



Le Métis
EST. 1871



Your Red River Métis Government is well into consultations with Citizens about our modern-day treaty with Canada. We have nearly completed our negotiations and will soon be able to publicly share our treaty. Cabinet Ministers and I are keen to share the treaty with you – we want you to be empowered with knowledge to develop an informed opinion about the treaty and what it means.

Citizens who are attending our treaty consultations are paying close attention to the details presented to them and are asking intelligent and thoughtful questions. We have had record-breaking attendance at many of our meetings, which tells us that our people know how important and historic this treaty is. We fully expected strong engagement from our Citizens, and it has been wonderful to see it happening.

For those Citizens who have not yet attended a consultation, we look forward to seeing you, because there are some important things to know about our treaty.

About our treaty

The treaty is part of a series of steps that have been taken over the course of many years. It is not an isolated body of work. In fact, we have been working toward this moment since 1967 when the MMF was formed, our inspiration finding its roots in 1870 – we are standing on the backs of giants.

Our Assembly has guided us over the years, with a consistent message: our Citizens want

us to take *all necessary actions to ensure our ancestral rights to self-determination and self-government are protected, recognized, and strengthened for the benefit of our future generations. In other words, fight for our rights, our recognition, and our ability to own ourselves and our identity.*

Each step of this process has been completed at the will of our Citizens, as expressed at our Annual General Assemblies. Our longstanding active Local executives and Citizens know this and have strong feelings about the tremendous work it took to get here. Our Youth may not be aware of all the steps leading up to this and may not have experienced the struggles of our Elders and seniors. It is essential that our Youth understand that the treaty is the result of the efforts, dreams, and sacrifices of the entire community.

The treaty will be followed by settling our land claim and creating Métis-specific healthcare legislation and more. Beyond this, we cannot predict what future generations will need to build their lives – these considerations will be the responsibility of our Youth, the leaders of tomorrow. That is why our treaty is a framework, so that it can evolve to accommodate the future needs of the Red River Métis.

The Extraordinary General Assembly – June 3-4

An important observation was made about the strength of our people by Alexander Ross, in a book called *The Red River Settlement*, published in 1856. He wrote:

“Experience could not but have taught them, that however insignificant and powerless these people were while scattered by twos and threes about their distant parts yet assembled together in one place with one common interest, one common object in view, they must soon become formidable either as friends or foes.”

Now, 167 years later, we grow stronger still when brought together with a common interest or goal. The threads of our history are woven together with the decisions we have made in Assemblies. From the Convention of 24 in 1869 and the Convention of 40 that became the Provisional Government in 1870 to modern times, where the Assembly guided our government to leave the Métis National Council and stand alone in defence of our identity, or

move beyond colonial borders, our formidable strength is at its best when we are together.

Assembly is the very heart of our democratic structure, and gathering to consider the ratification of our modern-day treaty will place our upcoming Extraordinary General Assembly in the history books. Like the Convention of 40, the Extraordinary General Assembly of 2023 will be discussed for decades, and perhaps even centuries, to come.

The responses you give us during consultations tell Cabinet and me that you understand the historic nature of this moment in history. We know this is the making of an incredible turnout at our Extraordinary General Assembly at Assiniboia Downs this June. We hope to see every Citizen there exercising their right to vote. Until we gather, I extend my best wishes to those Citizens who will honour our traditions by harvesting from our Homeland this season. As always, it is vital that Citizens follow our harvesting laws; make sure you have your harvesting card with a valid CTF sticker and remember to share the bounty of your harvest with Elders and vulnerable members of our community. Abiding by our harvesting laws and sharing with the community are important parts of how we honour our Ancestors and keep our culture and traditions alive. As you undertake the spring harvest, stay safe and remember – your Red River Métis Government has your back.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be your President at this moment in history. I look forward to sharing the exciting days ahead with you.

I offer my prayers to all our Citizens, friends, and neighbours, and my deepest condolences to those who have been caused to grieve.



“When our Red River Métis Youth are sitting at the kitchen table, talking with their families about their future, the question won’t be, ‘how will I pay for my education?’ The only question that our Youth will have to ask themselves is, ‘where do I want to go for my education?’”

– MMF President David Chartrand

Meeqwetch,



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



"When the Government of Canada presented itself at our doors it found us at peace. It found [... the Métis] had a government of its own, free, peaceful, well-functioning [...]."

It was a government with an organized constitution, whose jurisdiction was all the more legitimate and worthy of respect, because it was exercised over a country that belonged to it."
- Louis Riel



What is an Extraordinary General Assembly?

An Extraordinary General Assembly ("EGA") of Citizens can be called at any time by the MMF Cabinet to propose ideas and highlight urgent matters that need special and focused consideration.

What is the Treaty?

The Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty focuses on Red River Métis governance.

Overview of the Treaty

- ∞ The National Government of the Red River Métis will have formal and legal recognition of certain self-government rights recognized and affirmed in the Constitution of Canada.
- ∞ The Treaty focuses on self-government jurisdictions such as citizenship; elections of government representatives; structures, operations, procedures, and assets; as well as financial management and financial accountability.
- ∞ The Treaty is constitutionally protected, meaning both federal and provincial governments, present and future, cannot ignore or deny the MMF's legitimacy.
- ∞ Fiscal provisions within the Treaty will provide the basis for long-term secure and stable funding.
- ∞ The Treaty will set up a process to negotiate future arrangements for additional self-government jurisdictions and authorities. These Supplementary Self-Government Arrangements can cover areas such as health, and economic and social development.

The Path of Red River Métis Self-Determination and Self-Government

- 1869** – Established the Provisional Government and the National Committee of the Red River Métis.
- 1870** – The Red River Métis became Canada's Negotiating Partner in Confederation and the Founder of Manitoba. Despite promises made to our People, Canada failed to implement any land grants promised in section 31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870.
- 1870-1960s** – Using the Reign of Terror, Canada forced Red River Métis governance structures underground, leading to a resurgence in the 1960s.
- 1967** – The MMF was founded to address the inequity and injustice facing our People and to reclaim our rightful place as the People who govern themselves.
- 1982-1985** – Following the patriation of the 1982 Constitution of Canada, our Assembly directed the MMF to advocate for self-government and demand the right to self-determination.
- 2013** – After 32 years in the courts, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of the MMF, acknowledging the historic wrongs committed against our People. This historic victory recognized the MMF as "the body representing the collective Métis interest" in respect to the promise made to the Red River Métis in section 31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870.
- 2014** – MMF AGA Delegates voted unanimously to refuse to accept boundaries which are not Métis-made. Rather than being defined by boundaries, we are defined by our distinct identity.
- 2016** – MMF and Canada signed the Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation. The Framework's purpose was to start up the negotiations for what would become known as the Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement ("MMSGRIA").
- 2019** – Two MMF AGA resolutions were passed. First, the MMF was recognized as the self-government representative of the Red River Métis, for the rights, interests, and claims of our People. The second resolution reaffirmed MMF constitution and democratic government structures as authoritative, meaning MMF can enter negotiations with the Government of Canada to develop and sign intergovernmental agreements.
- 2021** – President David Chartrand signed the MMSGRIA, taking the next step towards building a constitutionally protected modern-day Treaty.
- 2022** – The National Government of the Red River Métis Declaration outlined the Red River Métis rights of self-determination, self-government, and overall protection of our identity. The AGA Resolution gave direction to our MMF President and Cabinet to take necessary action to fully implement the Declaration.

What will be on at the EGA *voted*

1. Ratification *Vote:*

To Ratify the
Red River Métis
Self-Government
Recognition and
Implementation
Treaty

2. Resolutions *Vote:*

To Continue Manitoba Métis Federation
Inc. into the Canada Not-for-Profit
Corporations Act and Resulting
Constitutional Amendment

To Amend the MMF Constitution
to Reflect the Red River Métis
Self-Government Recognition and
Implementation Treaty

To Enact the Red River Métis
Finance and Administration Act

What is *Ratification?*

Ratification is the act of collective
decision-making and action-taking in order
to protect the rights, claims, and interests
of the Red River Métis. The MMF is holding
the Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA)
to ratify – or, in other words, adopt and
approve – the Treaty.

To Enact
the Red River
Métis Finance and
Administration Act

To Ratify
the Red River Métis
Self-Government
Recognition and
Implementation
Treaty

Resolutions
**that will be
reviewed
at the EGA**

To Amend
the MMF
Constitution to
Reflect the Red River
Métis Self-Government
Recognition and
Implementation Treaty

To Continue
Manitoba Métis
Federation Inc. into the
Canada Not-for-Profit
Corporations Act and
Resulting Constitutional
Amendment



EGA Information

Dates: June 3 – 4
Time: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
Location: Assiniboia Downs,
3975 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB



EGA Registration Information

In Person: June 2 at 4 pm and June 3 at 7:30 am
Virtually: By May 31 either in person or virtually.
Visit mmf.mb.ca or email treaty@mmf.mb.ca for more information.





The Manitoba Métis Federation, Government of the Red River Métis is happy to be a contributor for the 20th Anniversary of NAHC 2023. It is with great joy we watch our athletes reach these achievements.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE NAHC PLAYERS!

Your dedication, hard work, and courage continue to inspire others to dream big.



**Métis
Employment
& Training**



**The MMF's Regions are
busy working hard for our
Red River Métis Citizens!
Look out for these
upcoming events:**

Are you holding an event in your Region?
Email us at communications@mmf.mb.ca

Southeast Region

The Red River Métis Ride of Hope

May 18 – June 4

Hadashville to Lorette

themetisrideofhope@gmail.com

themetisrideofhope.com

Interlake Region

Food Bank

May 9 from 3:30 to 4:30pm

Lot 28, St. Laurent Drive, St. Laurent

Please contact Tashina McKay at

204-646-2706 or tashina.mckay@mmf.mb.ca

Interlake Region Historic Consultation

May 13 from 9am to 5pm

Memorial Hall, 376 Jemima Street, Selkirk

Please contact Tashina McKay at

204-646-2706 or tashina.mckay@mmf.mb.ca