

President's Message

May 17, 2017

This is a very exciting year for the Manitoba Metis Federation. We will be celebrating our 50th year of governance and our many milestones from the last 50 years, including recent victories we have won, at our Annual General Assembly (AGA) this coming September. As the government of the Métis Nation in Manitoba, your Métis government works tirelessly to meet your needs and to secure the lasting place promised to us back in 1870. As we continue to move forward, we look to you to help guide your government and to tell us what is important to you as a Métis Citizen. Among the ways in which you can make known what is important is your involvement in our AGA.

This year, the Assembly will be taking place September 22-24, 2017 at the Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is always my hope and desire to see as many of our Métis community citizens as possible in attendance. It is your involvement that helps make our Métis government as successful as it is.

Being a Citizen of the Métis Nation has always brought me a great sense of pride. Pride not only of the hard-working members of our Nation, but also of those elected leaders and staff who helped build and bring the MMF to where it is today – the democratic self-government of the Métis Nation in Manitoba. Without the strong direction of our leadership over the years, our Métis Nation would not be what it is today.

Today, I see professionals, artists and leaders who are all proud to share their heritage with others in Manitoba. Métis Youth are at the front lines of sharing their culture by playing traditional music on the fiddle or through dancing the Red River Jig. It is without a doubt that our Métis Youth are proud of all that has been accomplished and all that we are still doing today. Our efforts as a small, but strong, Métis Nation helped not only shape our province, but also the course Canada has embarked upon as a bilingual and diverse country that is celebrated around the world today.

As a Métis government, we have enjoyed many great successes. Our 2013 Land Claims victory and the recent signing of a Framework Agreement toward settling this claim will yield fruit that we will enjoy for generations. Then there is the recent Daniels decision by the Supreme Court of Canada which settles the question of the responsibility Canada has for the Métis. The results of this ruling will be immense. We will be there every step of the way to faithfully negotiate the settlement of what rightfully belongs to us.

In areas of Economic Development, our construction company Métis N4 Construction has enjoyed great success and have been reinvesting profits back into the community – from arena improvements in St. Laurent, to supporting the Christmas Cheer Board and ensuring Métis families have enough to celebrate Christmas, to making substantial donations to the Manitoba Metis Heritage fund and more. Your government is also negotiating large contracts on your behalf with other businesses that will see homegrown solutions to affordable housing and investments in jobs for our Métis Citizens. These are just some prime examples of the work your Métis government is undertaking on your behalf. My government anticipates even greater things in the very near future for the Manitoba Métis Community. I invite you to stay tuned so we can share these with you as they become our new reality as a Nation.

I want to also acknowledge my cabinet – your democratically elected representatives in Métis government – for their continuous and hearty support. I also want to thank you for your continued

confidence and support of your Métis government. Without you these victories and the great milestones we have reached, would not have been possible.

Over the coming weeks, the MMF will be providing more information regarding how to get involved with this year's AGA to all of our past sponsors and to you, our Métis citizens. This year's gathering will be a monumental celebration of our advancement as a self-governing Métis Nation. You will not want to miss it.

In closing, I send my prayers and thoughts to those of us who are sick and shut in. Remember one another with acts of kindness and friendship. I hope you have personally experienced success during the spring harvest and wish you blessings as we move closer to summer. Each season of the year bring with it many opportunities, blessings and challenges. May you meet each one with strength, resilience and your families beside you.

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