

President's Message

December 15, 2014

I am writing this President's Message in mid-December and Christmas and the New Year will be quickly upon us. This past year flew by very quickly. It feels that we have just come out of our MMF Annual General Assembly and Louis Riel Commemoration Day, and we are already celebrating Christmas. There are reminders everywhere: seasonal music on our radio, holiday cards in our mailbox, and house decorations along our street.

The spirit is everywhere: at home, in the stores, and at our work. The MMF Offices are decorated with Christmas trees, bright tinsel and lots of colour, and of course the smiles of our staff. Visitors to our MMF open house took the time to tell me that they found our staff joyful and excited with the energy and time happily invested in adorning the MMF with all the ornaments and trimmings. I thank our Ministers, staff and volunteers for their great work and warm welcome.

I know for many of you the holidays, including the rush leading up to Christmas, is a time of frenzied shopping, gift-wrapping and gift-giving, as well as home and office parties. Yes these are important. Unfortunately sometimes we forget about those who do not have health, family or friends, home or work. There are many Manitobans, adults and children, for whom Christmas is a not always bright and cheerful but sometimes anxious and worrisome. With this in mind, we must not forget that these holidays are occasions to think about our community, our place in it, and how we can make it a better place.

The MMF is a family and we are often reminded of this in the good times as well as during the hard times. As the Metis Community we all pull together when it is time to carry burdens and when it is time to celebrate. Together we take the time to help each other both inside and outside the office. The Metis have for many years contributed, actively volunteered and participated in assisting many individuals and organizations before, during, and after the holiday season.

The MMF and the Manitoba Metis Community that we represent are part of the larger communities of Manitoba and Canada. Due to circumstances, many children in our province do not get a gift from Santa. The MMF has a longstanding commitment towards ensuring that one day every child from across the province will have a very Merry Christmas with gifts under the tree. The MMF continues to support Christmas Cheer Board's great work in helping families that without assistance would not have a Christmas as the rest of Manitobans expect.

As I wrote in previous messages, the magic and meaning of Christmas is, of course, in celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ. It is also about love, peace, and helping others. I do hope that you are able to spend this special time with your family, friends and neighbours. I also hope that you will be able to take some time and make a contribution, of your money or especially your time, to the Christmas Cheer Board or a charity of your choice.

I offer my best wishes for those who are sick or shut-in. May you all be blessed with health and peace. I pray and share my heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for all our neighbours, friends, and families who have lost loved ones. On behalf our MMF Cabinet, staff, and citizens, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Wonderful Holiday Season.

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