

President's Message

December 20, 2017

2017 was filled with many highlights. Our government celebrated 50 years of self-governance and I personally reached a 20-year milestone. We launched our mobile office, bringing the Citizenship tools closer to you and your communities. In November we announced our Prescription Drug Program. The work there has just begun and I look forward to more exciting announcements in the New Year. I was deeply honoured to unveil the St. Eustache Veterans Monument. We must always remember the important sacrifices of our Veterans and pay our due respects to them. Another highlight was the first-ever "A Night to Remember" Gala in collaboration with the Manitoba Metis Heritage Fund. The event certainly lived up to its name. So much work has been accomplished thanks to the Métis Government and the MMF staff throughout the province.

A highlight of the year took place on December 17, as the Métis Government made a special trip to Churchill to bring Christmas to those affected by the downed rail line. We brought music, toys and Christmas meals, but most importantly we brought smiles to the children's faces. It was important for us to take this journey because we want Churchill to know that we stand with them and we will not forget the North. We hope that a resolution will come quickly and that the Churchill community will prosper once more. Thank you to community partners Calm Air, Pratts Food Service, Noel Bernier, Trimark, the Churchill Local, and the Town of Churchill for their support of this endeavour.

I personally know what it is like to struggle. When I started as the President of the Manitoba Metis Federation 20 years ago, we had very little, and now look at the strength of our nation. With hard work, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Together our nation will overcome the obstacles we face, and we will become even stronger.

I am committed to working hard now and every day forward, so no one has to know the feeling of not having enough. It is one of the worst things I have ever experienced. I wish to live in a world where no one suffers this and always has enough to provide for their family.

For this reason, I have nominated Kai Madsen for the Order of Manitoba. He has helped thousands of families in Winnipeg who didn't have enough to give their children at Christmas. They call him the Santa of Winnipeg. Last year I was unsuccessful in getting him this honour, but I will not fail this year. I ask all of you to please sign the petition and share it with your friends and family. Together we can get Kai the recognition he deserves, and we can do it while he is still with us.

As we say goodbye to 2017 I wish to extend a very Merry Christmas to you on behalf of your Métis Government and the staff of the Manitoba Metis Federation. May you experience joy and peace this wonderful holiday season.

My prayers are with Minister John Parenteau and you, the Métis people of Manitoba.

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand

Believe in Yourself – Believe in Metis.