



Le Métis



President's Message

Our Citizens know that our Nation and our ancestors were the dominant force in our Homeland for generations before Canada gained effective control of our territory. Our Citizens also know that after 1885, we became Canada's forgotten people for nearly 100 years.

Today, our culture is experiencing a revival, with many people returning to our Nation, reclaiming their lost identity and learning about our important contributions to the creation of Manitoba and Canada. Our voices are gaining strength, our citizenship is growing in leaps and bounds, and we are slowly turning the tide that saw us forgotten.

It is so important that we remember where we came from, and the effort it took to make this revival happen. We recently celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day across our country – an important time for us to reflect on our accomplishments and our vision for the future. It's equally important that we take the time to gather and share in our culture. This is one of the ways we can preserve it for future generations.

Our children will always benefit from community events. Not only does it help them build on their pride in who they are, it allows them to see the cultural significance we put on sharing food, laughter, and music with our community and our neighbours. Of course, events like the one in Selkirk – and events in all regions – would not be possible without the strength of our Locals and their grassroots, volunteer efforts.

Along with plenty of food, games, and booths, music was a big feature of the day's events. The entertainment was provided by some of our incredible musicians and jiggers, including Morgan Grace, Krista Rae, and the Métis Club Traditional Dancers. It simply would not be a Red River Métis event without music to get your toes tapping and

jigging to raise your energy, and our flags flying proudly in celebration of our culture.

The Selkirk Local does a large amount of work to make the Selkirk festivities happen. A team of volunteers helped put everything together and ensure the little details that matter so much to Red River Métis hospitality were looked after. I'd also like to thank the Teulon Métis Local's volunteers for making a delicious breakfast to feed all the attendees. These grassroots leaders and their volunteers are people who put their hearts and souls into this important work. They spent countless hours of their free time to make the event a tremendous success, all while ensuring the community turns out in full force to represent our community pride. To all those who helped make Selkirk's National Indigenous Peoples Day a success, I thank you from my heart for everything you do.

I also thank the City of Selkirk for their generous in-kind donations that included use of the Memorial Hall. Our ability to host this event at no cost for all attendees is due in part to their generosity and partnership. Our relationship with the City of Selkirk continues to thrive, and now includes the \$14.3-million investment into 55+ housing that we recently announced. There are many Red River Métis Citizens living in the city, and I appreciate that two levels of government can come together and invest in the Red River Métis presence in Selkirk.

I know the spirit and energy of our revival could be seen and heard by everyone in our communities during the festivities. I am so proud of our Nation and our Citizens, and I pray that we stay who we are, and never become swamped by other identities claiming to be us.

This is one of the reasons why our relationships with our First Nations relatives are so important. Identity theft affects all Indigenous Nations in Canada, as pretenders seem to take elements of our identity and elements of First Nations culture to create something new, all while claiming it as historic.

As our fellow stewards of the land and people we share territory or common interests with, it's vital that we work in harmony with the First Nations and find ways to support one another. Ambassador Clément Chartier and I are actively working toward strengthening these relationships, respecting our unique Nations and identities.

There can be no doubt that we stand strong in our prairie homeland, in the province we brought into Canada's Confederation in 1870. I truly believe we are making progress toward the vision Louis Riel had for our Nation, and I can't wait for us to take the next steps forward. We are no longer Canada's forgotten people. We have recognized harvesting rights. Our

citizenship is expanding beyond the borders that did not exist when we declared our nationhood. We are educated, knowledgeable, and proud.

We are breathing new life into traditional economies like the fur trade and fishing. We are supporting artists and artisans as they create our signature flower beadwork and create new and innovative designs that represent their pride in our people. Your Métis Government is hard at work making significant investments and creating self-sustaining programs and services that will ensure the long-term well-being of our Citizens and our Nation.

We are recognized in Canada's constitution as one of the three Indigenous Peoples of Canada – a distinct and unique Nation. Never again will we see our villages burnt out to make room for cattle pastures, like we did in Ste. Madeleine. Never again will our people be chased out of the community that means everything to us, like we did in Rooster Town. Never again will our Veterans go unrecognized for their valour in defence of democracy in our Homeland or abroad. Never again will we be the forgotten people. Your Cabinet and I will continue fighting to build on this strong legacy for the next generation of leaders. We will continue to advance ourselves, hitting milestones that include the settlement of our land claim and our modern-day treaty, along with the delivery of a Métis-specific healthcare strategy.

I hope you all had the chance to spend quality time with friends and family on this important day. I also hope you took a moment to celebrate your unique heritage as Red River Métis and appreciate all the progress we have made in advancing our Nation.

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. ∞

Duck Bay Youth participate in confirmation ceremony



Twenty-five Youth participated in a confirmation ceremony at the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Duck Bay on May 28, presided by Winnipeg Archbishop Richard Gagnon.

Twenty-five Youth participated in a confirmation ceremony at the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the Métis community of Duck Bay on May 28, presided by Winnipeg Archbishop Richard Gagnon.

Confirmation, which confirms a baptized person in their faith, is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church, including baptism, Holy Communion, confession, and marriage. Leading up to confirmation, Youth took classes to grow their faith and prepare them for the ritual.

The ceremony began with grave blessings by Archbishop Gagnon at the Duck Bay Cemetery, where the entire community participated in prayers and blessings, including Manitoba Métis Federation

(MMF) President David Chartrand. Later, during confirmation celebrations at the church, Archbishop Gagnon blessed the Youth, ages 13 and up, with the sponsors (members of the church who guide the confirmed and lead by faith), along with their family and community members. The jam-packed audience included President Chartrand and Minister Richard Genaille.

Lisa Genaille, community organizer and MMF Youth Worker, said the confirmation ceremony was significant for the community.

“We didn’t have a confirmation in our community for a very long time,” she said, adding that church attendance was low before Father Nepolian Suvakin,

the pastor in Duck Bay, came to the church. “He’s wanted to bring it back to our community to teach the kids how church is important and then how they should practice and be involved in our church.”

Lisa’s children recently started going to church for the first time.

“I think it was very good for the kids to actually realize what happens when you do go to church, because there’s all kinds of negative things that are being said about churches now because of residential schools and the Catholic Church,” she said. “It’s nice to just be able to bring it back and see the kids get excited.”

Red River Métis dignitaries pay respects to fallen WWII soldiers



MMF delegates pay their respects to four Manitoban soldiers at Beach Head War Cemetery.

Anzio, Italy – Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Ministers and Métis Veterans recently had the opportunity to visit the Beach Head War Cemetery and pay respect to all World War II veterans, including four fallen Manitoba soldiers.

The visit to the cemetery included the Red River Métis Rome delegation that travelled to the Vatican and met with Pope Francis in April to share their experiences and form an impactful relationship.

The cemetery is nestled five kilometres from the town of Anzio and roughly 60 kilometres south of Rome. The cemetery contains 2,316 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 295 of which remain unidentified.

Many of the soldiers buried at the Beach Head War Cemetery were casualties from Operation Shingle – an amphibious assault which saw 36,000 Allied troops land on the beaches on January 22, 1944. It was a hard-fought battle, and thousands of lives were

lost before June 4, 1944, when Allied troops finally captured Rome.

President David Chartrand was one of the leaders on-hand to tour the grounds. He said it was an honour to be there in person to pay his respects.

“I know that dying on foreign soil and being forgotten was one of the biggest fears of many of our soldiers, so it was important to take the time to honour them,” said President Chartrand.

Although it was raining during the visit, Manitoban flags were draped at the foot of the gravesites, and Archbishop Richard Gagnon led gravesite prayers for the fallen war heroes.

“We honour the young boys and girls who joined the military to fight in defence of democracy,” said President Chartrand. “We also honour the sacrifices of the families who watched their children go overseas to join the war efforts, knowing that some

would not come home. It’s so important that our younger generations – those who have grown up only knowing a world without global conflict – learn about those who gave so much for our security.”

Out of the 2,316 Commonwealth burials at Beach Head War Cemetery, 69 soldiers who served with Canada are buried there, and four hailed from Manitoba: Private Bernard Andrew Hoffard, 1st Canadian Special Service Battalion, R.C.I.C., 6 Regiment, whose parents resided in Norwood; Pilot Officer George Dean, Royal Canadian Air Force, 18 (R.A.F.) Squadron, whose parents resided in Pine Falls; Major John Myer Sexter, 1st Canadian Special Service Battalion, R.C.I.C., born in Winnipeg; and Sergeant Lionel Roziere, 1st Canadian Special Service Battalion, R.C.I.C., born in Notre Dame de Lourdes.

The MMF is considering opportunities to contact close relatives of these Veterans to show that their ancestors’ sacrifices are remembered.

Canada Post unveils stamp to honour Métis leader Harry Daniels



Cheryl Storkson and Minister Will Goodon pose for a photo during the ceremony.

Canada Post has issued a set of stamps to commemorate National Indigenous Peoples Day, including one of Métis leader Harry Daniels, a politician, activist, writer, and actor.

Daniels was elected secretary-treasurer of the Native Council of Canada (now Congress of Aboriginal Peoples) in 1974 and held the titles of President and Chief Executive Officer.

Daniels was instrumental in ensuring Métis rights were enshrined in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and was key in the 2016 *Daniels v. Canada* decision to determine the federal government’s responsibility to Métis and non-status Indians.

Manitoba Métis Federation Minister Will Goodon was on hand to unveil the stamp during a ceremony

on June 13 in Regina, 55-km from Regina Beach, where Daniels was born.

Minister Goodon discussed the significance of the stamp for the Red River Métis.

“Our Métis heroes are slowly getting the recognition they deserve by those outside our Nation,” said Minister Goodon. “We have known for decades that Harry Daniels did extraordinary things on our behalf. This stamp is but one step in much-deserved accolades for a one-of-a-kind Métis leader.”

Minister Goodon reflected on being part of the ceremony.

“Attending this event on behalf of the President of the Red River Métis was an honour but also humbling,” continued Minister Goodon. “But to meet Harry’s widow, Cheryl, and to caretake Harry’s purple hat (which will go in the Métis Nation Heritage Centre) made my heart swell with pride, knowing that we are fighting for the rights and recognition of our people, just like Harry Daniels did.”

Daniels has received degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, Carleton University, and the University of Ottawa (honorary doctorate). He also taught Métis history at the University of Saskatchewan and wrote many papers and books about Métis and Indigenous rights. Before he passed

away in 2004, he was honoured with the Order of the Métis Nation by the Métis National Council.

The stamp was released on June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day. Canada Post also issued two other stamps to honour Indigenous leaders Chief Marie-Anne Day Walker-Pelletier and Jose Kusugak.



The stamp was released on June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day. Photo credit: Canada Post.

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Métis
GRADUATES

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