

President's Message

July 30, 2015

Summer is half way done and many are looking to September and the fall to return to work, and school, and for others some autumn days off to travel, work around the house, or go hunting. At this time many of our Métis post-secondary students are preparing for university or college. As I said recently, with education comes knowledge, understanding and power. Important tools for our Youth as they seek to make a positive impact on their families, community, province and country.

I want to take a moment to remind our Métis students that the Manitoba Metis Federation offers financial opportunities that may help them attain their career goals. We have many different bursaries and scholarships through the Louis Riel Institute and at various colleges and universities across the province. Some have been set up in honour of those who have contributed to the Métis Nation. These include the Mary Guilbault Métis Bursary (due October 1st) available to Manitoba Métis students who excel in academics and their community; Audreen Hourie Indigenous Governance Graduate Fellowship (due September 14th) for University of Winnipeg Métis students pursuing a Master's Degree in Indigenous Governance; Manitoba Metis Federation – Vickar Community Chevrolet Métis Student Award (due December 15th) available to Métis students attending Red River College who are taking an automotive course or Administration (any year) and Commerce, Industry, Sales and Marketing Programs; a veterans award established by Brian Cyr and recently an award established in honour of Marielee Nault – a former Director of the Board for Southeast Region and Minister of Health and Wellness. This bursary will be for students taking a health-related program. The deadline for these bursaries have not been reached yet, so I encourage any Métis returning to school who need assistance to apply for these. You can find a list of the available bursaries online at www.louisrielinstitute.com or by calling the Louis Riel Institute at (204) 984-9480.

In the lead up to the changing of the seasons, many people will also starting their fall hunts for food, and canning, drying, and freezing for the winter months. After your harvesting have been completed for the 2015-16 seasons, I encourage you to finish a harvester survey so we can be sure to have an accurate record of our community's harvesting activities, needs and successes. This provides us with valuable information so we can be a part of the care and management of our natural resources, thereby ensuring sustainability and availability to our children, our grandchildren and their families in the future. Please contact the MMF Natural Resources Department or your Regional Harvester Clerk for more information about doing a survey.

An important event not to miss that takes place in the fall is our Annual General Assembly. This year our AGA is taking place September 26th and 27th at the Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg. This is an exciting time for our Métis citizens as we come together to celebrate, take stock and plan for the year to come. Please take a moment and visit our AGA web page where you can learn about great opportunities to sponsor this important gathering and how you can register to attend. All this information can be found on our through the MMF website or at www.mmf.mb.ca/aga.php.

A lot of people, elected representatives, staff and volunteers are involved in helping the MMF govern and providing the services and activities that make the MMF strong and effective. Their hard work and dedication has helped advance many important initiatives and programs that make a difference all across our Homeland. When we lose one of our dedicated citizens, it is a loss felt by all. My heart is

heavy for our recent loss in Marielee Nault. Marielee devoted much of her life to the Métis people of Manitoba. She served for many years as Board Director for the Southeast Region and as an MMF Cabinet Minister. My heartfelt sympathies and prayers go out to Marielee's family.

Finally, I offer my hopes for our Métis people who are sick or shut in. I also offer my prayers for those who have departed and my condolences to their families, friends and neighbours. My best wishes to all.

Meeqwetch,