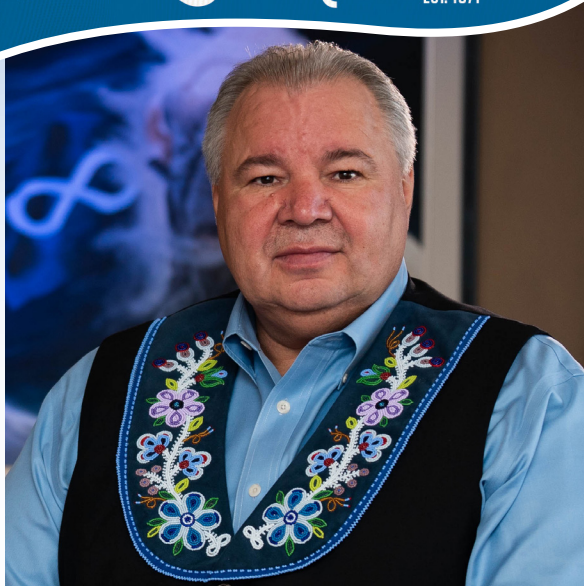




*Le Métis*  
EST. 1871



There are moments in time where we, as Louis Riel's "little Métis Nation," have the opportunity to reflect on our past, including the many successes we've achieved over recent decades. It is a fact that we are no longer Canada's forgotten people, thanks to the dedication of many of our Elders and knowledge keepers, who have dedicated their lives to keeping the flame of our Nation's patriotism alive, never giving up on the day that we would find our rightful place in Canada's confederation.

While it's a cultural cornerstone that our Elders and seniors are treated with deep respect and cared for by all, particularly our Nation's Youth, the respect is given not just because they are older. The respect is due to them because they have earned it by their life's work, ensuring that Youth have something to inherit – a cultural legacy, a storytelling tradition, and a deep-seated sense of who they are.

The traditional ways we show our respect to our Elders were on full display during our journey to Maskwacis to hear the Holy Father's apology in our Homeland. Over 100 Elders, survivors, and knowledge keepers from across all regions embarked on a cross-prairie bus trip, and they were fully supported by Youth and staff from the moment the trip started to the moment we arrived back home.

There is something special about the relationships that form when our community travels together. There is sharing and humour, music and games, along with moments of connection that strengthen our ties. Those who are privileged enough to travel with the Elders take away new wisdom, new relationships, and a new sense of where they fit in this world.

Along with the formal events of the encounter with Pope Francis, there were other, more impromptu moments that contributed to affirming our community's closeness. There was a spontaneous night of music and jigging in our Red Deer hotel, led by the Elders and our very talented musical Citizens,

and fully enjoyed by the Youth. I had many members of the delegation approach me and tell me how much joy the event brought them, and many Elders were already talking about how to plan for another event like it back home.

Even the staff of the facility who were serving Elders at our musical night told members of our staff and Youth that they could never have pictured seeing a spontaneous event like that, with so much talent on display and so much joy across generations. It made me so proud of our Nation and our community to know that wherever we went, we left a lasting impression.

Another spontaneous moment was attending mass on the Sunday prior to our encounter with His Holiness. I know the delegation was deeply grateful for the warm welcome we received from the parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Red Deer, led by Father Miraek Kostarzewski. The church building was designed by an Indigenous architect named Douglas Cardinal, and its beauty, curving walls, and peaceful design were a comforting backdrop for our Elders as we participated in the important ceremony. We were also blessed to have the support of Father Napolian, who accompanied our delegation, to bring comfort, offer prayers, or take the lead in reciting the rosary.

When we met with His Holiness in Rome in April, we knew that it might be difficult for him to make a trip to Winnipeg to visit Louis Riel's gravesite and pay tribute to the deep faith that had our great leader carry a cross into battle, instead of a gun. We also told Pope Francis at that time, that if he could not come to us, we would come to him.

I was so proud of the significant presence of our delegation in Alberta, and deeply appreciative of the opportunity to gather with so many other members of the Indigenous community during this historic event. I know you would have been equally proud to see the way your Red River Métis delegation represented our Nation at Maskwacis.

We were a significant presence in the inner circle, proudly wearing our MMF sashes, standing united, helping each other and wiping away each other's tears as we listened to His Holiness deliver his impactful apology.

Many members of our delegation were touched when Pope Francis acknowledged Winnipeg in his remarks at Maskwacis, which told us that he still kept us in his heart, in spite of his health challenges.

I personally carried a statue of Louis Riel to this encounter with His Holiness, so that our great leader might still have a symbolic role during this historic apology, and so that the statue might be blessed by the Holy Father.

## *President's Message*

I also know that many Red River Métis Citizens felt as our delegation did, that the Pope's decision to travel to our Homeland to deliver this apology, in spite of his health challenges, was an important step toward healing. Minister Andrew Carrier, a day school survivor and the MMF's Minister for Residential and Day School survivors, told his truths to Pope Francis in Rome, and was also part of the delegation to Maskwacis. I have watched over the last months as he has made great strides in his own healing journey, and I know that the Holy Father's demonstration of penitence was important to him, as it was for all the survivors who journeyed with us.

While there are many who will need more time and healing before they accept this apology, it is clear that many of our Red River Métis Citizens have embraced the Holy Father's sincere words and heartfelt messages. I know that those who were at the event will carry their experiences back to their communities and share the feelings that the encounter left in their hearts.

I was also honoured to be able to attend an event with His Holiness in Quebec City, at the Governor General's residence at the Citadelle of Quebec on Wednesday, July 27, accompanied by Minister Carrier. There, we were able to hear the words of His Holiness and participate in this part of his journey to our country, which was followed by his last event in Canada, in Iqaluit.

This was truly a historic moment in our Nation's history, and it is one that will long be remembered. But it is just the beginning.

Because of the deep respect we hold for our Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and survivors, your Métis Government will always pay close attention to their concerns, including their worries over the shrinking presence of the Catholic Church in our communities. It is our duty and our privilege to hear their guidance, and our obligation to find ways to put their words and wishes into action. That is why we remain committed to supporting their wish to strengthen the relationship with the Catholic Church. We will continue to walk side by side with the Church, as we always have in our Nation's past. I look forward to continuing dialogue with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as we move forward on our journey of hope from reconciliation to renewal. We will also need to work together to keep the hope and the religious beliefs we carry alive in our families and in our communities.

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. ∞*



# Associate Minister Peter Fleming enthusiastic about new appointments



Alongside his Cabinet role, Associate Minister Peter Fleming also serves as a Grade 9-12 auto mechanics teacher.



Associate Minister Fleming considers himself an avid outdoorsman, who enjoys hunting, fishing, and gathering.



Associate Minister Fleming poses for a photo with The Honourable Janice C. Filmon during the oath of office ceremony.



Associate Minister Fleming was appointed to the Environment and Climate Change, and Natural Resources portfolios.

With the dust settled on the Manitoba Métis Federation’s (MMF) election and the inauguration ceremony in the rear-view mirror, newly appointed Associate Minister Peter Fleming is eager to step into his new role.

The newly appointed Associate Minister may be fresh to the MMF Cabinet but is no stranger to the Red River Métis Government.

“(I) got involved with the MMF from a very young age. My dad was the Vice-President of the Dauphin Region (now the Northwest Region) back in the early ‘80s. So, I’ve always been around the MMF,” he said. “I’ve been the Local Chair of the Minitonas Local since 2000. I have been on the Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre board in Swan River for the last 12 years, President for the last 10, so I do have background governance knowledge.”

Associate Minister Fleming has extensive knowledge of the MMF Constitution, as he has served on the Resolutions Committee for 10 years, and is the current Chair.

Associate Minister Fleming replaced former Minister John Parenteau, who opted not to run, as an executive for the Northwest Region. He will serve as the Associate Minister of Environment and Climate Change as well as Natural Resources. He believes his knowledge and passion for the outdoors will be an asset.

“Whether it be harvesting game or harvesting berries, I’ve been out there, seeing the changes Citizens have brought forward to the MMF during various consultations regarding vegetation, water, animals, and animal behaviour. The land-based knowledge I have acquired throughout the years ties directly to the Environment and Natural Resources portfolios,” said Associate Minister Fleming.

He has also watched logging companies in the area operate and believes familiarity with the process is also an asset.

“I’ve seen different stages of regrowth and what happens when they do a cut. I’ve always stayed on top of that. It’s always been an interest of mine to keep an eye on the environment and keep stuff in check,” said Associate Minister Fleming. “When I’m out hunting, I’m always taking note of how many deer have twins from one year to the next. I enjoy that; it’s relaxing to be out there with nature and observe the relationships between the animals, birds, and their environment.”

Associate Minister Fleming also has a strong knowledge of commercial fishing from himself and his family being in the trade. One of his main priorities in the office is to get acclimated to his new portfolios.

“The first goal in the first six months would be to look at (the portfolios), determine where they are, and where they want to be, (as well as) talking with the

staff, seeing what their goals and thoughts are,” he said. “With coming into (the portfolios), (the staff) have a direction they want to head. So, I look forward to seeing that direction and offering my guidance and thoughts on where it should be headed.”

The newly appointed Associate Minister was in attendance for the inauguration held at the Fort Garry Hotel and said it was a great experience.

“It was quite an honour to meet the Lieutenant Governor and to be sworn into Cabinet. I had some family and close friends there,” he said. “It was a proud moment to be up on the stage and to now be a part of the Cabinet.”

Associate Minister Fleming also serves as a Grade 9-12 auto mechanics teacher. He compares the joy of watching students grow and mature throughout their high school years to that of the MMF.

“I remember going to a regional meeting when President (David) Chartrand was running to become President in 1997. The MMF has come a long way from those days of a small organization to where it is today as a government; it excites me to now be part of it at this level,” he said. “I feel honoured to have been acclaimed as a Regional Executive Officer and look forward to serving the Citizens of the Red River Metis.”



# MMF partners with Efficiency Manitoba to bring energy savings to Citizens

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) recently announced a partnership with Efficiency Manitoba to aid Red River Métis Citizens with energy saving measures in their homes. The Métis Energy Efficiency Offers (MEEO) program will provide Citizens with low-cost, energy-efficient upgrades to their homes and businesses.

Will Goodon, Minister of Housing and Property Management, said the MMF is excited about this new program and the difference it will make. It will be a sister program to the Home Enhancement Loan Program, which offers a forgivable loan for emergency home repairs and renovations.

“We have been helping Citizens with furnaces, windows, roofs and stuff like that, but this is going to just add onto that. We’ll be able to do that much more for our Citizens,” Minister Goodon said.

The program will help Citizens reduce electricity and natural gas consumption, resulting in a reduction in energy bills. The income-based MEEO program will provide qualified applicants with a free home energy check-up to determine what their energy-saving needs are. Upgrades could include low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, LED lighting, free insulation, and a subsidy for high-efficiency furnaces.

“It just helps people live in a house for that much longer,” Minister Goodon added. “You get those upgrades to your house, and you will be able to live there for a much longer period of time, your house’s value goes up – all these things that when President David Chartrand talks about the MMF having your back, this is exactly what we’re talking about, just adding more value to our Citizens in the long run.”

An Energy Efficiency Advocate will support Citizens as they work through the program and access other Efficiency Manitoba initiatives.

“We’re pleased to work in partnership with the Manitoba Métis Federation to encourage uptake in energy efficiency and sustainability initiatives,” said Colleen Kuruluk, Chief Executive Officer of Efficiency Manitoba, in a press release. “Our goal through the Métis Energy Efficiency Offers and via our support for the Energy Efficiency Advocate is to make energy efficiency upgrades easily accessible to all Red River Métis Citizens. By having a local Energy Efficiency Advocate in place to act as a champion including for the MEEO program, we’re able to collaborate effectively and foster a culture of energy efficiency, conservation, and sustainability.”

The MEEO program is one of many energy efficiency initiatives for the Métis Government, from prioritizing electric vehicle outlets at every child care centre being developed, to the current energy retrofit project at the MMF Home Office to reduce our carbon footprint.

“The Manitoba Metis Federation, our Red River Metis government, is absolutely committed to sustainability and environmental protection,” Minister Goodon said. “I’ve had the good fortune to be able to represent the Métis Nation at international conferences on climate change, on biodiversity, and we always make a point to say, ‘this is the only planet we have, there is no Planet B,’ and we’re going to do our part to make sure that our grandchildren are able to not only survive but thrive, and live in a place that looks similar to what their ancestors lived in.”

For more information on the program, call **204-586-8474 ext. 2680**, or email **housingadmin@mmf.mb.ca**.

## 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!



It’s oh-fish-al, Harvesting season is pawsitively awesome

# CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

STORIES HIGHLIGHTING RED RIVER MÉTIS CITIZENS IN THE COMMUNITY, ALONG WITH MMF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, PROJECTS, AND EVENTS.

Visit **mmf.mb.ca** for more information





# FOLLOW US!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL MMF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, PROJECTS, AND EVENTS!



@ManitobaMetisFederationOfficial



@manitobametisfederation



@MBMetis\_MMf



Manitoba Metis Federation

VISIT [MMF.MB.CA](http://MMF.MB.CA)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION



## NOW BOOKING APPOINTMENTS



**Manitoba Métis  
Federation**  
*Believe in Yourself - Believe in Métis*



**MEDOcare**  
PHARMACY

YOUR MÉTIS GOVERNMENT IS TAKING CARE OF MÉTIS PEOPLE  
BY SECURING DOSES OF THE PFIZER, PEDIATRIC PFIZER, AND  
MODERNA VACCINE FOR THE **NORTHWEST REGION IN DAUPHIN:**

**AUGUST 13-14, 2022**

**MÉTIS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT,  
CLIENTS CAN CONTACT EVELYN NEPINAK

**(204) 638 - 9485**

PLEASE NOTE: YOU ARE ABLE TO REGISTER ALL THOSE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD THAT MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.