

President's Message

June 16, 2014

As you know, the MMF is in the middle of its 2014 elections. This week, by the time you read this, the MMF advance polls will have taken place on June 16 and 17th. As I reported here two weeks ago, the Chief Electoral Officer released and posted the final list of candidates. I again congratulate our existing board members and new members, who were re-elected or elected by acclamation. I again thank those who put their names forward as candidates for the elections. Check out the MMF Chief Electoral Office website for the Final Candidate List and June 26, 2014 election day information.

Together we are entering a historic time for the Metis Nation's Manitoba Metis Community. Although there are continuing struggles, together we are successfully advancing on a number of fronts: Our land claim, our harvesting rights, health and social programs, education and training, and, of course, business and economic development, are moving forward. This year our Metis Citizens gave a clear signal they are happy with the advocacy work we've undertaken over the past four years. They are expecting more of the same over the next four years.

Our record of leadership accomplishments cannot be ignored and our vision for the future is one that our People also see and expect. We have gained so much. Yet there is much to finish. Our Metis Citizens are united behind their Metis Government and support their leaders. After the June 26, 2014 elections, and as we get to work in this new term, we will keep our sleeves rolled up and fix any new problems as they arise and continue to tackle existing problems. We will continue to walk the walk, and build for our children and grandchildren's future.

Yes, the Metis People and your Metis Government have accomplished many things that could only be dreamt about only a generation ago. The Late Senator Ed Head, in his role as an Elder, spoke of this often. He was pleased with what had been done with a new generation of leaders. Indeed, much has been completed over the past decade, yet I am confident this is just the beginning. Again I say we are just getting started. The next four years will be amazing times for the Manitoba Metis Community.

As your Leader, I also won this upcoming election by acclamation, and I will soon begin my unparalleled sixth term as MMF President. Over the coming weeks, I will not be on my own personal campaign trail, but I will be promoting the MMF and the good work undertaken by your Board of Directors during this past four years. Across Manitoba, I will be following the candidates, hearing their speeches and listening carefully to your questions and comments, your needs and aspirations. You will see me at upcoming community events promoting the hard work and accomplishments by our MMF leadership and staff team.

I say again, as I have said many times before, that the MMF Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers are hardworking and committed. I again thank them for their dedication. As a team we have carefully listened to, will continue to listen to, and will work hard to meet the needs and aspirations of our People. As a confirmed Metis Citizen, it is your right to vote. Your continuing support of your Metis Community, and its Government, includes voting on Election Day.

I again want to give a reminder that the MMF election will take place on June 26th, 2014. I wish the best of luck to all our candidates. Voting for the candidate of your choice is part of our Metis Self-Government rights. Self-Government is recognized under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. Self-Government is a right, like harvesting rights, that our Ancestors fought to protect and one that we must protect today and everyday. On June 26th, 2014, exercise your rights, enter the election booth, and put your "x" on the ballot.

Meeqwetch.