more compatible for older kids and parents, *Meet Up with Mason* is a show for the whole family.

Moreover, *Meet Up with Mason* was an opportunity for the younger Byrne to flex his hosting chops all on his own. Every week, a new guest joins Mason in-studio for a fun activity, teaching him everything from making balloon animals to drawing caricatures to making bannock.

"My favourite part is doing the activities," said Mason, a grade 6 student at Edmund Partridge Community School in Winnipeg. "Hosting by myself is a little scary, but once I get over it, it's a lot easier."

Mason is the youngest of Teresa's three sons, and an avid skateboarder since he was just six years old. Together with his mother, two brothers, and his stepfather – John Sobkovich, who has appeared on *Red River Cart Adventures* several times to read for storytime in Michif – Mason can often be found at the skate park.

"The silly and great thing about our family is we actually all skateboard," said Teresa. "As soon as the snow melts, the boys are like, 'can we go to the skate park?!'"

As for Mason's dream guest on *Meet Up with Mason*, it's no question:

"My dream guest is probably President Chartrand," said Mason. "That would be really cool."

Tune in to *Red River Cart Adventures* every **Tuesday morning at 10 am**, *Meet Up with Mason* every **Thursday morning at 10 am**, and *Did You Know?* every **Sunday morning at 10 am**. Also, viewers can pre-register for the chance to win a prize during Tuesday's show. Visit <http://www.manitobametis.com/louis-riel-institute/> for more information.



MMF celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day with eight-hour livestream

For years, thousands would visit Selkirk Park for National Indigenous Peoples Day festivities, celebrating Metis culture, music, dancing, art, and nationhood. This year, due to restrictions surrounding COVID-19, celebrations will look very different.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) plans to livestream an eight-hour variety show on Sunday, June 21, to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. The event, titled *Metis Jig & Jam Variety Show*, will be streamed on the MMF and Métis National Council websites from 12 – 8 pm, a portion of which will also air on CTV from 4 – 5 pm.

The show will feature Metis entertainment and culture, with jiggers, fiddlers, and other musicians, bannock making, beadwork displays, as well as a sashmaker, among other performances and activities.

“We’ve got something for everybody: for kids we’ve got a magician, we’ve got storytellers, we’ve got a comedian, we’ve got a whole bunch of pieces that are suitable for kids, so anybody can join in, and watch the show and be entertained,” said Georgina Liberty, MMF Director – Metis Nation 2020/Metis 150.

The show will be streamed from the Park Theatre, with clips filmed at historic Metis sites across Manitoba. “It’s an entertainment show, but it’s also about teaching about our culture and our history in this province,” she said.

The *Metis Jig & Jam Variety Show* will showcase events and items of historical significance for the Metis, from the fur trade, to blacksmithing, to Red River carts.

The show will be in French and English, with Michif speakers engaged in conversation in some of the pieces.

The goal of the variety show is “to lift people’s spirits up through laughter and entertainment,” during this difficult time of social isolation, said Liberty.

“Laughter has been one strength that has sustained Metis resilience throughout the dark ages. But more than laughter, we want to encourage people to stay strong, to bring them some hope of brighter days ahead and to educate them through our many historical vignettes that will be a part of the show.”

MMF Interlake Region provides supplies to Citizens during COVID-19 pandemic

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) has been working to identify and offer supports to Metis Citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the Interlake Region – which includes, among others, Riverton, St. Laurent, Selkirk, Stonewall, and Teulon – the MMF’s Interlake Metis Association Inc. has delivered nearly 550 hampers to Metis Elders, families, and vulnerable Citizens. The MMF has gathered and delivered 4,500 hampers across Manitoba since the end of March.

MMF Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Jack Park, who serves on the Board of Directors of the Interlake Metis Association Inc., said his Region had nearly 300 requests for hampers to date. “That’s all over the Interlake,” he said, adding that St. Laurent and Selkirk are big areas for demand.

Minister Park said a lot goes into putting the hampers together. “It takes a lot of logistics in terms of setting up accounts with grocery stores, getting drivers, and so on.

“So far, we’ve been very, very successful in getting those hampers out in a timely manner, so we’re quite pleased with the way things are working. And the people receiving the hampers are very, very happy, and appreciative.”

Minister Park praises the Interlake Region’s team – which includes Minister of Culture and Heritage and Vice-President Alfred Anderson, and Minister of Metis Child & Family Services Mona Buors – who he said has been instrumental in finishing all of the paperwork, and getting all of the orders in to the grocery stores and delivered to the recipients. “It’s such a vast region,” adds Minister Park.

He also commends the Locals that are assisting, “because without them we wouldn’t be able to do the job we do.”

The Region also set up a food bank in St. Laurent to have groceries coming directly out of the St. Laurent office. “Before we were shipping groceries from Stonewall to St. Laurent, and there was a lot of driving back and forth. We eliminated that by stocking the food bank.”

When asked what message Minister Park would like to send to Citizens, he said, “We got their backs. We’re here for them and we’ll do our best to make sure that they get everything they need. We’d appreciate it if they stay home and allow us to serve them.”

Metis Citizens seeking supports in the Interlake Region can email info@intma.ca or call **866-317-3347** or **204-646-2706**.



The MMF’s Interlake Metis Association Inc. has delivered nearly 550 hampers to Metis Elders, families, and vulnerable Citizens.



Hampers include a variety of groceries, including milk, meat, potatoes, produce, canned goods, bread, cheese, tea, coffee – and hygiene products when available.

MMF investing \$9 million this year for child care centers in Manitoba Metis communities

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is investing \$9 million this year on child care centers across Manitoba. The first MMF child care center, located in Duck Bay, is nearing the end of construction, with a grand opening scheduled for August, depending on COVID-19 restrictions. The Duck Bay child care center will house the Abinoje Aboriginal Head Start Program for preschool-aged children. This Child Care Center will also house a local office and meeting room on the premises.

“It was our late Vice-President Elbert Chartrand’s vision to have a child care center that would provide programming and services for our children and families in the community of Duck Bay. We are proud to honour his legacy and it will be a proud moment for his family when the doors open in September 2020,” said MMF Minister of Health and Early Learning Child Care, Frances Chartrand, who serves as Vice-President of the MMF’s Northwest Metis Council. “This is an exciting time for Metis children and families all across the province.”

The MMF also plans to build child care centers in Swan River, Dauphin, Thompson, and Winnipeg.

The MMF is presently working with the province to ensure licensing is in place; however, construction will begin this summer for the locations across the

province, which will be up and running by next year. The Thompson Region location will be developed in partnership with Keewatinowi Awasisak Opi-Ki-Wak, and the Winnipeg Region location will house Little Stars Day Care.

“We want to start construction this summer,” said Minister Chartrand, adding that for these projects, the MMF would like to have the exterior completed this summer in order for contractors to work on the interior in the winter. “This will also boost the economy and ensure employment for our contractors as we continue to work during the pandemic.”

The MMF’s Early Learning Child Care Department continues to conduct feasibility studies to determine the demand for child care centers in Metis communities across the province, including the MMF Home Office in Winnipeg, in partnership with Infinity Women Secretariat.

This would allow employees to “come to work and know their children are in a safe, healthy environment and are in the same building as their parents,” said Minister Chartrand.

The MMF child care center will provide Metis-specific cultural programming, focusing on Metis families and children. “We want to make sure that we look at a

component where we are working with our families, Elders, incorporating land-based initiatives,” said Minister Chartrand.

MMF recognized the high demand for child care across the province, especially for Metis families, in these communities. “There are waiting lists at all existing day care centers,” said Minister Chartrand.

“When you talk about essential workers, especially during COVID, you look at the line workers that are out there. Our Metis parents are doing essential services work; however, they do not have child care,” she added. “I think they will have a secure, sound mind that their Metis government is working on a plan to ensure child care services for our children will be available.”

INDIGENOUS DAY AT SELKIRK PARK

CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is sad to announce that the 2020 Indigenous Day at Selkirk Park on June 21 is cancelled.

To celebrate Indigenous Day, the MMF invites all Metis Citizens and the general public to watch *Jig & Jam*, a Metis variety show livestream, on **June 21!** From **12pm to 8pm** on manitobametis.com, Metis musicians, artists and performers will bring their talent right to your living room – and, from **4pm to 5pm**, CTV News will host a special hour-long segment.

In addition, tune in to the MMF website every **Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm** for *The Beat Goes On*, a music livestream featuring all-Metis talent!

While this year’s National Indigenous Peoples Day may be a little different, the MMF hopes to keep your spirits high by bringing you the best Metis music and talent our Manitoba Metis Community has to offer.

See you next year!





**Metis
Employment
& Training**

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB?

We are recruiting students to fill multiple positions across the province with our Summer Student Employment Program.

We partner with many employers to create & support summer jobs for students to earn money and get real-world workforce experience.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- Must identify as Metis.
- Must be a student between the ages of 15 and 30 who attended school full-time during the previous academic year and who are returning to school on a full time basis in the fall.
- Students under 16 years of age must provide a valid Young Workers Readiness Certificate to be considered for employment. Visit <https://ywrcc.safemanitoba.com/> for more details.

MMF funded post-secondary students are encouraged to apply as they will be given preference for employment in this program.

TO APPLY:

- Submit your resume to your respective Regional Office as soon as possible.
- If you need help creating or updating your resume our staff are available to assist you.

CONTACT US:

MET Home Office (Winnipeg)	MET@mmf.mb.ca	(204) 586-8474 ext. 357
Southeast Region	SEMET@mmf.mb.ca	(204) 754-3112
Southwest Region	SWMET@mmf.mb.ca	(204) 725-7520
Interlake Region	INTMET@mmf.mb.ca	(204) 646-2706
Northwest Region	NWMET@mmf.mb.ca	(204) 638-9485
The Pas Region	PASMET@mmf.mb.ca	(204) 623-5701
Thompson Region	THOMET@mmf.mbc.a	(204) 677-1430



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