

President's Message

January 14, 2016

Another year has come and gone. 2015 has seen a number of successes and we are looking at a bright and promising 2016.

Already I have met with Minister Bennett and Prime Minister Trudeau on issues and opportunities. We are looking forward to this coming year regarding the Métis Land Claims. As you may be aware, we secured a commitment from the Liberals to resolve this outstanding claim. Senior officials are now meeting towards preparing a negotiation table to right the wrongs done to our Ancestors and to our community. What this exactly looks like in the end remains to be seen, but I can guarantee that it will increase our ability to care and provide for our Métis Citizens. Already our Government has committed to making education, housing and economic development a priority out of any settlement we negotiate. Our people have consistently gave direction that a trust be created to protect a legacy for today's and tomorrow's generations. As we take these next steps we will keep you informed on our progress.

Since December 2014 Metis N4 Construction has been involved in clearing the N4 Right of Way for Bipole III. In 2015 it was also successful in landing the contracts for installing N4 and C1 anchors and foundations. Work has begun on the N4 section and will begin on the C1 section soon. In addition to these contracts, Metis N4 Construction Inc. built and opened a 49 person camp at Dawson Bay. The camp officially opened on January 23, 2015 and was full all construction season.

The MMF continues to make use of its partnership with Metis N4 Construction Inc. to provide professional services in the field of GIS and Spatial Analysis. This partnership was particularly beneficial during the recent Enbridge TK work and will continue to be instrumental during the upcoming TK work specific to the Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Project. This opportunity also provides the potential for Metis N4 Construction Inc. to provide GIS services to other Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities with similar work.

At our September AGA, the MMF signed an MOU with Manitoba that puts in place concrete steps to further recognition of our traditional territories. This MOU has senior officials, including our legal counsels, working on a tight timeline for inclusion of priority areas north of The Pas including the Grass River area. The MMF is committed to the recognition of our right to feed our families in our traditional ways. The MMF is continuing to work to move the boundaries northward so that all of the traditional Métis hunting grounds are recognized. This is important to our Métis families and it is important to your Métis Leadership.

In another area concerning Métis rights and the duty of government to consult the Métis in all matters that impact and affect us, the MMF has hired a Metis Policy Implementation Coordinator. The Coordinator has been tasked with assisting in developing a survey and evaluation process for the current state of Manitoba policies, programs and services, and will determine the status of the 2010 Manitoba Metis Policy. The results of this work will produce a type of report card that will identify any gaps and make recommendations to improve Manitoba's performance and conformity to the Metis Policy.

We are about to enter a provincial election campaign with Election Day tentatively scheduled for April 19th. Much as we did in the federal election, the MMF will be speaking to the party leaders and asking them to detail their policy and commitment to the Métis people. We are preparing a list of important

questions that we will be putting to each of the party leaders. The responses we receive, will be on our website, in newspapers, and social media. Come Election Day, make your mark for the party that will treat us with respect and commit to work with us on our priorities.

I offer my best wishes for those who are sick or shut-in. May they be blessed with healing, 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 of our MMF Board of Directors, staff, and citizens, I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Meeqwetch.

President David Chartrand