

President's Message

December 6, 2017

December marks the season to reflect on this past year's good work and the changes that have and will continue to take place within our Manitoba Metis Community. This coming year again promises progress building our self-government institutions to enhance much-needed programs and to advance the rights and interests of our Metis Nation Citizens here in our province.

Recently, we have been working to increase our communications with our Metis Citizens. We sent the first Le Metis Harvester issue to our citizens in the last week of November. We talked about Metis harvester rights regarding moose and bucks, safety measures for harvesters, and also what to do if a conservation officer approaches you. We want to continue to make this a valuable source of information for you, so please let us know what you would like to hear. If you did not receive this email and want to be included in future issues, please email communications@mmf.mb.ca.

We also emailed a climate change and green plan survey to better understand our citizens' needs. What we have heard right off the hop is that helping households and investing in green projects and clean growth is important. There seems to be a real and true desire for greener initiatives including bike trails, green technology and more. We are going to review the results closer to ensure that we are acting in the best interests of our Citizens. Your voices matter, so thank you for taking the time to give us this valuable input.

In the spirit of the season, the MMF Home Office staff raised funds in support of Metis Child & Family Services. Each department was challenged to come up with their own fundraiser. Some examples included a bake sale, a 50/50 draw and a raffle for a custom-designed print and blanket. I'm happy to report that we raised thousands of dollars through this initiative. All of these funds will directly benefit Metis Child & Family Services and the children they work with.

On Friday, December 8, we are hosting our annual open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come down to 150 Henry Avenue for a tour of our Home Office. Each department has decorated for the holidays. There will be music, great food, delicious drinks and excellent company. Join us at noon for two special presentations: one cheque for Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre, Inc. and one to presented to Kai Madsen of the Christmas Cheer Board. We're proud to support both of these worthwhile organizations and the excellent work they do throughout the year. The funds given to these two organizations will directly support our community.

Later this month we will be heading to Churchill to celebrate Christmas with the community. We know this is a challenging time beyond the community's control. We want them to know we are here for them. On December 17 we will be hosting a celebration, complete with music, gifts and Christmas cheer. If you live in Churchill, we look forward to seeing you. We hope the celebration and our musicians will bring you some extra joy this Christmas season.

My prayers are with our Elders, our sick and our shut-ins. I also offer them to the citizens of Churchill. We hope that a resolution will come quickly and that your community will prosper once more.

Meeqwetch,
President David Chartrand

Believe in Yourself – Believe in Metis.