



Le Métis



President's Message

It is a significant responsibility that I know each one of your representatives takes very seriously.

Uniting to deliver on a shared vision

Once the inauguration has taken place, we settle into the hard work. Cabinet members are appointed by the President to their portfolios, ratified by Cabinet and given mandate letters that outline what they are expected to achieve during their term. This is one of the ways we take your vision for our Nation and put it into action. A clear mandate and a clear set of expectations makes sure that each portfolio and each Cabinet member's work is contributing to the broader vision. The effort required to advance each portfolio is significant and continues to grow, particularly as we begin establishing the necessary framework to serve Citizens beyond borders, wherever they live.

Governing a Nation means bringing focus to many areas, and looking at the big picture of the many ways we can, and do, improve the lives of our Citizens. From child care to pharmacare, post-secondary education to housing, support for microbusinesses to large economic investments on behalf of the Nation, we are continuously working to ensure the long-term well-being of our Nation and our Citizens.

None of this work would be possible without the contributions of the leaders who came before us. Leaders at the local and regional level, historic leaders like Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, and Cuthbert Grant, past presidents and beyond – our successes are owed to all who have stood and fought, refused to disappear and advocated for our Nation. We owe a debt to all these leaders and we must honour their contributions by leaving a legacy for future leaders to build on. Our grassroots leaders are the foundation builders of our Nation and I look forward to our continued dialogue to ensure that all parts of our government act in harmony.

I can't speak about the idea of leaving a legacy without speaking to the importance of the relationship between Youth and Elders. In our history, our communities – our parishes – were structured with extended families living close to each other, meaning that Elders were always present and ready to teach and nurture our Youth. Elders taught skills like harvesting and crafting, and told stories that taught our children how to live in a good way. More than that, Elders taught Youth about the importance of culture, of responsibility, and accountability to the community.

Modern life has made it more challenging for some Elders and Youth to interact this frequently. This connection is critical to the preservation of our culture in the long term, so we are actively working

to improve and restore those connections, through Elder engagement at our child care facilities, our community building projects like the one in The Pas, and through conferences dedicated to supporting and reinforcing this relationship. Supporting the transmission of wisdom of Elders to the younger generations will always be a focus of your Métis Government. We are planning our next Elders Conference in Selkirk for the late summer or early fall, and our Youth will play an integral role in this meeting, as they always have.

A tradition of unity

If there is one thing this acclamation makes clear, it's that our Citizens stand united. Even during the days of the Buffalo Hunt – our earliest form of governance – debates and discussions within our Nation were always lively and passionate. Along with being an economically-minded people, we are also a politically-minded people. While we will debate an issue and express our views vigorously, once the people expressed their will through voting, the debate was over and we moved as a united front. This ability to unify was critical to the success of our hunts, which were the lifeblood of our Nation. That is our heritage and one of our great strengths as a Nation.

Lively debate and discussion still take place within your Métis Government, but this ability to unite is fundamental to our culture even today. Though your Métis Government has grown by leaps and bounds, with more than 1,000 employees, we are still able to be nimble and adapt to new information or new challenges. Through the late winter and spring snowfall, the Manitoba Métis Federation provided a new opportunity to young entrepreneurs who were willing and able to assist Elders with snow clearing. When those unusually heavy snows turned to heavy rain, we quickly assembled a flood assistance program. This is in addition to providing firewood for our Elders to stay warm – an initiative that is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago.

If there is one message I hope Citizens take away from this, it's that your Métis Government will always unite and work together to meet your needs. We have your back and always will.

How we stay united today

Your Métis Government is constantly advancing our national agenda, delivering programs and services to Citizens and announcing new projects and initiatives. It can be a lot to keep up with, but transparent and accountable governance is critical to my leadership and to the approach of your elected officials in Cabinet. We also know, based on the survey of Citizens last spring, that you feel strongly that educating all Manitobans and Canadians about

Wednesday, June 29 is the day we have scheduled for the inauguration of your elected officials, all of whom were given the authority, by you, to represent your Métis Government through acclamation across all regions and positions. This province-wide acclamation is history making, never before seen in our government. Together, we will be sworn into office, delivering our oaths in public and declaring before our people that we will be accountable to you, and fulfill the duties of our office to the best of our abilities.

As has been our tradition since 1997, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the Honourable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M. will preside over our inauguration. The tradition of being sworn in by Manitoba's Lieutenant Governor is reflective of the fact that we – like our provincial, federal, and civic counterparts – are governments, given our mandates by the will of the people. We know our inauguration and our oaths of office are just as important and impactful to the Citizens we serve as those in every other level of government.

As anyone who has ever held office knows, it's one thing to run for a leadership position. It's another to shoulder the enormous responsibility we are entrusted with, and to ensure that we are managing the significant workload that is required. This acclamation makes clear that we are honouring the trust of Citizens, and being given the opportunity to continue on the path we've taken, defending our unique identity as Red River Métis and continuing to advance the programs and services that our Citizens rely on.

Make no mistake, when your representatives are appointed to Cabinet and take on the portfolios assigned to them, they have the power to make an impact on the daily lives of Citizens, but they also take on the obligation of managing multi-million-dollar initiatives and outcomes that can change lives.

who we are and what we stand for is a priority. We are the Red River Métis, and our heritage, history, and contributions to Canada must be recognized and honoured.

We use a large variety of communications tools to make sure you can stay informed and that we raise awareness of our activities in the public eye. We make good use of billboards, radio, and television commercials, along with advertisements in both regional and local newspapers to share information about our priorities and our key messages.

Social media is another significant way in which we engage with Citizens – and where we often promote important information or alert you to events taking place near you. We also send letters and news releases to Citizens via email, for those who prefer to receive their information that way.

If you're a regular listener of the *Métis Hour* x2 on NCI every Saturday from 11-1, you know that this is another opportunity for Citizens to hear a report on our activities. I encourage you to tune in to the program, along with reading these regular messages, and checking out our website and social media. Together, these communications will give you an ongoing update on the progress we're making towards the priorities you've told us are important to you.

You can choose any or all of these ways to engage with your Métis Government, but I encourage you to stay informed as we continue to advance our agenda. Your active participation and continued commitment to protecting our identity are foundational to our ability to be united.

As your President, I am deeply grateful to once again serve Citizens, who have done me the honour of giving me the responsibility and trust to protect our Nation. I can assure you that the confidence you have shown in me will be honoured. I will work hard, as I always have, to address your needs and secure your rights. I will also make sure that no one can ever steal our identity, and leave the legacy of our heritage and culture for our Youth. You honour me, my wife Glorian, and our family with your faith, and from my heart, I thank you for this privilege.

Until we can be together 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,

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

MMF breaks ground on 55+ housing complex in Selkirk



Left to right: Will Goodon, Minister of Housing and Property Management; Minister Alfred Anderson, Vice-President of the Interlake Region; Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson; President David Chartrand; Minister Jack Park; and Minister Mona Buors at the ground-breaking ceremony in Selkirk.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) recently broke ground on a state-of-the-art 49-unit seniors housing complex in Selkirk.

During the ground-breaking ceremony on May 25, the MMF announced an investment of nearly \$15

million into the project, which will provide affordable housing for Elders and seniors, plus 8,250 sq. ft. of commercial space for offices and retail, alongside 50 heated parking spaces. With close proximity to the nearby health hub and new hospital, the vision for the development is to provide wraparound supports,

with some of the commercial space used by MMF government operations to offer critical programs and services for Red River Métis seniors and Elders.

Will Goodon, MMF Minister of Housing and Property Management, said the complex is one of the ways the MMF strives to build a better Manitoba for all Red River Métis Citizens.

“We are committed to our communities, committed to places like Selkirk. One of the things that I’ve noticed over the years since we’ve started working in different communities is the support you have from the local government is absolutely vital to the success of this project,” said Minister Goodon. “I can say without a doubt that Selkirk is one of those places that has reached out and embraced the Red River Métis.”

The property will adopt energy-efficient design principles as part of the MMF’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The building will also include a 3,800-sq.-ft. common area, with a residents’ terrace providing breathtaking views of the Red River.

City of Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson is fully on board with the project.

“This is a tremendous build and this is a huge opportunity. We have a strong (Métis) population in the city of Selkirk and the region. This is huge for them to be able to live here on the river,” said Johannson. “I applaud the forward thinking of the MMF, and I look forward to the partnership of working together.”

The proposed six-storey development will be constructed on Eveline Street, following the

consolidation of 335 Eveline with 357, 361, and 363 Eveline – properties the MMF already owns. The project is one of the Métis Government’s numerous housing units in various phases of completion across the city.

President David Chartrand is proud to establish this seniors housing complex in Selkirk.

“There is so much progress happening in the Federation today, and the growth of our Nation is

unbounded. It’s moving forward, and this is the beginning of many,” said President Chartrand. “We’re also repairing 1,400 houses, some of which are in the Selkirk area. Right across the province, there are 1,400 applications for housing repairs through the Home Enhancement Loan Program. Our Citizens can be confident that we have their back in every way, which includes helping them secure their homes.”

In addition to the Métis Government’s numerous investments into housing projects in Selkirk and

across the province, the MMF offers programs to support Métis Citizens such as the Home Enhancement Loan Program and the First Time Homebuyer’s Program, which has helped over 600 Citizens, including 67 in Selkirk, become homeowners.

Construction on the units is expected to begin by early 2023 and wrap up in 2024.

Métis bowler racking up accolades with tenpin nationals victories



Brittney Rocan poses with her medals and banner from her victories at the Canadian Tenpin Federation 2022 Youth Championships in Winnipeg.

For some, bowling may be a game to play with friends and socialize, but for Brittney Rocan, it’s a way of life.

The 22-year-old Red River Métis from Winnipeg has been striking her way to podiums on the national level. Rocan recently captured five medals and was the Senior Girls All Events Champion at the Canadian Tenpin Federation 2022 Youth Championships, which was held on May 19-22 in Winnipeg. She breaks down her success in the tournament.

“There are four girls (per team) for the team event, and we got silver. (In) doubles, we were in a tiebreaker, and we got bronze. In singles, I was in a tiebreaker, and I got silver. In team all-events, which (means) every person on the team’s scores are

added over the entire weekend, we got silver,” she said. “And then, I got gold in the all-event for my age category, and that’s a phenomenal feat because this was nationals.”

For Rocan, bowling has been a skill passed down through generations of her family, beginning with her grandparents. She started learning the sport at two years old.

“My parents would bowl all the time when I was young, then my brother would bowl, and then I wanted to bowl as well as he did, so I got into it. He was older than me, so he aged out before me,” she noted. “I just kept practicing, and I fell in love with the game. Ever since probably 2011, I’ve been in a bowling alley five times a week.”

With this being Rocan’s last year of eligibility bowling in Youth leagues, she said it was a surreal feeling to capture the overall championship on home soil.

“Since I’ve been bowling, this is the third national championship that I’ve won. It’s a pretty hard thing to win, and this year I was able to (win) and dominate by almost 300 pins,” she said. “I swept the field this time, and I felt that my game has improved, and all my hard work has paid off.”

Bowling has allowed Rocan to travel across the country, from British Columbia to Quebec, to participate in national tournaments. Bowling has even taken her as far as California, Detroit, Colombia, and the Dominican. She adds even though her Youth career may be over, there are still plenty of opportunities for her to hone her craft.

“I’ve been bowling in an adult league here in Winnipeg since I was 17, and I’m going to continue bowling there because it’s one of the only scratch leagues in the city at La Vérendrye Bowling Lanes,” she said. “I’m just going to continue working on my game, practicing even more, and then I’m going to bowl adult tournaments in the city, but I might go out of the province to bowl in some tournaments.”

Bowling is not the only passion the 22-year-old has. She’s been working hard over the last few years to secure an education.

“I’m in year four of five for my Industrial Arts Teacher Education program. It’s through Red River College Polytechnic and the University of Winnipeg,” said Rocan, who is currently finishing up teaching Grade 6 to 12 woodworking in her practicum.

“I’m having an absolute blast,” she added. “It’s a great program to be in, and I think it gives you a lot of introduction to hands-on learning. I’ve wanted to be a teacher since I was five years old, so I’m excited to graduate.”

Rocan likes to express her Métis pride visually. She wears a Métis Nation flag pin while on the lanes and plans to get a jersey with symbols of Métis culture. Rocan said she’s grateful for all the Manitoba Métis Federation’s (MMF) support.

“Within the last few years, I’ve really learned more about myself, my family, and where I come from. It’s been a great opportunity through the MMF. They’ve given me funding and allowed me to follow my dreams of continuing my bowling career,” she said. “Within bowling and through education, the scholarship money (the MMF) gives you really makes you not have to think about money. It makes you think about the sport (and education) in general and gives you that much more opportunity to fall in love with it.”

Rocan’s current focus is preparing for the 2022 Youth Bowl Canada National Championships that are taking place in Thunder Bay from July 10-12. She encourages everyone, especially Youth, to embrace their roots.

“I really think that people who are Métis should get their cards and really embrace and see what kind of things (the MMF) can do for the Youth here in Manitoba. I know they’ve helped me a lot.”



A circular inset image showing a red canoe on a calm body of water with a forested shoreline in the background.

**REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
DAY CAMPS**

The MELT logo, featuring a stylized green forest scene within a red circular frame, with a bison head logo at the bottom.

MELT

Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow

NO COST TO ATTEND
OPEN TO MÉTIS YOUTH AGES 10-14
LUNCH AND SNACKS PROVIDED
CANOEING, ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION, GAMES AND PRIZES!

To register, please contact:
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