

March 18, 2020

MMF Calls Emergency Cabinet Meeting on COVID-19

On March 17, 2020, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) called an Emergency Cabinet Meeting to coordinate a Manitoba Metis province-wide strategy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of participants joined by conference call to minimize person-to-person contact.

An unprecedented emergency measure decision was made. The MMF is supporting our Regions across the province as they are the primary vehicles to deliver our COVID-19 Emergency Action Plan. Regions will receive a total of \$175,000 in immediate financial support to help institute programs and/or services to combat and mitigate the COVID-19 crisis.

These funds will support the MMF Regions as they have been actively implementing policies and services to combat this pandemic. The MMF will also continue to provide essential services necessary through online methods or by phone. We ask that Citizens please refrain from in-person visits to our Head Office or Regional Offices to access non-essential services.

Regional Offices will also remain active, but with partial closures and limited capacity as many staff are now working from home. Please, call your Regional Office ahead of time to get the latest protocol information to understand how best you may be served.

The MMF's Central Registry Office remains open but advises they will only be taking phone calls and emails. Any Harvesters wishing to get new Conservation Trust Fund stickers for the 2020/2021 harvesting season are advised that their stickers from 2019/2020 will still be valid until May 1st. This date may change and Harvesters are encouraged to visit our website for more information.

The announcement of emergency funds will partially help further serve the ongoing efforts throughout the province. The MMF is supporting the Regions as they are in contact with Elders to help ensure their well-being and to further understand how we can assist them in this time of need. We anticipate delivering necessities such as groceries and pharmaceuticals, as well as offering rides in clean vehicles so Elders can make it to scheduled doctor appointments.

The MMF is also keeping in mind the needs of Metis entrepreneurs and workers. We are now offering financial aid and supplies to those who are negatively affected by the COVID-19 crisis. We ask that any Citizen laid off due to the COVID-19 crisis with no support from their employer to call and register with the MMF today. The same applies to business owners who are seeing profits dry up as a result of their clients self-isolating. We ask that you register with the MMF today and we will do what we can help make ends meet.

The MMF is also delivering three mobile health isolation units to Manitoba from B.C. for Citizens to self-isolate. We are also exploring other options on this front. These are mobile homes and can be moved anywhere in the Province to support any Metis Community. Métis N4 Construction is also constructing two 48-bed secure health facilities that we will supply with the resources necessary to help people self-isolate. The Metis Economic Development Organization is currently on many waiting lists to order a large quantity of sanitization products to help supply both of these projects as well as our offices and Citizens.

Though many services and programs may be suspended, postponed, or moved online, we ask that Citizens please be patient during this uncertain time as we adapt to providing safe and supportive services during this crisis. As the COVID-19 risk decreases to acceptable levels, we anticipate resuming our full scope of services.

If you wish to access a service or to receive the updated status of programs and services available, please contact the MMF at 204-586-8474 or visit our website at www.mmf.mb.ca.

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