



# Le Métis



## President's Message

We also had many great vocalists and performers that included Ray St. Germain, Holly Vee, James Dutiaume, Scott Fehr, Kicking up Dust and many others. Of course, many performers benefitted from being backed by our AGA House Band of Darren Lavallee, Paul Kelly, Don Ranville, Randy Hiebert and Ken Campbell.

Along with food, music, laughter and community connection, we advanced our constitution through a series of resolutions designed to update our constitution and reflect our contemporary governance structure, along with our status as the National Government of the Red River Métis. Delegates also heard about our progress with our ownership in taking back responsibility for our children in care, our housing and education supports and our robust progress toward strong economic development.

If there is one message that I would like Citizens to take from this AGA, it's that we are quickly growing our ability to provide economic solutions to modern-day infrastructure and housing challenges. It can be frustrating to see that many people outside of our community still see us as a social challenge that needs to be fixed, but I know that we are gaining such momentum that it won't be long before they recognize that we are not a social problem – we are an economic solution.

To date, we have secured investment of close to \$1 billion dollars in our nation for programs and services for Citizens from our federal partners through our government-to-government relationship. Programs that flow from these funds range from housing programs to post-secondary education funding, home repair and support for Red River Métis entrepreneurs. In addition to that, you as a Citizen of our Nation have over 140 properties with 800 acres of land, and \$40-50 million in capital assets.

Along with opening childcare centres, with a target of 15 across the province, our ongoing economic development projects also include: a \$12-million Fort Street boutique hotel and spa; 350 acres of land on Breezy Point Road, Lake Manitoba Resort in St. Laurent; a Red River Métis Youth Camp in the Duck Mountains and a \$10.3 million dollar investment in The Pas for housing and community space, with more announcements coming all the time, you can begin to get a sense of how vast and varied our investments are.

Not only did our Assembly hear about our economic investments into the province we created, the very

act of gathering in Assembly generated over half a million dollars of investment into the local economy through hiring contractors, hotel and catering bookings and additional purchases. I hope you are as proud as I am that we are such a strong presence in our province, both economically and culturally.

Along with advancing our constitution and sharing our progress toward becoming the economic engine of the west as we once were, the MMF made a key announcement that advances our Métis-specific healthcare agenda, through the creation of mobile nursing units. These vans can travel to our smaller and more remote villages, where access to healthcare supports can be challenging.

Richard Genaille, MMF Minister of Sports & Youth, also announced a partnership with the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council (MASRC) for a National Aboriginal Hockey Championship in Winnipeg in May 2023. He presented at \$50,000 cheque to MASRC Executive Director Mel Whitesell that will go towards the championship.

The Assembly was also very supportive of our announced upcoming trip to Rome. Citizens greeted the announcement with support and pride, knowing that the Red River Métis will have a day set aside with the Pope, which reflects our status as the National Government of the Red River Métis. Of course, I will brief you about the experience upon our return, but all Citizens will be able to follow along on our pilgrimage through daily updates on our website.

Those who missed the Assembly and are interested in watching the proceedings can find the recording on our MMF YouTube channel.

With the number of Youth fully and actively participating in our Youth Council, in our Locals and at our Assembly, I have a great sense of pride and confidence that we are heading toward a future as strong as our present. Together, we are truly finding our place in Canada's confederation and making history as the Red River Métis Nation.

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

Meeqwetch,

I'm so proud of the great success of our AGA last weekend. It was the first time we have ever done a combined virtual/in-person assembly, but likely not the last time. With a total of 1,700 hits for the entertainment, and 170 hours of viewing time, along with 2,000 in-person attendees and 1,230 registered online participants, it's clear that our Citizens appreciate having a choice about the way in which they participate in our great democratic traditions.

Before anything else, I want to thank the Cabinet, staff and volunteers, along with the Local and Regional representatives who worked so hard and put in so many hours to ensure that every Citizen who wanted to participate in our democracy had the ability to do so.

The event was attended by a long list of dignitaries, NDP leader Wab Kinew, Manitoba Liberal Party leader Dougald Lamont; Scott McMurchy, RCMP D Division Superintendent; Winnipeg Police Chief Danny Smyth, and Premier Heather Stefanson, who brought greetings on behalf of the province. It was stunning to see our Citizens fill the main hall for our Assembly to the point of standing room only to hear the greetings shared by our dignitaries and my State of the Nation address.

The Saturday night entertainment had a lot of viewers, both in-person and virtually. That's no surprise, considering the talent we had on display. We had performances that included the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers, the D-Town Steppers and the Kinew Jiggers. Of course, it wouldn't be a Red River Métis event without fiddlers like Michael Audette, Eldon Campbell, Colton McLeod and Morgan Ginther.

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



# MMF AGA celebrates strength of Red River Métis



MMF President David Chartrand delivered his State of the Métis Nation in Manitoba address on Saturday, March 26 at the Assiniboia Downs.

Approximately 3,000 Red River Métis Citizens and delegates gathered at the Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg for the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Annual General Assembly (AGA) on March 25-27. 2,000 delegates from across Manitoba participated virtually, while over 1,400 viewers tuned in on the MMF's YouTube page. The three-day event – co-chaired by MMF Minister Will Goodon, Métis N4 Construction CEO Marc LeClair, and Youth co-chair Kyra De La Ronde – was a productive weekend of Red River Métis governance in the heart of the Métis Nation Homeland.

The AGA is a fundamental part of our governance structure. It is a time to review our accomplishments, recognize our successes, and plan for the future, while practising one of the fundamental traditions of our rich democratic history.

Opening Ceremonies featured welcoming remarks from notable dignitaries, including: Clement Chartier, MMF Ambassador of International and Inter-nation Affairs; Manitoba Premier Heather Stefanson; Manitoba NDP leader Wab Kinew; Manitoba Liberal Party leader Dougald Lamont; Scott McMurchy, RCMP D Division Superintendent; Winnipeg Police Chief Danny Smyth; and Minister Anita Campbell, Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) Spokeswoman. Video greetings were also provided by Minister of Northern Affairs Dan Vandal, Minister of Indigenous



Richard Genaille, MMF Minister of Sports & Youth, presented a \$50,000 cheque to Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council Executive Director Mel Whitesell, which will go towards a National Aboriginal Hockey Championship in Winnipeg in May 2023.

Services Patty Hajdu, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Marc Miller, Minister of Housing Ahmed Hussen, and Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman.

During MMF President David Chartrand's State of the Métis Nation in Manitoba address on Day 2, he provided updates on the nation-to-nation relationship with the federal government, including negotiations on land claims. He also announced that negotiations are beginning with Canada for Métis-specific health legislation, a critical breakthrough for the Red River Métis, who have the highest rate of chronic illness in this province.

"That means you are going to have your health services. That means you're going to be covered when it comes to your issues of diabetes, chronic illnesses, taking our people's life so early, so wrongly. You should not be in that situation," he told the crowd.

"We have come so far. And we are about to enter a new era," he said, adding that the modern-day treaty will guarantee Red River Métis Citizens' rights are protected by law. "That is going to be so powerful."

In addition, he noted that the MMF has received thousands of Citizenship applications from across the Prairies since removing the borders of provincial jurisdiction.

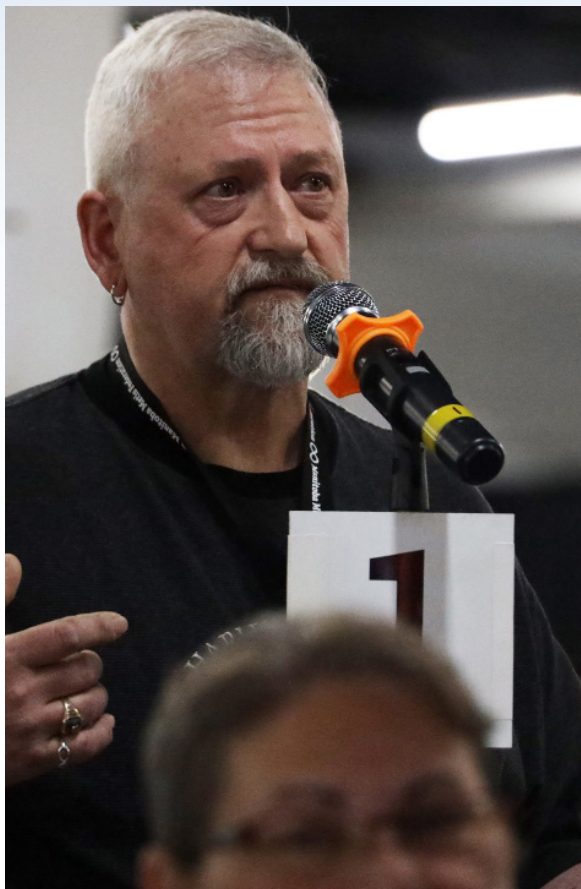
"We of the Red River have no more borders. Whether you live in the United States, whether you live in Germany, you can get a Citizenship card with your Federation," he said. "It is going to change the very essence of your government, expanding its jurisdiction and its territory."

The weekend's festivities featured presentations from MMF Ministers highlighting recent advancements for the Red River Métis government, including the growth of early learning and child care centres and affordable housing units across the province, mobile health units, and a \$10-million endowment fund for students through the Louis Riel Institute.

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More exciting advancements were revealed on Day 3, with President Chartrand presenting on Red River Métis assets. The stunning list of ongoing economic development projects includes: a \$12-million Fort Street boutique hotel and spa; 350 acres of land on Breezy Point Road, on which the first Métis-specific addictions and drug rehabilitation centre will be





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located; Lake Manitoba Resort in St. Laurent; a Red River Métis Youth Camp in the Duck Mountains; and a \$15-million 55+ housing unit in Selkirk with office, retail, and pharmacy space. The Métis government currently owns over 800 acres of land, with \$40-50 million in capital assets.

"I want to make sure the future is going to be as bright as it can be, and I want to leave a legacy behind, and so do my Cabinet colleagues, for the next leadership to always know they have the resources and the tools, to make our lives better," President Chartrand said.

The Mini AGA – which offers Métis children the opportunity to learn more about their heritage through games, arts, crafts, music, and dancing – took place in-person and virtually in conjunction with the MMF AGA. Fifty-six students participated this year in the Mini AGA, which focused on the theme of identity.

The Saturday evening entertainment featured a stacked lineup of Métis talent, with performances from Ray St. Germain, Michael Audette and Troy Flamand, Morgan Ginther, the D-Town Steppers, Eldon Campbell, the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers, Holly Vee, Johnny Dietrich with Kicking up Dust, and many more.

The rainbow auction, organized by IWS, raised \$21,050 for the MMF's Bereavement Fund. MMF Minister Jack Park, Chairman of Métis N4 Construction, announced that the corporation would match the amount.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this AGA a resounding success. If you missed the AGA, it is available on the MMF's YouTube channel. All relevant AGA documents, including resolutions and reports, can be found on the AGA website at [mmfaga.ca](http://mmfaga.ca).

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