



Le Métis
EST. 1871



In my last message, I touched on the perils of war and how they can change lives overnight. Every part of the globe is feeling the cost of the war in Ukraine – including our Homeland – as prices for food and fuel have continued to rise. Corn, wheat, sunflower oil, and other staples are usually produced by Russia and Ukraine and have been disrupted by Putin's invasion. Gas prices have been similarly impacted.

Our Nation has always had a reputation for being hard workers, and I know we continue to be a hardworking people today. What we worked to gain before Canada came to our Homeland was taken from us, but we never stopped our efforts to regain what we lost. Because of what was stolen from our Nation, we have had to work harder than others just to be able to offer our families what other populations took for granted. I have seen Red River Métis families take pride in every financial step they take toward leaving a legacy for their children.

I have spoken with many Citizens in recent months, and they have shared their worries with me. They have told me how much harder it has become to get by month-to-month, to say nothing about getting ahead. Our seniors and Elders on fixed incomes have expressed their deep worry about being able to afford groceries or other household necessities, especially as we head into the holiday season. I know it would break the hearts of our Elders and seniors if they couldn't afford to give little gifts to their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, or contribute traditional family recipes to Christmas and New Year's feasts.

Your Red River Métis Government has heard these concerns and we're taking action to support our Citizens during this challenging time. We have set

President's Message

aside \$5 million to fund a targeted cost of living supplement to help our Métis Child and Family Services kids in care, post-secondary students, seniors and Elders, along with families who are trying to keep ahead of the rising cost of living.

From October of 2022 to March of 2023, the supplement will be provided to students and kids in care in the form of e-transfers to their accounts. For families, seniors, and Elders, it will be in the form of grocery vouchers through arrangements with grocery stores – many locally owned – across all our regions. This is to ensure that you receive the full benefit of the supplement, reducing the risk of having other financial resources clawed back because of it.

We have not forgotten our Citizens beyond borders in this initiative, as we are also providing support to our Citizens who live outside of Manitoba. Our Citizens beyond borders have sought their Citizenship with the National Government of the Red River Métis because they are patriots, concerned about provincial clubs that are distorting our identity to include people who have no kinship ties with our Nation. Even though these patriots have gained their Citizenship with us for moral and ethical reasons, we have still committed to finding ways to provide them with the quality support all our Citizens have come to expect. The expectation for our departments to support our Citizens beyond borders is clearly outlined in our Cabinet's mandate letters, which are publicly available on our website.

Remember, shifting our thinking away from the borders that were imposed on our people by Canada is nothing more than a return to the way our Nation was when it was born. Our ancestors were a highly mobile people, so it's no surprise that we, as their descendants, are highly mobile today. Our people can be found across Canada, the United States, and other parts of the world. These individuals may have different life experiences, but they are a part of us, united by our shared history and our connection to our cultural traditions and our Homeland.

Thanks to careful financial management and solid investments, your Red River Métis Government has the capacity to start delivering programs and services to all Citizens, no matter where they live. We will also continue to negotiate through our government-to-government relationship with Canada to secure funding agreements that include our Citizens beyond borders. This is the way of our Nation: that we share what we have with our extended community and kinship networks. As your President, I do what it takes to ensure we never forget the importance of sharing.

If you want to know more about the program or find out if you are eligible for the supplement, please reach out to your region. Your Cabinet and I sincerely hope that this supplement can ease some of the worries our families, students, Elders, and seniors have been carrying these past months.

I send my well wishes to Citizens who are honouring our traditions by harvesting from our Homeland to feed family and community. Stay safe and remember – your Red River Métis Government has your back. Until we meet again, I offer my prayers to all Veterans, Citizens, friends, and neighbours, and my deepest condolences to those who have been caused to grieve.

Meeqwetch,

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

MMF dedicates building to late Cabinet Member

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is honouring the legacy of the late Minister Jean Desrosiers with a building named after him in St. Malo.

The long-time Cabinet Member served as Minister of both the Agriculture and French Language portfolios. He was a champion of Red River Métis rights and served diligently during his tenure at the MMF.

Born March 30, 1941 in St. Malo, Desrosiers remained there his entire life. He got his start working as a heavy equipment operator, worked at the St. Malo Provincial Park for 25 years, and ran a cattle operation. He passed away in the spring of 2019.

Minister Denise Thomas, Vice-President of the Southeast Region, said it was fitting for the MMF to forever honour the late Cabinet Minister with a building in St. Malo.

“(President David Chartrand) talked to Edith Desrosiers, who is the late Jean Desrosiers’ wife. He said that he would like to name the building after her late husband, Jean Desrosiers, who was in our government for many years, and he did a lot of work to support that whole area and to support us at the MMF,” Minister Thomas said. “President Chartrand made an offer on the building, it was successful, and we named it the Centre Jean Desrosiers.”

Desrosiers served on many boards, including the Caisse Populaire St. Malo, the Chateau Malouin board, and the local school board.

“He did an awful lot of work, and he was so instrumental to (many) of the people in my region. (He made) sure (Citizens) had the training to make sure they (held) Citizenship drives over there. Sometimes, we’d hold one twice a year,” said Minister Thomas. “He was involved with the Mining sector, and he was involved in Agriculture. He was a very busy person, especially in our region. He really advocated for the Red River Métis people.”

Desrosiers also played a part in the MMF’s involvement with the St. Malo Grotto. He always fought vigorously to ensure the Grotto was never forgotten and pitched in during beautification efforts.

Minister Thomas said they hope to station an outreach worker at the Centre Jean Desrosiers as a resource for Citizens. After opening earlier this year, the facility has been used for local events and MMF programming.

“We are using it for meetings and (to host) events that the people want, such as small weddings, socials, Christmas parties, showers, and wedding showers. It’s also for the Little Métis Sing With Me program (for) mothers, grandmothers, and small children. It’s being used for that already,” she said.



MMF Cabinet Members were on hand for the ribbon cutting at the Centre Jean Desrosiers in September.



Red River Métis Citizens fill the newly constructed Centre Jean Desrosiers during the Southeast Regional Meeting this fall.



Manitoba Lieutenant Governor Janice Filmon swears in the late Minister Desrosiers during the 2018 inauguration.



The Centre Jean Desrosiers is named after the late Minister of Agriculture and French Language.

The Southeast Regional Meeting took place at the centre in September, during which Cabinet Members were on hand for the ribbon cutting. Many community members attended the open house in October, which received a warm reception. The building also has a kitchen, an office, and a computer for general use.

Minister Thomas hopes the newly built centre will preserve Jean Desrosiers’ legacy.

“He worked hard, he fought for the people, and he said it like it was,” she said. “He was so instrumental in doing a lot of good work. I sure miss him.”



RED RIVER MÉTIS POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Please call **(204) 229 - 7647**
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**NOW OPEN FOR
APPLICATIONS**



ATTENTION

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PROFESSIONAL AGROLOGISTS (P.AG)
AND CERTIFIED CROP ADVISORS (CCA)!**

The MMF is looking to hear from Red River Métis Citizens approved as a Certified Crop Advisor, or registered as a Professional Agriologist (P.Ag) for an anticipated opportunity of employment with the MMF. The MMF is particularly interested in hearing from Professional Agriologists practicing agronomy as their field of study in Manitoba.

FOR CONSIDERATION PLEASE CONTACT
THE MMF AGRICULTURE COORDINATOR
DUSTIN HOFT BY EMAIL AT
DUSTIN.HOFT@MMF.MB.CA



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- PHYSICALLY FIT AND ABLE TO PASS A MEDICAL SCREENING

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WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER
FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION,
PLEASE CONTACT:
METRESUMES@MMF.MB.CA
WITH THE SUBJECT LINE
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Happy Holidays!

The Christmas season is fast approaching and we want to highlight Red River Métis traditions and family gatherings.

Submit your photos to communications@mmf.mb.ca to be featured in upcoming Le Metis publications as well as the MMF social media pages.



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