



Le Métis



I'm sure you've heard about the heartbreaking invasion of Ukraine, at the command of Russia's President Vladimir Putin. While Ukrainian men of fighting age are expected to stay and fight against this invasion, many women, children, and Elders are fleeing to countries like Poland and Hungary to escape the violence taking place against their homes, schools, and workplaces.

The Red River Métis understand very well what it means to fight desperately to preserve your Nation and your independence, as many of our ancestors gave everything to defend us. We are fierce defenders of democracy, and I know many people within our Nation will have strong feelings about these horrendous acts by the Russian military.

The earliest Ukrainian immigrants came to Manitoba in the early 1890s, so they have been our neighbours and friends for more than a hundred years. Over those years, many have intermarried with our Nation, which means they are not just our friends and neighbours – in many cases, they are our family.

President's Message

I am certain that these events are weighing heavily on our war Veterans and their families, who are intimately familiar with the cost of war, and the personal price it can inflict. Over the years, I have had the privilege of speaking with many Métis Veterans across our Homeland. In those discussions, many told me they drew comfort from the idea that their sacrifices would ensure that no future generations would ever be called upon to make the same sacrifices.

For our Veterans, and our Citizens with Ukrainian heritage or Ukrainian loved ones, know that the Nation of the Red River Métis stands in solidarity with you and with Ukraine.

While these events are tragic and alarming, there are bright lights that shine. Many Ukrainian civilians, including seniors, are staying in their communities and preparing to take up arms to defend their country, their loved ones, and their freedom. Other Ukrainians are standing in line to donate blood for injured troops. The borders of Ukraine's neighbouring countries are being opened to those who have had to leave, offering shelter, aid, and comfort. Across the world, momentum for humanitarian aid is growing and countries like Canada, farther away from the conflict, are preparing to welcome Ukrainians fleeing Russian aggression. Vigils are being held across the globe, in support and solidarity for the Ukrainian people. Even within Russia, citizens are taking the extraordinary measure of protesting the actions of their government, in spite of the fact that protest is not legal in Russia, meaning they face arrest or worse for their choice to speak out.

Rest assured, your Métis government – the National government of the Red River Métis, also known as the Manitoba Métis – will not stand idle during this time. We will take decisive action to support our Ukrainian friends and help those who have had to flee their homes. We are

exploring ways to provide humanitarian support to Ukraine and her people, and I will share our plan with all Citizens once we have determined the best path forward.

In the meantime, I urge all Citizens to continue looking after loved ones, neighbours, and vulnerable community members – simple but heartfelt acts of service may feel small, but they make a significant difference in the lives of the people around us and can provide us all with a sense of comfort.

For Ukrainian citizens, refugees, and those Canadians and Manitobans who have family under threat in Ukraine, you are all in my prayers, as are all Red River Métis Citizens who have been caused to grieve.

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand. LL.D. (hon). D.M. ∞

Métis Youth helping seniors through snow clearing program



In 11-year-old Landyn Raulino's first week with the snow clearing program, he cleared nine sidewalks for seniors.

With snow continuing to fall in record amounts this winter across the province, Métis Youth have been stepping up to clear driveways and sidewalks for seniors.

Launched earlier this year in an announcement by President David Chartrand, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) snow clearing program keeps Youth active while helping Elders, seniors, and those living with disabilities with snow removal. Through the program, organized by each Region in coordination with Locals, the MMF offers remuneration to Youth for clearing snow from driveways, walkways, decks, and stairs.

Gisele Hupe, Chairperson for the Richer Métis Local, said that similar to a summer student initiative last year to beautify the community, the snow clearing program aligned with the Local's mandate.

"Our initiative for the Richer Local is to embrace any project that helps our seniors, our Youth," Hupe said.

There are six Métis Youth in Richer and surrounding areas working hard to remove snow for over 12 Elders, seniors, and people living with disabilities.

The Local is still looking for more Métis Youth to meet with the demand.

"The seniors that we did help really appreciated it," Hupe said.



Six Métis Youth in Richer and surrounding areas are working hard to remove snow for over 12 Elders, seniors, and people living with disabilities.

Barbara Dutiaume, who lives in the Richer area, applauded the program. She said a couple of Youth shovelled the driveway for her mother on a few occasions, who has a broken hip and lives with her son.

"There's no way they could get that snow cleared," Dutiaume said. "So the kids coming was a blessing."

MMF Minister Denise Thomas, Vice-President of the Southeast Regional Métis Corporation, said the Youth are doing a good job in Richer and the surrounding area.

"Thanks to President Chartrand, who always looks after our Elders, the MMF has your back," she said.

In the Winnipeg Region, three Métis Youth have been helping the Métis Elders that have called in for snow removal. MMF Minister Andrew Carrier, Vice-President for the Winnipeg Métis Association, said that to date, 28 homes have had snow and ice removed from sidewalks, steps, and driveways. He has also heard from Citizens that other Métis Youth have volunteered their time to help seniors with snow removal.

"Many homes have snowbanks of two-and-a-half metres tall," said Minister Carrier. "Many Métis Elders would not be able to leave their home if it weren't for the hard work and dedication of our Métis Youths. The Métis community spirit and pride are demonstrated by these acts of kindness."

Eleven-year-old Landyn Raulino, who lives in Winnipeg, embodies that Métis community spirit and pride. In his first week with the program, he cleared nine sidewalks for seniors. Since January, he has shovelled a few houses each of the nine times he has gone out.

"He has now five regular houses he goes to to keep the sidewalk clear for our seniors, three of which are Métis seniors," said Debi Copple, Kinew Métis Council Chairperson.

Raulino is an active Youth with the Kinew Métis Council, from taking part in jigging and painting classes, a sash project, and more. He's also attended Youth programs offered by the Winnipeg Region.

"He loves the outdoors," said Copple. "He snowshoes and he snares rabbits and has learned to eat what he harvests and share with his family. He is on a mission to hunt a prairie chicken and have his dad cook it for the family."

The Métis Youth looks forward to continuing to help Elders by cutting lawns this summer.

"We are so proud of him for taking on this project," added Copple.

Métis Youth can get involved in the snow clearing program by connecting with their Region and Local. Call the MMF at **204-586-8474** for more information.



Register for the Annual General Assembly today!

**The Manitoba Métis Federation is proud to
announce that the Annual General Assembly will
take place on March 25th, 26th and 27th, 2022, at
the Assiniboia Downs.**

Visit mmfaga.ca to register.

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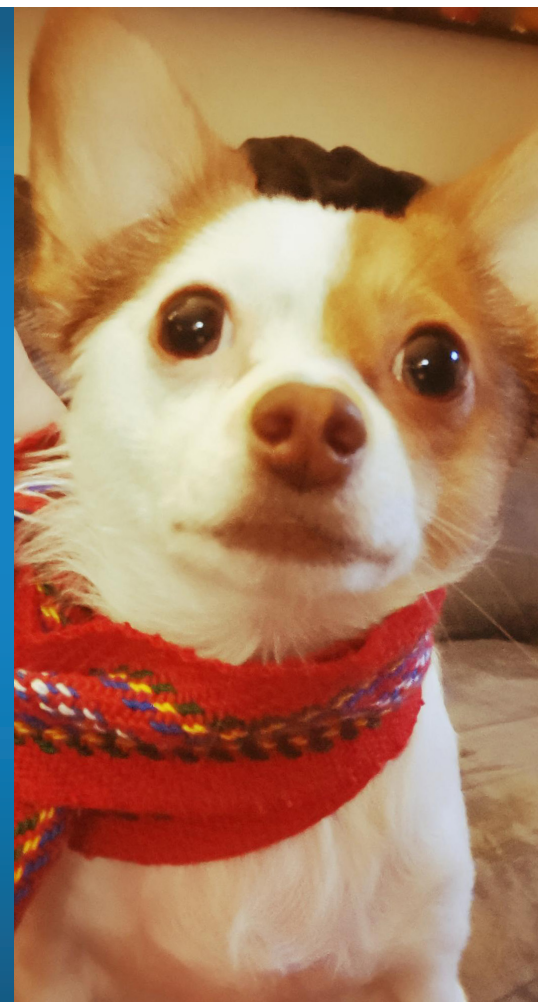
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Community Photo

Le Metis' Community Photo section invites Métis Citizens to send in photos to be featured in our newsletter. If you have a photo that celebrates the Métis Nation, send it to communications@mmf.mb.ca and you may see it in print!



"Shhh, mom's telling the one about Riel again"