

**President's Message**  
**For publication on March 10, 2014**

We, as a community, are always saying that we need to prepare for our future generations. We say that we need to help our Elders and others within our community. That we need to raise money for programs and services not available even though there is a great need. How do we raise the funds? When is the best time to start? Well, it is true that the best time to start is now. In fact, the MMF has already started by the establishment of our community-owned for-benefit MEDOCare Pharmacy.

Business and Community Development has been a priority for the MMF for quite some time. This led to the establishment of our first MEDOCare Pharmacy. Since this New Year the MMF has made new MEDOCare partnerships. With the pharmacy partnerships, the Metis Community and our partners like Norway House Cree Nation and Sagkeeng First Nation, and others, we are building a strong foundation for future benefits for our children. These partnerships will have far reaching mutual benefits for all our Peoples

The potential good works, that is these future mutual benefits, are unprecedented. We have not seen of this kind of inter-indigenous cooperation before. It is a wave of change. This is the result of clear-thinking visionary leadership. These for-benefit pharmacies and other business partnerships are a new approach to ensuring our community needs will be met. Working together and supporting our own businesses will be the path. Buying from our own pharmacy, and other businesses, whether community or private, will lead us to success.

This is an example of the basic economics of Community Development at work. When we spend our hard-earned dollars on products and services provided by the businesses owned by our community, then our dollars produce a big benefit for our community. The benefits of the purchase will go to our people. But on the other hand, if our money is spent outside our community-owned business, but in foreign or non-aboriginal owned businesses, then it is the outsider owners or shareholders who get most of the benefits. It is clear then, as simple as 1-2-3, that to help our community we must spend in our community-owned businesses.

The dollars each of us spends has power. Whether it is twenty dollars or a thousand dollars, the power it has depends on our choice to spend it wisely. Buying your drug prescription at our, indeed, your pharmacy is a wise choice. The profits from these pharmacy partnerships will be owned by each partner, which means by the community, and then used and distributed as per community priorities. No longer will the benefits leave our communities and go to owners or shareholders out in eastern Canada or the United States.

This is the result of working together and using MEDOCare. In the case of the MMF, we have already committed our first profits from the pharmacy to the establishment and operation of our newly announced eye-glasses program for Seniors. This is just the beginning of the good works that will come from the wise choice of purchasing prescriptions from the pharmacy that you own. The future holds much promise for health and other programs.

Our families and our health is really all we have on this earth. It is important that we take close care of both. MEDOCare can help. Before I leave you with those thoughts, I give my best wishes to our shut-ins and a quick recovery for the sick. I also offer my prayers for all those who have passed away, and condolences to their friends and parents, spouses, siblings, children and grandchildren.

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