

## President's Message

*February 25, 2016*

It has been an exciting couple of weeks! First I was invited to the opening of the “Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation in the Collection of the Library and Archives Canada” event in Ottawa on February 10<sup>th</sup>. As the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs said, “Experiencing Métis art and culture while showcasing talented Métis artists not only enriches our lives but also provides us with the opportunity to experience the world from a new perspective. Métis art and culture is an important part of Canadian history, and I encourage everyone... to learn more about Métis.”

The steps taken at the exhibit go hand in hand with our objective to restore the Métis Nation's rightful place in history – from being Canada's Forgotten People to recognition as the Founders of Manitoba and Canada's Negotiating Partners in Confederation. We are pleased Library and Archives Canada is helping to bring back into our collective memory the history and stories of our people before that knowledge vanishes by the passing of our Métis Elders.

On Louis Riel Day, Métis Elder Ray St. Germaine gave a performance at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Manitoba Metis Federation Minister Andrew Carrier brought greetings on behalf of the Métis government and our Métis Citizens. Many of our locals also celebrated the day with their families, participating in traditional Métis activities and cultural events.

This past weekend I was at The Pas for the Northern Manitoba Trappers Festival. On Saturday morning I helped begin the world championship dog race with a shotgun start. Saturday night I was at the Métis Family Night at the Métis Hall. The place was jam packed with people enjoying good food and great Metis entertainment. It was great to see many of our Métis Citizens out enjoying themselves doing what Métis people do best – having fun with family and friends. I want to thank all the volunteers and the entertainers for all their hard work. I also want to thank our Local and Regional elected representatives for their leadership in making the evening a great success.

I invite you to take a look inside this issue of *Le Metis* for some pictures of the great celebrations we had over the past couple of weeks. I also invite each Métis Local to get in touch with our communications department so we can share good news and events happening in your Local and throughout our Métis community. Send us some pictures and stories of what's happening! You can reach the MMF communications team at [communications@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:communications@mmf.mb.ca) or by calling the Home Office at (204) 586-8474.

In closing, 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.

Meeqwetch,