



MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

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David Chartrand, LL.D. (hon), O.M.
President

April 11, 2025

Associate Minister Leah LaPlante
Associate Minister of Natural Resources
Associate Minister of Citizenship
manmetis@mymts.net

Dear Associate Minister LaPlante,

I would like to thank you for agreeing to take on the role of Associate Minister of Natural Resources as well as Citizenship. On behalf of Cabinet and our entire Nation, I want to extend my sincerest thanks for your decades of service in key Ministerial positions, and agreeing to stay on to serve your Nation while you deal with personal issues.

Since the 2022 Mandates were given, the MMF – the National Government of the Red River Métis – has continued the unprecedented advancements with all orders of government and industry.

Federally, we signed the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty* on November 30, 2024, fulfilling the vision of our Elders and historic leaders. Provincially, we have continued to build a strong relationship with the government of Manitoba, moving forward on critical files, such as the Ste. Madeleine MOU. We have also worked with municipalities across the province to continue to meet Red River Métis needs from Emerson to Churchill. We have made unprecedented progress with industry, growing our capital investment portfolio and signing a never-before-seen agreement with PADCOM.

We also worked with our First Nations relatives and partnered with the Chiefs of Ontario to co-host an Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit to tackle the rampant identity theft faced by Indigenous Nations in Canada from coast-to-coast-to-coast. It is clear that – as a result of our recent political and legal victories – our Identity has been under attack. It is with this in mind that, as part of this Cabinet Shuffle, I am establishing a new portfolio called *Identity Protection and Inter-Indigenous Relations*.

The MMF's 2022 Mandate Letters instructed all Ministers to, among other things, pursue funding from outside the MMF, develop Beyond Borders initiatives, and work together to fulfill your mandates. These mandates continue to apply to those receiving new portfolios and Mandate Letters because of this Cabinet Shuffle.

Other mandates, specific to your portfolios, that will help fulfill MMF's agenda of sustainable growth to the benefit of all Red River Métis are as follows:

Natural Resources:

- In consultation with MMF Regions and Grassroots Leaders, develop a strategy specific to the protection and recognition of our Land, Air, and Water based s.35 rights in Northern Manitoba;
- Undertake Consultations with our Harvesters and develop a comprehensive conservation strategy;
- Continue to ensure Red River Métis Harvesters practicing their s.35 right to Harvest in accordance with our *Métis Laws of the Harvest* are protected when wrongfully charged and intimidated;
- Draft, review, and distribute the fourth edition of the *Métis Laws of the Harvest*;
- Partner with Subject Matter Experts and Legal Counsel to expand recognition of Red River Métis Land, Air, and Water-based s.35 across provincial boundaries;
- Work with the Policy and Delivery Unit to negotiate the recognition of s.35 rights in the Expansion Area and beyond; and
- Continue to work directly with the Senior Director of Citizenship to administer and enhance harvesting surveys, CTF stickers, and big-game management tags.

Citizenship:

- Work with CRO to continue to maintain our high standards for Citizenship, while enhancing the experience of our Citizens and potential Citizens across the Homeland and beyond;
- Strengthen our Locals by working with MMF Regions to build stronger communication with MMF Locals to ensure information and resources are easier to access;
- Establish a fully functioning Red River Métis Genealogical Institute; and
- Work with relevant Ministers to create a more global data management system, which will help us better serve our Red River Métis Citizens.

I know that I can count on you to deliver on this mandate. You can count on support from myself and my team when needed – as well as fellow Ministers – to help you in fulfilling this mandate. Our Nation has placed great trust in us to continue the historic progress we have made in recent years, and I trust that by fulfilling the mandate found in this letter we will meet these expectations.

Meeqwetch,



President David Chartrand LL.D. (hon.), O.M.
MMF – National Government of the Red River Métis