



*"We must seek to preserve the existence of our own people. We must not by our own act allow ourselves to be swamped. If the day comes when that is done, it must be by no act of ours."*

*"Pray that God may preserve the little Métis Nation and cause it to grow . . . and remain faithful to its mission. During the five years that I must pass in exile, I have only this to say to the Métis: Remain Métis, become more Métis than ever."*

– Louis Riel

*From the days of Cuthbert Grant and Louis Riel to today, the Red River Métis have fought vigorously to preserve and protect our identity and independence, earning the name Otipemisiwak – the people who own themselves. It's who we are and what we stand for. We have always known we can accomplish anything, as long as we remain united.*

*When Louis Riel and John Bruce informed MacDougall that he could not enter the Northwest – our Homeland – without permission in October of 1869, they made the declaration as the national government of the Red River Métis.*

*Today, the Manitoba Métis Federation is the democratic government and national voice of the Red River Métis, also known as the Manitoba Métis, which is the origin, root, and core of the Métis Nation. Our ancestors negotiated Canada's entry into the Northwest, and Manitoba's entry into Confederation. We remain committed to advancing our work to meet the needs of your family and your community while we advance our Nation.*

While the world continues to grapple with COVID-19 and variants, which have caused significant challenges in parts of our Homeland in

recent months, we are thinking of how to prepare our Nation for the post-pandemic future. Small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of the Canadian economy, and our Nation's entrepreneurial business owners are no exception. While our businesses have done a tremendous job of weathering the challenges of the pandemic, we continue to provide support to any Citizen entrepreneurs who need help to ensure the long-term health of their businesses.

And while I have no doubt that the resilience and work ethic of the Red River Métis will remain strong and help us find a pathway out of the economic impacts we've all faced, there have been some clearly emerging trends that our Citizens are uniquely positioned to take advantage of. Your Métis government is particularly focused on finding new ways to support solo entrepreneurs who would like to start a business of their own. This includes businesses with a cultural focus, like traditional beadworkers, maple syrup harvesters, fishers, artists, artisans, and crafters, but can be expanded to include those who'd like to learn how to code or explore the global digital economy. We know this will be especially critical for Citizens who live in northern, rural, or remote areas who may not have access to traditional employment, but still want to find ways to grow their economic strength and security.

Access to effective, efficient, and affordable broadband will be key for the global economy. While there are initiatives to create better access for rural and remote communities, many Red River Métis villages have not been included in current plans. We will work to end this disparity and ensure that our entrepreneurs, students, and Citizens are on equal footing when it comes to accessing everything the World Wide Web has to offer.

Combining economic opportunities with social development opportunities is a consistent focus of your Métis government. Daycares, pharmacies, business supports, funding for education, and uncovering new opportunities for Citizens to start microbusinesses – these all work together to create a strong foundation for future success, and no part of this vision works without the other parts.

I recently had the privilege of attending the grand opening of Michif Children's Place in downtown Dauphin. This 65-space day care centre not only provides cultural programming and a safe space to grow and learn, it also allows the parents of these children to return to jobs that require their physical attendance. Not only that, but it will provide employment for approximately 20 staff and provide economic opportunities for tradespeople and contractors who are working on the construction of this facility, the MEDOCare Pharmacy, and the Northwest Métis Council offices. This is one of

12 builds across Manitoba that we're currently in the process of starting, developing, or nearing completion of, which all provide similar benefits to the communities we build in.

While we are addressing the needs of families and ensuring culturally appropriate care is available for their children, we are also dedicated to the fact that all our children deserve a head start in life, like the one that was promised us when we brought Manitoba into Canada's confederation. We will never stop working to ensure that our children receive what was stolen from our ancestors.

In 2019, Canada's Bill C-92 – *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* – affirms our right to have jurisdiction over our kids in care and provide culturally appropriate care, shifting the focus from apprehension to prevention and placement with extended families and communities. As of January 2021, that bill came into force. The bill creates a direct relationship between the federal government and your Métis government; the province will continue to play a role in this partnership, but it will be quite different from the role they played in the past.

What's important to know is that we are not simply going to assume jurisdiction over our kids in care. We will continue to evolve the ways we support them. A recent example is how we're investing in RESP accounts for our kids in care. Through this endeavour, we are beginning to secure the future success of over 500 children, ensuring that when they are ready to move on to the next phase of their lives and their education, they have what they need to pursue their academic dreams.

We have also recognized that a child turning 18 does not automatically have everything he or she needs to succeed in life, and could struggle without a continued support system. That's why we're investing in them beyond the age of 18, including the development of new transitional housing facilities to help them land on their feet, as well as additional supports to gain life skills like budgeting, along with training opportunities and help to access the post-secondary education system. We will do everything we can to help them gain and maintain their independence as they spread their wings and launch into the next phase of their life.

Your Métis government will continue to work on these and other initiatives that ensure our families, our communities, and our Nation are positioned for success, regardless of the pandemic or any economic challenges we face. Standing together, united in our traditions, culture, and values, is how we've survived all the challenges we've faced in our shared history. It's part of our identity as the Red River Métis, and it's something each and every one of us should take

pride in. We are a reflection of the resilience and strength of our ancestors, and I believe they would be proud of what we've been able to accomplish by staying strong together. Always remember – your Métis government has your back – today, tomorrow, and beyond.

I offer my prayers to all our Citizens, friends, and neighbours, and my deepest condolences to those who have been caused to grieve.

Meeqwetch,

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

## MMF donates \$15,000 to the Friends of Old St. Jude's



A donation of \$15,000 will help rebuild the vestibule at the historical site in the Southeast Region. Southeast Region Vice-President Denise Thomas with – left to right – Reg Thomas, Lindsey May, Carol Danwich, Laura Tutlies, Greg McCombe, Phoebe Thomas, and Lorna Cloutier – Directors for Friends of Old St. Jude's.



The new vestibule will be historically correct and represent the earliest foyer and steeple as closely as possible.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) recently donated \$15,000 to the restoration of a church steeped in Métis history. Southeast Region Vice-President Denise Thomas delivered the cheque to the Friends of Old St. Jude's, the stewards and curators for the building, located in the Métis community of Grand Marais. The money will go towards rebuilding the vestibule and steeple at the historical site.

"I am so grateful that the President agreed to donate the \$15,000 to help us with this project," said Minister Thomas.

Her sister-in-law, Phoebe Thomas, one of the Directors for Friends of Old St. Jude's, agrees. "They were generous enough to give us that donation. So we were really, really, happy with that."

The new vestibule will be historically correct and represent the earliest foyer and steeple as closely as possible.

The original structure was built in 1896 by Métis families on two acres of land donated for a cemetery by two Métis from Grand Marais, George Rupert and Alex Knott.

The church's restoration is personal for Minister Thomas – her late husband's family established the church, and they are all buried in its cemetery.

"That's where my late husband is buried, in that cemetery, so that's where I'm going to be buried," she said.

Minister Thomas was eager to deliver the cheque at the last open house in celebration of the church's 125th anniversary.

"It was very exciting, because that's my family that established that Old St. Jude's. They were so much a part of it," she said.

The same goes for Phoebe.

"My great-grandfather was Reverend Edward Thomas. He built the altar and the shelf and the bishop's chair in that building. The first person that was buried there ... was Marie Knott, it was Alex Knott's (mother), so it's a lot of Métis history there," Phoebe said. "I have five generations buried there."

The church halted service in 1964 due to the deterioration of the building, and the vestibule in particular. It was rescued from demolition in 2005 and is now owned by the RM of St. Clements.

"There was a group of people that wanted to tear that building down, and the Friends of Old St. Jude's Incorporation that I sit on, they decided that they didn't want the building torn down, so they formed

a group, and they stopped the demolition of that building," said Phoebe, who joined the group in 2006.

The Friends of Old St. Jude's reshingled the roof, and then started work on the vestibule in 2012.

"We've been fundraising and making the community aware that we wanted to restore the vestibule," Phoebe said.

"We have an engineer, and an architect, and a project manager, guiding us on how to tear this vestibule down, and the chimney down, and how to get the plans for the next build, and what's good for the heritage site."

Once construction is complete, the group plans to use the 30-person church, which was designated a historical site in 2018, for community events such as weddings and funerals.



## MMF partners with non-profit for fishing line recycling efforts



Through the partnership with Clear Your Gear, the MMF will help provide fishing line recycling receptacles to retailers and community groups.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is aiming to make waterways in the Métis Nation Homeland safer for wildlife and humans. The MMF has partnered with Clear Your Gear, a non-profit aimed at reducing the amount of fishing line and material entering the environment by providing free fishing line recycling receptacles to retailers and community groups.

“Clear Your Gear is really excited to be partnering with the MMF. The MMF has signed on to become a regional partner, and they’ve sponsored 40 units for the late 2021/2022 season, and they’ll help us deploy this critical fishing line recycling and collection infrastructure throughout Manitoba,” said Steve Loney, community relations volunteer for Clear Your Gear.

The MMF is the first Indigenous partner and sponsor of Clear Your Gear, which has over 750 locations across Canada.

“We’re anticipating another 300 units being built in 2022 thanks to the Manitoba Métis Federation, and the harvesters and fishers, they’re some of our best champions for recycling, so we just want to thank everybody for their continued support,” said Loney.

The recycling bins can be found at Cabela’s stores throughout Canada, The Fishin’ Hole, Smoke N Fish in Selkirk, and Jo-Brook Outdoors in Brandon. The receptacles will be emptied and the fishing line sent to a recycling depot, where it will be converted into plastic pellets and other plastic products.

The MMF reached out to Clear Your Gear after hearing from harvesters about high volumes of litter.

“Discarding fishing line on the wayside is not a solution – it can get caught up in rocks and vegetation in our waterways and cause issues for the

ecosystem and species that live in those ecosystems. So if everyone is able to do their part, take home with them what they brought, not littering, and discarding hooks or fishing line in these receptacles that will be available in a convenient location, only good things can come of it,” said Jenny Petrynko, MMF Fish and Fish Habitat Coordinator.

“Improperly discarded fishing line causes a variety of problems, most notably entanglements for wildlife, so you get a lot of avian species that can get tangled in that material,” added Loney. “A lot of times that material is connected to hooks, so they can be impaled.”

In addition, improperly discarded fishing line can result in mobility issues, starvation, and death for wildlife, as well as entanglements for rescue and recreational divers.

“It’s also just bad for the environment, because this material in the water doesn’t break down for close to 600 years,” Loney said.

“We know that our Métis Citizens are very proud of the environment that they care for. They have great respect for it, and the MMF is trying to provide a solution to a problem that’s happening in our environment,” said Petrynko.

For more information on Clear Your Gear and to get involved, visit [clearyourgear.ca](http://clearyourgear.ca).

## Winnipeg Regional Meeting celebrates strength of Locals



Winnipeg Métis Association Vice-President Andrew Carrier provided greetings at the Winnipeg Regional Meeting.

Over 100 Citizens filled the Canad Inns Destination Centre Transcona on Saturday, October 2, to attend the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Winnipeg Regional Meeting, which highlighted successes and upcoming plans while allowing Citizens to connect with Cabinet.

The event started with an opening prayer from Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric, followed by Shirley Langan reading the poem “Through the Eyes of a Wounded Child.” Winnipeg Métis Association Vice-President Andrew Carrier, and Executives JoAnne Remillard and David Beaudin, provided welcoming remarks, while Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) Spokeswoman

Anita Campbell provided greetings and an update on IWS.

President David Chartrand spoke on topics ranging from Métis identity, negotiations with the federal government, the MMF’s departure from the Métis National Council, section 35 rights, Youth professional sports, and the strength of Locals.

“You look in this room, you’re all leaders – each of you have something that you bring to the table, in your own way,” President Chartrand said to the room full of delegates. “Locals are vital to who we are. But it’s got to be vital for Locals to remember who they are. Never forget who we are. Never forget who the Métis people are, the Métis Nation is. Never for a second let your guard down with that.

“No matter our relationship with any Prime Minister, or any Premier in this province, there’ll be no better protector than the Métis government and the Locals in this province.”

After a lunch break, Terryl Lohoway, partner at MNP, provided a financial review of the Winnipeg Métis Association and its land holdings. Minister Jack Park, Vice Chair of the Louis Riel Capital

Corporation, offered a report on the affiliate, while Judy Mayer, Minister of the Constitution, Métis Rights and Governance portfolio, provided a review of constitutional changes. David Gray, MMF Chief Electoral Officer, discussed the upcoming 2022 MMF election, followed by Housing and Property Management Minister Will Goodon’s update on housing projects, including seniors’ units, plans for an emergency homeless shelter, and the success of the First Time Home Purchase Program. Mona Buors, Minister of Métis Child and Family Services, and Policy Analyst Zack Harder, presented on this MMF affiliate, including new progress with federal legislation.

David Beaudin, also Minister of Agriculture and Associate Minister of Education, provided Regional, Education, and Agriculture reports, followed by Regional reports from Ministers Remillard and Carrier. The event ended with Local Executive Reports and a discussion.

“We’re so lucky to have President Chartrand at the helm of the MMF,” said Minister Carrier. “Strong leadership, strong direction, and always as he says ... we’ve got your back.”

## MMF hosts successful summer of sports camps



Two consecutive weeks of golf camp took place at Kingswood Golf & Country Club in La Salle on July 5 – 9 and 12 – 15 for 32 Youth participants aged 10 – 16.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) was able to host its sports programming for Métis Youth this summer after loosened provincial restrictions were announced in June.

Two consecutive weeks of golf camp with Métis golf pro Darren McMillan took place at Kingswood Golf & Country Club in La Salle on July 5 – 9 and 12 – 15 for 32 Youth participants aged 10 – 16. In the mornings, participants would head to the driving range, where they learned proper golf etiquette, safety, and technique.

“Our Youth would then move to a chipping and putting station where our coaches created and implemented fun drills and games to help the

learning experience,” said Thomas Parenteau, MMF Provincial Sports & Rec Coordinator.

In the afternoons, Youth were put into groups with a mentor to play nine holes.

The rest of the summer saw a handful of hockey camps taking place in Winnipeg, The Pas, and Thompson.

The first hockey camp was on July 21 – 23 in partnership with the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council at Seven Oaks Arena for 50 Youth aged 16 and under. The multi-sport camp had two groups on the ice each day in coordination with public health orders at the time, and incorporated basketball training.

“Multi-sport camps provide a range of skills and allow for various opportunities for our Youth,” said Parenteau.

Moving into August, the MMF offered hockey camps for over 40 Métis Youth aged 7 – 16 at the Kelsey Recreation and Wellness Centre in The Pas. From August 9 – 13 and 16 – 20, the hockey camps offered dryland training, and on-ice training such as power skating. The camp included several elite coaches, including Daniel Chartrand, OCN Blizzard’s Cole Haukaas, and Winnipeg Ice’s Chase Bertholet.

“Last year we found that the North was lacking in extracurricular activities. So, I made it a goal of mine to offer more programming that allowed Youth to develop their physical skills and help limit sedentary behaviours such as video games and television that have enhanced due to self-isolation and limited opportunities,” said Parenteau.

The final hockey camp was offered on August 30 – September 3 at the C.A. Nesbitt Arena in Thompson – the first time the MMF had offered any type of sport programming in the Region – to 40 Youth aged 7 – 16. Dryland training took place outdoors with Manitoba Aboriginal Sport & Recreation Council coaches, while staff from the MMF and Thompson’s Minor Hockey, including veteran coach Kevin Stadnek, covered on-ice training.

“In all my years running sport camps in Winnipeg, I am proud of how the community has benefited,” said Parenteau, “and how our young people have transitioned into fine respectable adults and some elite level athletes – some of whom are now giving back to the community volunteering and coaching. I am pleased to be a part of their journey and move into other communities in the province.”

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