



Le Métis

EST. 1871

**YOUR RED RIVER
MÉTIS GOVERNMENT'S
BI-WEEKLY NEWS.**

National
INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES
Day



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week, I had the pleasure of speaking to the Senate Committee, as well as the House of Commons Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities Committee on Bill C-5, *the One Canadian Economy Act*. The focus of my presentations were on the subject of national projects and how the Red River Métis are ready, willing, and able to play a significant role in these activities.

The importance and significance of this Bill cannot be understated, and the stakes have never been higher for Canadian sovereignty. There is no doubt that Canada is in a time of turbulence. What was the status quo for many decades is no longer there. We are, in essence, in an economic war. Our allies are not the same allies we had in the past, and we must take urgent steps to strengthen Canada's economy, build economic capacity, find new trade partners, and eliminate internal barriers while continuing to invest in a greener country and world.

The National Government of the Red River Métis fully understands that through this war, Canada is at a crossroads. We must form new relationships and trade partnerships across the globe and once these relationships are formed, we cannot go backward. We must move forward and continue to expand partnerships for our marketable resources. Change is coming, no doubt about it, and we want to make sure we're part of the solution and are equipped to stand with this country.

We will do everything in our power to keep Canada strong and avoid a recession. We will help ensure the stability and strength of Canada, so that our people and all Canadians do not lose ground on the

advancements we've made through the many years of peace we have enjoyed. We must stand together to achieve this.

We cannot take lightly the threat from the south. The U.S. is looking at our resources, our minerals, our water, and our abundant land. Trump, as their President, seeks to beat Canada down and break us so he can extract and own what is ours. But if he doesn't know now, he will soon know that the Red River Métis yield to no one. Canadians yield to no one. Together, we will usher in a new era of Canadian sovereignty and economic independence. The fight we face is real, but the strength and resolve we have is also real.

As proud Indigenous people, we must be prepared for what Canada is asking of us and will ask of us going forward. It will ask us to act in the same way we have acted in wars past – to put aside our differences, to put broader priorities ahead of our own, and to stand shoulder to shoulder with all Canadians as we strengthen our defences and forge new international relationships.

But let me be clear, even during this economic war, we will never give up our place in Canada. We will pursue the inevitable conclusion of our Treaty through enabling legislation, and we will pursue our land claim which remains a rift in the fabric of Canada. The irony is that if Canada had already settled our land claim, we would be even better positioned to play a key role in this shift in Canadian and global dynamics.

We will protect our section 35 rights both from identity thieves and from any order of government that may seek to erode those rights. But the Red River Métis are patriots and loyalists at heart, and we will stand with Canada to invest, grow, and accelerate our economy, placing our trust in the Canadian government that it will reciprocate our trust and faith.

That said, I was very clear in my presentations that our people can only extend limited trust to Canada, because of our long history of being forgotten and dismissed. If we had not been forgotten, we would be further down the road with solutions to the challenges faced by Canada already with investments in housing, green energy, carbon offsets and more, that would contribute to the strength of Canada. So, my question remains to the Canadian government – what are assurances that allow us to stand with the ranks of those who stand to defend Canada? We are ready – is Canada ready to truly face this existential threat and beat it back? We, the Red River Métis, are all too familiar with threats to our existence – we know this fight in our bones and in our blood, but too many Canadians have never experienced this kind of fight.

To shore up our faith and the continued trust we are extending to Canada, our Treaty must pass immediately and be handled as a project of national

significance. In the years since we began the effort to renew our relationship with Canada through a modern-day Treaty, I've met with representation of all parties and I've yet to find anyone who can object to it, so we want to ensure this is done immediately. I have heard loudly and clearly from our Citizens that this step must be taken so we can retain the faith of our Citizens in this federal government and continue to lend our strength and unity to this country. If Canada honours us, we will honour Canada.

Your Red River Métis Government has been working for decades to build capacity and strength, and this is the moment where we are being called upon to use that strength in support of this country we love and helped to build. After decades of being the proud President of our Nation, I know that our Citizens expect us to stand with Canada, walk with Canada, and fight with Canada in defence of our country and the values we cherish. This is not about political parties or personal agendas – this is about our country. We can and will stand together and join this fight to preserve our right to be Canadians, and to leave a strong legacy for our children and grandchildren.

To Canada, I say this: You have our support. We will stand with you, walk with you and fight with you in defence of our country. We will stand with all who will join us in this fight. But do not cause us to lose any more trust in you. Resolve our land claim. Finish our Treaty. Make room for us to be the partners we are ready to be.

Our efforts to engage in dialogue with Bill C-5 have only begun, and I can assure you that I will remain steadfast in my pursuit of our rights, along with defending this country we worked so hard and sacrificed so much to build.

In my next President's message, I will update Citizens on Premier Kinew's economic vision for Manitoba and how this province we helped bring into Canada will play a role in strengthening our country's economic position. I will also talk about the economic challenges and impacts felt by our 844 registered Red River Métis businesses through this economic war.

Until we meet again, I offer my prayers to all our families, Citizens, friends, and neighbours, and my deepest condolences to those who have been caused to grieve. My heart is with the friends, family, and community of our lost loved ones. I ask my people to send prayers to our families and help those who are grieving. I will keep you all in my prayers, as always.

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand, LL.D. hon. O.M. ∞



FOUR GENERATIONS OF GRATITUDE: MMF KEEPS FAMILY OF 15 TOGETHER DURING THE WILDFIRE EVACUATION



The Reber/Sabourin family is currently housed by the MMF following the Cranberry Portage, Manitoba fire evacuation notice.

Many people find comfort in family during times of crisis and the Reber/Sabourin family is no different. With four generations under one roof, the family safely evacuated Cranberry Portage, Manitoba after the wildfire evacuation notice was given; they are now being housed by the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) until the state of emergency has been lifted.

Katrina Reber, wife of Troy Sabourin, and mother has been doing her best to keep it together despite the state of emergency.

"I'd say I'm doing okay," said Katrina. "I do tend to look at social media a lot and that's kind of when I maybe get a little bit of anxiety, just seeing the fire maps and worrying about home and more or less praying in my head that we're going to have a home to go home to."

Her daughter, Caramel Sabourin, also expressed her concern brought on by the uncertainty of the situation.

"I've just been kind of worried about home because, you never know what could happen," said Caramel.

When the family arrived at their new space, they were astonished to see how quickly the MMF came together to make sure each member had a bed to sleep in and a comfortable place to stay.

"(They were) working extremely fast and (the) beds (were) all set up and they put blankets on there for us, and everything," said Katrina. "So, (we're) super grateful that was done so quickly for us and especially for my mom, being handicapped."

Chilly Reber, the matriarch of the family, deals with mobility limitations, making housing alternatives difficult during the state of emergency. She also expressed her sincerest gratitude to the MMF and

staff for all the work being done to ensure her family was safe and able to stay together.

"I want to thank Tracey Hart (Director of Metis Employment & Training) for setting up everything in here, bringing us all the furniture and everything for the kitchen, foods and snacks," said Chilly. "And then I wanted to thank the McGregor office. They had set up a lunch in the donation centre and we went there and the different people that are reaching out every day and activities for the kids... the other people phoning to check in, I just want to thank them too."

Following their arrival, the family had the chance to visit the MMF's Donation and Evacuation Centre, located at 406 McGregor Street, where they were able to stock up on essentials.

"They took us to that donation spot where we were able to get clothes. They gave us a bunch of toiletries, shampoo, toothbrushes, things like that that we might have forgot to pack in the moment being so stressed out. They gave us dog food (and I'm) really super grateful for that, because that's one thing we did forget to pack. But yeah, they've (the MMF) been very supportive," said Katrina.

It's all hands-on deck with the whole family chipping in to make sure everyone got what they need; thirteen-year-old Nazlynn Reber helped shop the donation centre for more essentials, specifically keeping the little ones in mind.

"We got clothes from the donations. I didn't pick out any, but I helped my mom pick out clothes for my sister's babies and for my sister," said Nazlynn.

To accommodate the family pets, arrangements were made for them to stay with the family while they are residing in Winnipeg.



"I know a lot of people had to leave their animals back home and that was one thing we obviously couldn't do. They're a part of our family," said Katrina. "And I was just worried, if we ended up in one of those arenas, would they allow my dogs to come in there? What would happen? So, I'm just grateful that the MMF let them in here with us."

Acknowledging the exceptional treatment provided by the MMF, Chilly expressed gratitude for their above-average housing assistance, noting that not everyone may be as fortunate in their living arrangements.

"I'm talking with some of my other friends from Cranberry... they have to fend for themselves, and they hop going from hotel room, to Airbnb, to a hotel. And they have to support themselves with everything and have to pay," said Chilly. "And my other friend is staying at her son's house, and she doesn't have her vehicle, so she's having a hard time and (she has) to pay for everything that she needs and food and stuff. And we're totally looked after here."

Thirteen-year-old Tristan Sabourin expressed his hopes for his family once they were able to return to Cranberry Portage.

"We can go home and thank the people that gave us this place to stay so we could stay safe and not go anywhere else, and we can all be together," said Tristan.

Troy also expanded on this and extended his thoughts to all who were impacted by the fire evacuation.

"(Hopefully we) get back home and everything's still there," said Troy. "A lot of people are going home to devastation and havoc. I'm just hoping that everything works out for everybody," said Troy.



Troy Sabourin and Katrina Reber have remained in good spirits despite the uncertainties brought on by the fires. They both expressed great appreciation for the efforts of the MMF in housing their families.

WALK WITH PRIDE: MMF'S NORTHWEST REGION HOLDS THIRD ANNUAL PRIDE MONTH EVENT



The Northwest Métis Council held its third annual Walk with Pride celebration, attracting an estimated record-breaking 400+ attendees.

Pride hit the streets of Dauphin, Manitoba during the Northwest Region's annual Walk with Pride event; hitting a record-breaking turnout estimated at 400+ attendees.

Frances Chartrand, Vice President of the Northwest Region and Minister of Health and Early Learning and Child Care is passionate about the importance of holding a Pride event each year.

"This is our third annual event that we're hosting in the City of Sunshine, the City of Dauphin," said Minister Chartrand. "We want to educate people on who the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is, how important they are, and they face criticism on a day-to-day basis... We want to work together to be inclusive... I think that everyone should be free to love, free to respect, and free to have a great life."

On Friday, June 13 the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Northwest Region held their pride event, in partnership with Mountain View Teachers Association, the City of Dauphin, the Dauphin Friendship Centre, and the West Region Treaty 2 & 4 Health Services. 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, locals, and allies got together to celebrate the immense progress and continued efforts of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community fighting for recognition and rights.

Richard Genaille, MMF Minister of Sports & Youth, was moved by the amazing attendance at this year's Pride.

"The first year we only had about 100, 200 people... but today I was so overwhelmed that we had 400 people here," said Minister Genaille. "I got overwhelmed with feeling... It was so nice to see so many younger people and from the surrounding Métis villages... it's just so heartfelt that people care about the 2SLGBTQIA+ community."

The march began at Vermillion Park, continued around the main streets of Dauphin, and settled back at Vermillion Park. The park was bustling with

families, reuniting friends, laughter, and large grins; a colour blast, giant game of connect four, hot dogs, and live music among other festivities kept the crowd spirited. The talented staff working in the MMF Northwest Métis Council are passionate about organizing such a joyful and vital event.

"(We're) very grateful and proud that we are able to host this event and that we have the opportunity to spread love and spread peace in our community," said Youth Transitional Worker, Norah Gullak. "I think that [the] MMF, specifically the Northwest Métis Council in Dauphin, has a huge impact among the community. So, (we) take part and definitely help make the community feel more at peace."

Lead organizer and Empowering Women to Create Change Coordinator, Ashley Chamberlain, recently started working at the Northwest Métis Council, and was eager to organize the Walk with Pride event in Dauphin.



WE'RE GOING TO BE OUT THERE AND BE UNITED AS ONE COMMUNITY ALWAYS. REMEMBER THE RED RIVER MÉTIS HAS YOUR BACK AND WE'RE GOING TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU AND BE INCLUSIVE. WE LOVE WORKING WITH ALL WALKS OF LIFE, WE WANT EVERYONE TO RESPECT EACH OTHER AND WE WANT TO LIVE IN AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ATTENDING OUR GREAT CELEBRATION.
- MINISTER FRANCES CHARTRAND



"Pride is about celebrating our colourful community, but it's also teaching all these children running around, they can be whoever they want to be, and it's going to be okay because they're going to find safety and love and acceptance in the crowd," said Chamberlain. "I received so much support from the Vice President (Minister Chartrand), she has been so amazing... to have people at the top, our leaders, showing us how to be compassionate, how to treat people with respect, how to bring inclusivity, that's what changes everything."

Following the march through the City of Dauphin, the stage at Vermillion Park hosted a prayer from Elder Beatrice Breland and speeches from Minister Genaille, Chance Henderson from the Mountain View Teachers Association, Susie Seacourt from the Dauphin Friendship Centre, among others. Tyler Blashko, NDP MLA for Lagimodière in Winnipeg,

was among the speakers. Blashko was excited to attend his first ever Dauphin Pride.

"I think it's really important that we acknowledge and celebrate that the queer and trans community exists all over the province; it's not just an urban experience, it's rural, it's northern and it's valid everywhere," said Blashko. "The more folks come out to celebrate the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, the more we learn from each other and the more we learn about each other, it leaves less and less room for misunderstanding or assumptions to exist between different communities, and that's how [we] build genuine authentic community."

It's important that the MMF leads as an example of united community that uplifts all different identities, empowering those who are often silenced.

"We're going to be out there and be united as one community, always. Remember the Red River Métis have your back and we're going to celebrate with you and be inclusive. We love working with all walks of life, we want everyone to respect each other and we want to live in an inclusive community. Thank you very much for attending our great celebration," said Minister Chartrand.

Walk with Pride in Dauphin exemplified the beauty of uniting communities and celebrating our 2SLGBTQIA+ Citizens and neighbours. To keep up with events held in the Northwest Region, follow their Facebook page at **North West Métis Council Inc.**, or check on out events in any MMF Region on our events page: www.mmf.mb.ca/events.



Minister Richard Genaille and his family gave out big smiles, friendly waves, and handfuls of candy to all of those who walked with the Pride parade down the main streets of Dauphin.





Regional Environmental Day Camps



Red River Métis Youth
will participate in a variety of
land-based games and activities
that highlight the natural ecosystem,
while learning about the impacts of
climate change.

No cost to attend
Lunch and snacks provided
Open to RRM Youth
12-17 years of age

WINNIPEG
LA BARRIER
PARK
JULY 2-4
AUGUST 5-7

INTERLAKE
WINNIPEG
BEACH
JULY 8-10

For more information and
to register, please contact
melt@mmf.mb.ca



**Early Learning
& Child Care**

JUNE & JULY 2025

INTERLAKE

St. Laurent - Jul 8
Gimli - Jul 9
Lundar - Jul 10
Selkirk - Jul 22
Stonewall - Jul 23
Teulon - Jul 24

WINNIPEG

Whittier Park - Jul 8
Grant's Old Mill - Jul 9
Kildonan Park - Jul 10
Bunn's Creek Centennial Park - Jul 22
Kings Park - Jul 23
Fraser's Grove Park - Jul 24

SOUTHWEST

Portage la Prairie - Jun 30
Langruth - Jul 2
St. Eustache - Jul 3
Brandon - Jul 15
Minnedosa - Jul 16
Neepawa - Jul 17
Carberry - Jul 29

NORTHWEST

Dauphin - Jul 8
McCreary - Jul 9
Ste. Rose - Jul 10
Swan River - Jul 22
Camperville - Jul 23
Roblin - Jul 24

SOUTHEAST

Landmark - Jun 30
Grand Marais - Jul 2
St. Malo - Jul 3
Haddashville - Jul 29
Lac du Bonnet & St. Adolphe - Jul 30
Richer & Anola - Jul 31

THE PAS

Flin Flon - Jul 15
Cranberry Portage - Jul 16
The Pas - Jul 17

THOMPSON

Thompson - Jul 29-31

**SUMMER MÉTIS
MOBILE**



REGISTER NOW!