

President's Message  
June 14, 2017

Summer is well on its way – according to the calendar we are just one week away from the first official day of Summer. With the beginning of warmer weather and longer days, we begin to see all kinds of wonderful things returning to greet us again, which we have missed during our long and cold winter. The trees are all in bloom, our gardens are beginning to show promise of a future harvest, and the birds are filling the air with their songs as many of us are finding our ways back to beaches, fishing and boating.

Summer is always a great time for families to visit with friends and neighbours, to enjoy all the events and activities Manitoba has to offer: parks, museums, outdoor sports, and concerts to name a few. In particular interest to me, and I know for many of you, are the many Métis summer events put on by our MMF Locals and community members to celebrate our culture, our history, and our Nationhood.

Coming up soon, there will be the Aboriginal Day and Métis Days celebrations throughout our province. On June 21, the day our Nation celebrates Aboriginal Day and the first official day of summer, many of our locals participate in community events. Each year, the Selkirk Red River Métis Local hosts a big event with lots of Métis entertainment, games and food. You can find more information about this event on our website, social media and in this week's issue of Grassroots News.

In St. Laurent, we celebrate Métis Days every August. This year the Father Guy Local will be hosting a weekend of family fun, August 4th – 6th. We hope you are able to join us as we come together with family and friends. Other events are: The Anniversary of the Victory of Frog Plain (June 19th), Back to Batoche Days (July 20th to 23rd to be held in Saskatchewan), and the Métis Exhibit at the St. Boniface Historical Society (June 27th to October 28th). Remember, you can find information about these and other events on our social media and by tuning into NCI FM for Metis Hour x 2 each Saturday.

I also want to continue encouraging you to engage with your Local and Regional Offices. Get yourself involved in helping to plan Local events and participate in Local meetings. Talk to your elected representatives. Our strength as a Métis Government lies within our Citizenship and your active participation in governance. The Métis Government is a grassroots government. Our structure is built from the ground up. Just as grass receives its strength and support from the rich soil of the Prairies, on which the Métis Nation was born, the Métis Government receives its strength and support from its Citizens. From Citizen to Local participation and Regional engagement, you provide the necessary feedback and direction for your elected Representatives who govern on your behalf. Your participation is crucial for the success and longevity of the Métis Nation.

This summer I will be visiting each Region. Our Land Claim negotiations with Canada are advancing. I am looking forward to seeing you at Regional meetings, throughout the summer, so I can share this with you. Please keep an eye on our website and social media, tune into Metis Hour x 2 on NCI FM each Saturday and keep reading Le Metis. We will be sharing the dates, times and locations of these important meetings in each of these communications tools.

I want to thank all our volunteers, Home Office and Regional staff, and elected representatives in the Regions and Locals for all of their hard work and commitment to protecting and showcasing our Métis culture, history, rights and pride each summer. These great results are often achieved at personal cost and with family sacrifice. Thank you.

Have a great Summer!

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand