



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

YOUR RED RIVER MÉTIS GOVERNMENT'S BI-WEEKLY NEWS.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Saturday, June 3, 2023, we gathered under the wide blue skies of our Homeland, bound by a shared dream – a collective vision of the future in our hearts. We ushered in a new era for the Red River Métis through our *Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty* at our Extraordinary General Assembly. The energy and pure joy in the room were unforgettable. I will never forget the moment Red River Métis Citizens raised their hands in unison and voted unanimously with a sea of hands in the air like prairie grass waving from a strong wind, to ratify our Treaty. In that incredibly special moment, there was an explosion of cheers, tears of happiness, and an outpouring of emotion – followed by the warm embraces of those closest to us.

Our generation's work on the *Red River Métis Self-Government Implementation Treaty* has been seven years in the making, beginning in 2016, but our Ancestors' work began centuries before this moment. In 1816, our Nation first took a stand to demand their place in the historic Northwest and the moment our infinity flag was unfurled, *La Nouvelle Nation* was born.

As the centuries passed, we faced no shortage of challenges and hardships. Yet here we stand, having fulfilled Louis Riel's dream of a strong and

vibrant Nation governed by our own laws and our own traditions. We must be forever grateful to our Ancestors for the resilience we inherited from them. They have shaped us into who we are today. Thanks to them, we are not just history's children but history makers. Together, we are writing a new chapter for Red River Métis today and for our future generations.

We have many reasons to feel proud but there may be no greater reason than our Treaty. This Treaty is not merely a piece of paper – it is our inspired call to action, guided by our travels along our inherent rights journey. It forms the bedrock for our future community and is a further stepping stone towards a deeper government-to-government relationship with Canada that truly reflects the diversity and equality our country wishes to embody.

As your Red River Métis Government builds on the incredible momentum of this historic event, please consider the role you play in keeping our government strong. I encourage everyone to become more involved in the political life of the National Government of the Red River Métis. Our Locals are our strength, the grassroots where our best ideas for improving the lives of Citizens are born. Each of us has a duty and a responsibility to past generations and future generations to keep our democracy alive and well. Never forget who you are and that the efforts of each of us make the whole stronger.

Be proud of the unique culture and identity we share and protect it with everything you have. Never forget that only we are the Red River Métis of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* and the people who negotiated Manitoba's entry into Confederation. We are the Flower Beadwork People, Otipemisiwak and Michif. Only we are the people of the Red River Cart and the Red River Jig. We are the people of the Buffalo Hunt, who wrote the Laws of the Prairie.

Throughout the summer, there will be opportunities to gather again through our Locals, at regional meetings and especially at our Ste. Madeleine Métis Days in July. I hope you will come to celebrate Red River Métis culture at this fantastic event and honour the families who once called this town home. There will be great music, tasty food, and, of course, friends and family.

The momentum will continue to build ahead of our

Annual General Assembly this fall, and I hope to see each of you there. The work of safeguarding the future economic and social security of Red River Métis Citizens is not finished, but we can have the confidence to know the future will fulfill our greatest aspirations.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank all Citizens who participated in the historic vote this weekend, and who joined us in laughter, tears, joy, and pride as we brought our Nation forward into this bright new era.

Meeqwetch,

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



It was a huge celebration at the Extraordinary General Assembly at the Assiniboia Downs on June 3-4. Approximately 4,000 Citizens voted unanimously to ratify the Red River Self-Government Treaty, which protects our governance rights in Canada's constitution.

“HISTORY IN THE MAKING”: RED RIVER MÉTIS VOTE TO RATIFY MODERN-DAY TREATY

“TODAY YOU ARE ABOUT TO MAKE HISTORY. TODAY WE HAVE TAKEN OURSELVES TO A PLACE THAT THEY STOLE FROM US 153 YEARS AGO. TODAY IS ABOUT A DREAM THAT’S GOING TO BECOME REAL. TODAY IS ABOUT CHANGE – CHANGE THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.”
– MMF PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND

In the largest Red River Métis event of all time, 4,000 Citizens gathered to unite in a historic vote to unanimously ratify the *Red River Self-Government Treaty*, which protects our governance rights in Canada's constitution.

Our Assemblies have always been crucial in Red River Métis collective and democratic decision-making and action-taking. The vote was part of the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) at the Assiniboia Downs on June 3-4. In addition to virtual participation, Citizens had the opportunity to vote from satellite locations in Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Thompson, The Pas, Dauphin, and Selkirk.

During his State of the Nation address, MMF President David Chartrand called the Assembly a “day of reckoning” for our people.

“Let’s never forget that this country made a promise that they would settle a treaty with our great leader Louis Riel. That they would settle the treaty with your families, my families. They did not fulfill that promise,” said President Chartrand. “They dismissed that promise, abandoned that promise. In fact, they sent an army to come and chase us off our lands, fight us, and that’s where the Reign of Terror comes. The Reign of Terror that tortured our families, raped our women, beat our men, burnt our houses, and took whatever they wanted.



During his State of the Nation address, MMF President David Chartrand called the Assembly a “day of reckoning” for our people.

“Those days of us being afraid are gone,” said President Chartrand. “We fear no one and we’ll take on anyone that hurts our people no matter who they are, where they live, and what they try to do to our people.”

President Chartrand said despite what was stolen from our people 153 years ago, the Red River Métis have never lost our spirit.

“We are the only ones that have the Red River Jig. We’re the only ones that have the Red River Cart. We’re the only ones that are flower beadwork people. We’re the only ones that speak Michif,” he said. “We’re the only ones that have our culture, and we will let no one try to steal your culture.”



COMMUNITY PHOTO

For Pride 2023, we took to the streets to celebrate diversity and showcase the vibrant spirit of Red River Métis 2SLGBTQ+ communities. The Manitoba Métis Federation is proud to support 2Spirit Manitoba Inc. and the Lii Michif Otipemisiwak 2SLGBTQ+ and Allies Local. Together, we stand strong for inclusion, equality, and celebration.

Le Métis' Community Photo section invites Red River Métis Citizens to send in photos to be featured in our newsletter. If you have a photo that celebrates the Red River Métis, send it to communications@mmf.mb.ca and you may see it in print!



President Chartrand, his wife Glorian Chartrand, and MMF Cabinet members celebrate as the treaty is ratified.

This modern-day treaty is the single most important decision the Métis have made since the Red River Resistance formed the Provisional Government in 1869. The treaty is the result of a decade-long step-by-step process of earlier AGA resolutions and agreements. The July 2021 signing of the *Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition Agreement with Canada* – which established the MMF as the existing government of the Red River Métis, recognizing our constitution, Assembly, and other governance institutions – set the foundation for the treaty. Following a series of 17 consultations with Citizens across the Homeland, the EGA was our ultimate decision-making body and authority for acceptance of the treaty.

“Today, you are about to make history. Today we have taken ourselves to a place that they stole from us 153 years ago,” said President Chartrand. “Today is about a dream that’s going to become real. Today is about change – change that will make a difference for your children and grandchildren.”

In addition to the historic ratification vote, Citizens voted to continue Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. into the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* and Resulting Constitutional Amendment. Votes also passed to amend the MMF Constitution to reflect the treaty and enact the *Red River Métis Finance and Administration Act*.

While temperatures outside hovered in the mid-30s and a heat warning gripped the city, resilient Citizens remained in their seats for the momentous occasion.

Sherri-Lynn Nelson, a Citizen in the Southeast Region, said she is very blessed to witness the culmination of hard work and the sacrifices of our ancestors.

“I’m so grateful and I’m so honoured. This means a lot to me to be able to be here in person, to be able to vote, and to have a vote,” she said. “I just want to say how much respect and how much gratitude I have towards President Chartrand and all the Cabinet Ministers, and all the hard work that they’ve done.”

The *Red River Self-Government Treaty* is another step in the historic path to protect our rights to self-determination and self-government, cementing the legacy for future generations. This treaty sets the tone for our nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationships. Renewing the partnership we sought in our 1870 treaty with Canada, the *Red River Self-Government Treaty* sets a mandate for Canada and the MMF to conclude fiscal and taxation arrangements. It will allow the national government of the Red River Métis to make constitutionally protected governance laws, which will help us preserve our culture, our ways of doing, and our identity.

The treaty is expected to be ratified in Parliament and become part of Canada's Constitution in the fall of 2023. The treaty also identifies areas for further negotiations and agreements with the Government of Canada, in sectors such as education, health, families, and children.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL



At the EGA, the MMF, along with Lt.-Gov. Anita Neville and Premier Heather Stefanson, honoured 41 Red River Métis Citizens, along with other individuals who have made significant contributions to the well-being of the Red River Métis.

Jubilee Medal recipients:

- ∞ Alfred Anderson
- ∞ David Beaudin
- ∞ Mona Buors
- ∞ Anita Campbell
- ∞ Eldon Campbell
- ∞ Andrew Carrier
- ∞ Adrienne Carriere
- ∞ Naomi (Dee) Chaboyer
- ∞ Sharon Chartrand
- ∞ Robert Church
- ∞ Joan Church
- ∞ Verna Demontigny
- ∞ Mildred Dorian
- ∞ Darrel Ferland
- ∞ Peter Fleming
- ∞ John Fleury
- ∞ Marielle Gauthier
- ∞ Richard Genaille
- ∞ Morgan Ginther
- ∞ William Goodon
- ∞ Armand Jerome
- ∞ Richard Kizuk
- ∞ Jennine Krauchi
- ∞ Julyda Lagimodiere
- ∞ Barbara Lavallee
- ∞ Joan Ledoux
- ∞ Judith Mayer
- ∞ Shawn Nault
- ∞ Mark Parenteau
- ∞ John Parenteau
- ∞ John Park
- ∞ Muriel Parker
- ∞ JoAnne Remillard
- ∞ Donald Roulette
- ∞ Linda St. Cyr-Saric
- ∞ Denise Thomas
- ∞ Alyssa Thomas
- ∞ Murray Trachtenberg
- ∞ Brandi Vezina
- ∞ Beverly Webb
- ∞ President David Chartrand



EXTRAORDINARY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
∞
JUNE 3-4, 2023
ASSINIBOIA DOWNS

Approximately **4,000** Citizens attended in-person and virtually

Satellite locations in:

- ∞ **Toronto**
- ∞ **Ottawa**
- ∞ **Vancouver**
- ∞ **Thompson**
- ∞ **The Pas**
- ∞ **Dauphin**
- ∞ **Selkirk**

The Rainbow Auction, organized by Infinity Women Secretariat, raised **\$19,040** toward the Bereavement Fund, with Métis N4 Construction making a donation to raise the total balance to **\$30,000**.

S FEDERATIONMANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATIONMANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATIONMANITOBA MÉTIS FEI



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES DAY



06
21
23

S FEDERATIONMANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATIONMANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATIONMANITOBA MÉTIS FEI



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE
207TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
**VICTORY OF
FROG PLAIN**

also known as la Victoire de la Grenouillère or the Battle
of Seven Oaks.

June 19, 2023 at 11:30 am
Seven Oaks Monument
Main Street and Rupertsland Boulevard

Lunch and refreshments will follow at the Seven Oaks House
Museum at 50 Mac Street.

Please bring a lawn chair or blanket as seating is limited.
Attend virtually through our livestream on the MMF Facebook and
YouTube channel!



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

Southeast Region

Health & Wellness Mobile Clinic
June 22 and 23 from 10am to 3pm
Centre Jean Desrosiers,
154 St. Malo Street, St. Malo
Contact Edith Desrosiers at 204-347-5435

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