



Le Métis
EST. 1871



With the change of season well underway, and the trees showing their beautiful fall colours, our thoughts naturally turn to the harvest and the bounty of our Homeland.

I hope everyone will have chance to enjoy good food and good company over the Thanksgiving long weekend. Traditions like gathering on holidays to feast with loved ones are important; they remind us of the past, and give us space to think of those who are no longer with us to gather at the table. It is a gift to be able to remember the good times we shared, while making new memories and celebrating our ties with our family, friends, and community. Traditions form an important part of what I always say, which is that you need to know where you come from in order to know where you're going.

Another great tradition is our Annual General Assembly (AGA), which allows us to appreciate the continuity of our Nation. Without a doubt, our AGA is the largest Indigenous gathering in Canada, drawing thousands of both in-person and virtual participants, including our Citizens beyond borders.

While our AGAs have always been large, there can be no doubt we are seeing greater participation each year because of the revival of our culture and the renewed interest in our rich democratic traditions. This revival and renewal are not accidental – they are the result of many years of hard work by many patriots, each ensuring that our knowledge, our community, and our history continue to be remembered. This work was not always easy. There was a time when no one was interested in our Nation or righting the wrongs that were done to us. It was an act of pure courage and determination to insist that we be recognized, and heard, and respected.

President's Message

The debt we owe these fierce fighters runs deep. Without those who persisted at the Local level, those who educated themselves so they could defend and represent our Nation, and those who refused to surrender their traditional skills like beading and trapping – we would have had nothing to hang onto. Honouring the efforts of these patriots and keeping the flame of our nationhood alive are responsibilities I have keenly felt since I was a teenager first engaging in Red River Métis politics, and it has fuelled everything I have done as your President.

The strength of our Nation is never more visible than at our AGAs. It is an honour to see all our Elders and the many matriarchs proudly representing the fierce fighters who came before them. It is a privilege to see their pride in their children and grandchildren, who they have guided to become the next generations of patriots. This transfer of knowledge and the instilling of pride from one generation to the next is the very fabric of our Nation being woven, ensuring the long-term well-being of our culture.

This transfer of knowledge and pride is always top of mind for your Red River Métis Government, and, like our Ancestors, we are always ready and willing to innovate to support what matters to us.

One innovation you will see at the AGA is the Red River Festival happening on the Saturday night. Of course, there will be face-painting, colouring, and games for the children in attendance, but there will also be moose and duck calling competitions and a jigging competition, to reflect our traditional activities.

On the Sunday of our AGA, in recognition of our history of preserving what we grow on the land, we will hold the Second Annual Pickler Classic, which started off as a small competition amongst a few friends last year, but was so well-received it has become a national competition this year. I look forward to seeing Citizens challenge one another's pickling skills, with the winner receiving full bragging rights for the year.

Of course, there is important business to attend to at our AGA, and I know our Citizens will be there to hear and understand what's happening within our government, and to express their will on these important matters. This is fundamental to our democracy and our community. But I'm happy that we're able to introduce more elements of our historic and cultural practices to our AGA, so it continues to grow as a celebration of who we are.

I look forward to seeing many of you there, as representatives of the many Red River Métis communities that dot our Homeland. I look forward to sharing thoughts and ideas with you, along with food and laughter. But most of all, I look forward to affirming the connections that make us a Nation, as well as a community.

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. Q.M. ∞

MMF leads by example with expansive Home Office energy retrofit project

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Home Office will see considerable energy savings through its \$8.2-million greenhouse gas reduction project. Led by general contractor NRG Management, the major Home Office retrofit project is over 60 per cent complete and will bring about building upgrades and mechanical and electrical system modifications to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Sustainability remains a top priority for the MMF, from finding energy savings opportunities for Citizens through the new Métis Energy Efficiency Offers program, to the installation of electric vehicle outlets at each of the Red River Métis Government’s child care centre builds across the province, to ensuring the Red River Métis are represented at international conferences on climate change – such as the COP26 Climate Summit in Scotland last year – to the Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow program, which provides opportunities for Youth to learn about climate change.

“The Manitoba Métis Federation, our Red River Métis Government, is absolutely committed to sustainability and environmental protection,” said Will Goodon, Minister of Housing and Property Management. “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.’”

The Home Office retrofit project is a tangible example of how the MMF is advancing its priority of climate change and clean energy use.

The MMF’s Energy, Infrastructure, and Resource Management department led the undertaking for a funding submission to the federal government’s Low Carbon Economy Fund, and received \$3.5 million for the retrofit project.

“I have to say thank you to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Without his priority in that same area, this funding opportunity wouldn’t be there for us,” said Minister Goodon. “So when it did come around, I’m very thankful to Energy and Infrastructure Minister Jack Park, whose team was doing some research, found this funding, and we decided that not only do we get an opportunity to lower our carbon footprint, but at the same time to do some upgrades

in a building that is serving our needs, but will now be able to serve our needs for a long time into the future. We’re really excited about it, and I want to say thank you to the whole team that put this together. And of course President David Chartrand who was very supportive of all that we’re doing.”

The energy retrofit project will see a complete makeover for the building, located at 150 Henry Avenue. Opportunities for reductions in natural gas and hydroelectric use, in addition to improvements in greenhouse gas emissions, will be met through solar panel installation, window replacement, as well as upgrades to the building envelope and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. Over the project’s lifetime, the Home Office will see a cumulative reduction of around 7,000 tonnes of GHG emissions – equivalent to removing about 2,100 cars from the road for a year.

“The reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions is the main objective of the project, but it will also decrease utility usage as well as improve the comfort and the overall performance of this building,” said Bill Rodger, President of NRG Management. “The building is around 70 years old and it’s well due for a retrofit, and the measures that were put together



The energy retrofit project will see a complete makeover for the building, located at 150 Henry Avenue.

not only are fixing the building, but will allow this building to operate for the next 100 years.”

Indigenous Nations are often viewed as spearheading the fight against climate change, and the Red River Métis Government’s priority of sustainability is part of the MMF’s vision for continued prosperity for the Red River Métis. The Home Office retrofit project is one of many steps the MMF is taking towards protecting the environment by reducing its footprint as a government.

“When we’re looking into the future, I look into my daughter’s eyes, and this is such an important issue for her: climate, sustainability, the environment, biodiversity, all of these things that are important to young people these days,” Minister Goodon said. “And I think that needs to be reflected in their government, and the Red River Métis Government is leading by example. I can’t think of any other Métis organization across the country that is doing half of what we’re doing in this regard. I am very excited to be able to say that we are leading, and it is for the

future. It is for our children, our grandchildren. And the Métis Nation is a young nation, but we’re hoping to set the stage that we’re going to be able to thrive in our Homeland for generations to come.”



Photovoltaic panels have been installed on the roof to convert solar energy into usable electrical energy.



The MMF Home Office retrofit project will bring about building upgrades and mechanical and electrical system modifications to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



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