

*Red River Métis*



*Annual General Assembly*  
*March 25-27, 2022*





## **Our Mission**

The Manitoba Métis Federation serves the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community and its Citizens through advancing their cultural, social, economic and political well-being and through a strong, representative and self-sustaining Métis Government founded on the inherent rights of the Manitoba Métis Community.

## **Our Vision**

A strong, democratic and accountable Métis Government in Manitoba committed to improving the lives of our Citizens and empowered by a proud and vibrant people forever united within the Métis Nation.

**MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION**

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# Annual Greetings

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## A NEW DAWN FOR THE RED RIVER MÉTIS

Citizens, friends, and family, let me be the first to say: Welcome home to our 2021 Annual General Assembly!

While we've worked hard to stay connected and do our best under the challenging circumstances of a global pandemic, there's nothing in the world that feels better than gathering together at our Annual General Assembly. It's a tradition that goes all the way back to the very beginning of our culture, making it both close to our hearts and a powerful tribute to the people who fought for our Nation in its infancy.

The Red River Métis Nation is one to be proud of. In spite of all the challenges we've faced and continue to face, we are one of the largest Indigenous groups in Canada – if not the largest. There are approximately 400,000 Métis Nation Citizens in Canada, making up roughly a quarter of all Indigenous people in the country.

From the very beginning, we were a self-determined society with well-established governance structures. We were successful and grew quickly because we worked together, supported each other, and learned from each other.

### Remembering our roots

While Brian Mulroney might have had the most publicized battle for free trade in Canadian history, the Métis people can lay claim to the first of such battles. Though the Red River Métis Nation existed prior to this date, it is generally agreed that our political will as a Nation emerged at the 1816 Victory at Frog Plain. This was a clear victory for the Red River Métis, demonstrating that attempts to impose laws from the East – colonial laws – that harmed our right to live, trade, settle, and profit, were simply not acceptable. The Métis Nation was too strong, too resilient, and too independent to be controlled.

In 1870, the foundations of the Manitoba Act were derived from a list of rights developed by Louis Riel and the Convention of 40 and through democratic and widespread discussion among the Métis of the Red River Settlement. It was then ratified by the Métis provisional government, making Louis Riel the first premier of Manitoba.

From there, our historic relationship with Canada was founded upon fraud, repression, marginalization, and violence. Stripped of their land by the outright thievery of John A. Macdonald, the Canadian government and their representatives, our Ancestors were forced to find other places to live. Some ended up living in ramshackle houses on road allowances – land intended for roadways. The majority went further west and settled in our harvesting territories and beyond.

After 1870 and the reign of terror faced by the Métis people, many did more than walk away from Red River and their promised land settlements. Fearing persecution, those who could hide, did so. They hid their identity for fear of the wrath of the Orangemen and for fear of retaliation by the government of the day, as many either allowed or actively encouraged others to think of them as not just French-Canadians.

For a long time, it was forgotten history that we, Louis Riel's people, brought Manitoba into Canada's Confederation. It was forgotten that we negotiated for the protection and preservation of our culture, including our traditional way of living. It was forgotten that Canada broke their word on our agreement, which was the first

treaty negotiated with the Indigenous people of Canada, before any First Nations treaties existed. It was forgotten that our country ignored the issues and needs of the Red River Métis for well over a century.

Our Nation's challenges with isolation in remote communities, lost identity, and poverty are a direct result of a campaign by our country and province against the Red River Métis.

We all know that we've been through many dark times. But we have always fought against being left in the shadows. Together, we fought to stand in the light. We fought to be seen and heard.

I can assure you that this long fight has not been in vain.

### **Emerging into the light**

In 1982, we were expressly recognized in the Constitution as an "Aboriginal People of Canada." In 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the wrongs done to the Red River Métis Nation, declaring that the Crown did not act honourably in implementing the constitutional obligation, saying that "the unfinished business of reconciliation of the Métis people with Canadian sovereignty is a matter of national and constitutional import."

In 2000, we regained the ability to look after our own kids in care, with a focus on keeping families and communities together wherever possible. In 2021, we signed the recognition agreement with Canada that affirms what we've always known – that we are a united Nation with our own systems and cultural references, fully capable of governing ourselves.

We're fighting our way back into Canada's collective consciousness, one step at a time. That is why I can confidently tell you that we are at the dawn of a new era for Louis Riel's people, the Red River Métis Nation. Through it all, we have been unwavering in our commitment to achieving recognition for our right to self-governance and respect for our culture and democratic traditions.

Everything we've achieved, standing on the verge of this new dawn, is because of the will of the Red River Métis. You, the descendants of visionary leaders and passionate patriots, have always been the drivers of our Nation's success. You've told us what your wishes are, and your government has worked to realize them. Step by step, building force and gaining strength, we have strategically built towards realizing our true place as founders of this Province and Country. Everything that is happening today, from negotiating self-government, to correcting history and building economic strength, is because of you.

But as impatient as I am to bring this vision to life, I know that this takes time. Each step must land on solid footing before the next step is taken. Rest assured, we are committed to this pathway. I hope that everything we do today creates a clear path forward for those who must carry on after our work is complete.

During my leadership, I've followed a simple principle: If you strengthen the individual, you strengthen the family. If you can strengthen the family, you'll strengthen the community, and if you can strengthen the community, the Nation can't help but be strong.

With success comes peril and danger. People outside of the Homeland are looking at what we have with great interest, hungry to exploit our success for their own gain. Our very identity is at risk because others who are not us want to be us.

### **Standing our ground**

Not since the days of Louis Riel have we had so much to lose, with so many wanting to take what we have. Make no mistake, my people, we have a fight on our hands, and it's no different than the fight we had at Seven Oaks, at Upper Fort Garry, and at Batoche. There are people from the East who are coming for what we have, and it's up to us to decide whether or not they succeed this time.

The words I said on July 6 of this year still hold true for me: We will never give up our rights or our place in Confederation. It is ours; we earned it. We bled for it and we died for it. This is a country we helped build and a province we built as a people, and we will defend it with everything we've got.

I hope you're ready to stand with me, in defence of our Nation. It's going to take all of us, working together, singing the same song to protect our culture, our ways, and our traditions. Working together, uniting against common enemies, sharing what we have, and celebrating each other's successes are how we became a Nation. It's also how we'll stay a Nation – Louis Riel's people, the Red River Métis.

But for today, let's celebrate our identity and our unique heritage as Red River Métis. I commend my Cabinet for their strength and unity, as well as their vision and dedication to our Citizens. To our staff, who have worked so hard to help us take so many successful steps – from my heart, I say thank you. To our Locals, who are on the front lines of our Nation on a daily basis, I have nothing but gratitude.

Today, fly your Nation's flag with pride and know that our future is bright.

Meeqwetch,  
**President David Chartrand LL.D. (hons), O.M.**



## GREETINGS FROM INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT SPOKESWOMAN ANITA CAMPBELL

Infinity Women Secretariat Inc.  
MMF Minister of Finance & Human Resources  
MMF Minister of Information Technology

Welcome Elders, MMF Caucus, Red River Métis Women, Delegates, Youth and Special Guests. On behalf of Infinity Women Secretariat, it is my honour and privilege to extend greetings to the Manitoba Métis Federation's Annual General Assembly.

2021 saw significant growth and evolution for your Métis Government. The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) embarked on a new era as the National Government of the Red River Métis, also known as the Manitoba Métis. Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) is proud to be a part of the journey, supporting and uplifting the women of our Nation.

If the events of the last several years have taught us anything, it is that our strength and resiliency serve us well in times of challenge and change. The health and well-being of our members remains the focus of IWS, particularly throughout the challenges of COVID-19. By continuing to invest in our Métis women and girls, we are contributing to the skills and knowledge of our women leaders of tomorrow. It is our goal and vision to foster a strong sense of belonging for Red River Métis women and girls, encouraging them to thrive, succeed, and lead by enhancing their social, cultural, economic, and political well-being. We remain committed to developing ways of achieving this goal and supporting our Red River Métis women throughout the Homeland.

I am forever grateful to President David Chartrand, the Manitoba Métis Federation Caucus, the amazing staff members and all our Local Métis Leaders and Citizens, who stand with us in uplifting Métis women and girls. Their steadfast support as we continue our work empowers us to do even more for our members.

Please continue to take care, stay safe and be well. Never forget that, as Red River Métis women, you are the inheritors of a proud legacy, and that your active participation in IWS and the MMF is important to our Nation's future. In turn, you can feel confident that IWS and the MMF will always stand up for your rights and identity as Red River Métis.

I look forward to connecting with you and spending time together over the next several days.

In Métis sisterhood,

Anita Campbell



## GREETINGS FROM MR. BRIAN BOWMAN

### Mayor of Winnipeg

It is my pleasure to extend warmest wishes to everyone attending the Manitoba Métis Federation 2022 Annual General Assembly – the first in-person gathering since the beginning of the pandemic. This annual Assembly gathers thousands of Métis Citizens from across the province and is a wonderful opportunity to make and renew friendships, review accomplishments, celebrate successes, and set goals and direction for the coming years.

The Métis Nation played a key role in the history of our province and today the Métis continue to play an integral part in Manitoba's cultural life and economic prosperity. My own family has a proud Métis heritage. And as Mayor I want Winnipeg to be a place where everybody can be proud of their heritage wherever they come from and know that our city is a place where their dreams can come true. I am happy that the MMF is a powerful partner in that goal.

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg, I would like to recognize and thank the many sponsors, volunteers, and organizers whose work makes events like the General Assembly possible. Best wishes to all the delegates, exhibitors, and guests for a productive and inspiring Assembly.

Sincerely,

Mayor Brian Bowman,  
The City of Winnipeg



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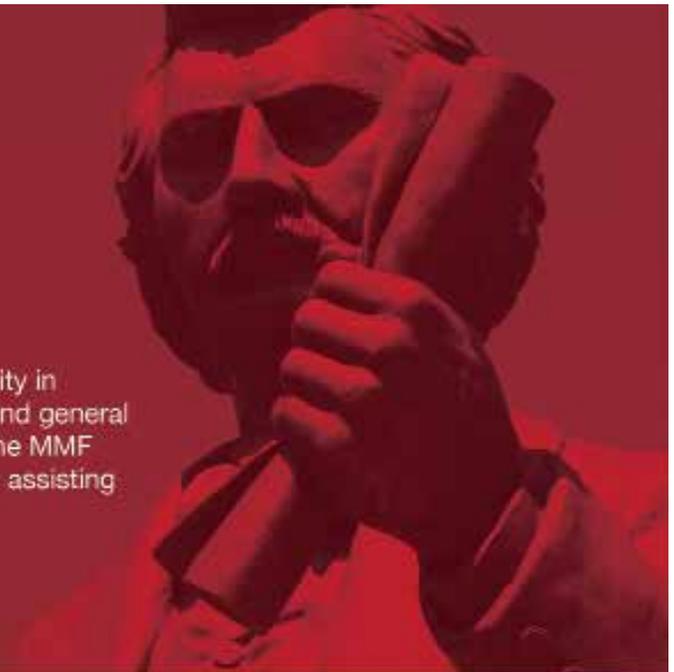


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## The Story of Catherine's Vine

The inspiration behind Anne Mulaire's Mulaire Blazer is based on her Métis ancestor Catherine Mulaire's embroidery. She was born in 1843 in Illes de l'acrosse, NW Territories. Catherine's grandfather fought in the Battle of Seven Oaks and her father served as MP for Ste-Adolphe in Louis Riel's provisional Government.

From samples of Catherine's embroidery, still owned by her family, Andréanne was inspired to create the design she calls Catherine's Vine.

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# Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly

March 27 & 28, 2021

Manitoba Métis Federation

## DAY ONE - SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021

Marc LeClair, Métis National Council (MNC), welcomed delegates to the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) 52nd Annual General Assembly at 9:38 a.m. He reflected on the extraordinary year, one in which the Métis were highly profiled including: the 150th Anniversary of Manitoba joining Confederation; the minting of a Louis Riel coin; a commemorative Red River Resistance stamp and the securing of a location for the new Métis Nation Museum in the heart of the Red River.

### Opening Prayer

Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric provided an Opening Prayer. A video tribute of George Melvin Fleury, a founder of the MMF, was shared.

### Agenda Varied

The order of the agenda was varied throughout the AGA. Items are presented in these minutes in the order in which they were considered.

## 1. APPOINTMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY CO-CHAIRS

### MOTION 01 03 21

It was MOVED (Minister Jack Park, Interlake Region) and SECONDED (Associate Minister David Beaudin, Winnipeg Region)

That Minister Will Goodon and Marc LeClair be appointed as the Co-Chairs for the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly.

### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 2. OPENING CEREMONIES

President Clément Chartier

President Chartier expressed his honour in addressing the esteemed members of the MMF. He commented that it was unfortunate that the pandemic had taken away much of the momentum in regard to celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Manitoba, under the leadership of Louis Riel, joining Canada, but the milestone had been marked with many activities and

tributes. The Métis in Manitoba have stayed firm in defending the Métis Nation, the Homeland, and their strength and determination has never wavered. President Chartier asked for continued support for the MMF President and Cabinet as they face new challenges in protecting the Homeland.

Janice C. Filmon, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba  
The Lieutenant Governor recognized that Manitoba has been the Homeland of the Métis people and acknowledged the important role the Métis community has in the province. Their role will increase during the current time of reconnection and rebuilding. There is much work to do to build back those connections for a more inclusive, equitable and fair Manitoba. Actions from all Manitobans must be taken to make communities, the province, the country and the world a better place.

Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

The Honourable Minister Bennett acknowledged the extraordinary display of leadership shown by the MMF during the pandemic, and affirmed government's commitment to work on a Nation-to-Nation (N2N) and Government-to-Government (G2G) basis, to advance reconciliation and develop opportunities to "build back better" post-COVID-19.

To support the innovative spirit of Métis, the federal government has invested \$15 million in a partnership with the MMF to promote economic development, close the socio-economic gaps and create jobs. An additional investment of \$154.3 million will help improve the social and economic wellbeing of the MMF community, based entirely on MMF priorities. Excellent progress has been made in negotiations and in reaching consensus on an innovative self-government agreement that will advance the commitment made in the 2015 Framework Agreement. Canada remains committed to finding shared solutions that support Métis rights to self-determination and promote lasting and meaningful reconciliation for the MMF and all Canadians.

Honourable Jim Carr, The Prime Minister's Special Representative for the Prairies

Jim Carr brought greetings on behalf of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Government of Canada. Canada values all that the Métis Nation has done for Manitoba and for Canada. He acknowledged the strength, vision and wisdom

of the MMF leadership which has advanced the road to reconciliation.

Honourable Daniel Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs

Minister Vandal spoke of the difficulties of the past year and recognized the MMF for continually finding creative ways to connect and serve its citizens. Progress was noted on a number of projects including in housing and the purchase of the Bank of Montreal Building (BMO) building in Winnipeg, which will be the new home of the Métis Nation Heritage Centre.

Honourable Eileen Clark, Minister of Indigenous and Municipal Affairs, Manitoba

Minister Clark acknowledged the large number of MMF members in attendance, a reflection of the strong support within the MMF. She expressed appreciation to the MMF and its leadership for their work and service to the Métis community in the province, which was evident by the support provided during the pandemic. She highlighted recent achievements of the MMF's innovative programs and services including: a mobile citizenship unit; housing programs; and work on the Indigenous Advisory Monitoring Committee on the Enbridge project.

Wab Kinew, Leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP), Manitoba Fort Rouge

Wab Kinew was inspired to see the ways that the MMF has supported its citizens during the pandemic, particularly in regard to offering free prescription drugs to seniors and assisting communities recover from the economic impacts. He confirmed the Manitoba NDP's commitment to work with the Métis Nation to implement their rights. As Métis people step forward and assume their place at the table, all Manitobans will benefit.

Dougald Lamont, Independent Liberal, St. Boniface

Dougald Lamont reflected on the history of the Métis Nation and the contributions the Métis people have made to shaping the province of Manitoba and the country. Louis Riel and many others were painted as outsiders of the land, which they challenged and fought to achieve their rightful place.

His Worship, Mayor Brian Bowman, City of Winnipeg

Mayor Bowman recognized the MMF AGA as a great opportunity to reflect on the events of the past year and reset goals and priorities for the coming year. During the pandemic, Winnipeg showed its resilience and community spirit, as the MMF encouraged residents to do their part to protect others.

Helping those most vulnerable was made a priority, as was ensuring support programs were in place for students, Elders

and families in community. Discussions on injustice and racism have been reinvigorated at all levels of government. Additionally, Anti-Racism Week, held March 21-27, 2021, was a success. On March 22, 2021 all City of Winnipeg staff were provided training on anti-oppression and cultural competency, something that is now mandatory for all City staff.

Commanding Officer Jane MacLatchy, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

Commanding Officer MacLatchy commented on the long-standing relationship between the RCMP and the MMF and the continued commitment to address the challenges and build improved relationships with all communities served by the RCMP. It is a collaborative effort and must be done in partnership in order to be successful. The RCMP sought input and guidance from the MMF, their feedback has been invaluable to the RCMP's reconciliation strategy.

### 3. MMF CABINET INTRODUCTION

The MMF Cabinet was introduced as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

- Minister Alfred Andersson, Culture and Heritage
- Associate Minister David Beaudin, Provincial Education
- Minister Mona Buors, Métis Child and Family Services (CFS)
- Minister Anita Campbell, Finance and Human Resources
- Minister Andrew Carrier, Michif Languages and Residential Schools, Riel House, Pemmican Publications, Residential Schools
- Minister David Chartrand, Economic Development (and Vice-President, MNC)
- Minister Frances Chartrand, Minister of Health and Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)
- Associate Minister Mildred Dorion, Environment and Mining
- Associate Minister Darrel Ferland, Economic Development.
- Minister John Fleury, Métis Employment and Training
- Minister Marielle Gauthier, Agriculture and French Languages
- Minister Richard Genaille, Sports and Youth
- Minister William Goodon, Housing and Property Management
- Minister Julyda Lagimodiere, Justice
- Minister Leah LaPlante, Natural Resources and Citizenship
- Minister Joan Ledux, Provincial Education
- Minister Judy Mayer, Constitution, Métis Rights, Métis Nation Agenda and Governance
- Associate Minister Shawn Nault, Natural Resources
- Minister John Parenteau, Fisheries
- Minister Vincent Parenteau, Environment and Mining
- Minister Jack Park, Energy and Infrastructure
- Associate Minister JoAnne Remillard, Métis CFS

- Minister Denise Thomas, Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations, Sixties Scoop and Engagement and Consultation

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Through a recorded message, Prime Minister Trudeau recognized that the MMF AGA provided an opportunity for the Métis of Manitoba to review their accomplishments and set priorities for the future. Canada has made a renewed commitment to work alongside the Métis Nation to advance Métis self-determination and self-governance for true reconciliation and the affirmation of rights. Progress is being made in achieving this through the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, a historic self-government and implementation agreement. Canada and the MMF are additionally working to resolve historic Manitoba Métis land claims and will continue to strengthen relationships going forward. Through the pandemic, the Métis have faced unique challenges and they have responded with community solutions. Canada and the Métis Nation will build a fairer and more inclusive country.

#### 4. STATE OF THE MÉTIS NATION ADDRESS

President David Chartrand expressed his thanks to Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric for the prayer and to all of the dignitaries for their kind words. He reiterated Prime Minister Trudeau's message of great hope and aspiration for the future of the relationship between the Métis Nation and Canada.

Referencing the 150th Anniversary of the Manitoba's entrance into Confederation, the historical leaders of the Métis have shown the strength of the Métis people when their validity of a people is challenged. Métis people have been steadfast in affirming their rights and the MMF government stands on the principles of which it has been built upon.

Referencing Louis Riel's words, "Preserve the little Métis Nation and cause it to grow and remain faithful to its mission; remain Métis and become more Métis than ever", President Chartrand commended the work of the regions, Locals and communities, noting each played an important role in making their communities better.

President Chartrand spoke of the disappointment of the provincial government's lack of support to the Manitoba Métis during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly as Métis suffer greater health conditions as compared to First Nations or non-Indigenous peoples. The province has not considered the Métis in its vaccine rollout but the Manitoba Métis and its government have worked together to keep their people safe during the pandemic, and 13,000 supply hampers were delivered to Métis families. Additionally, every Métis student in college was sent \$5,000 so they could continue their education even while suffering the impacts of the pandemic.

President Chartrand further commented on:

- The Manitoba Métis Pharmacy Program, which ensures that one dollar from each prescription sold goes back into Métis communities
- A new Métis Nation health legislation, which will improve the health care that Métis people receive
- The MMF's active negotiating towards full authority of its CFS system
- N2N and G2G discussions with Canada on a Métis housing authority and increased Métis ownership of homes and businesses
- Negotiations with Canada on a Land Claim settlement, potentially worth billions of dollars
- Defending the historic Métis Homeland.

In closing, President Chartrand introduced a new MMF-funded program, Bring Me Home in which \$1 million will be used to support family members seeking information on missing loved ones.

#### The Manitoba Métis Federation Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement

While the MMF and Federal Lead Negotiators were preparing to sign the Agreement, Minister Jack Parr, on behalf of the Métis veterans across the Homeland, presented President Chartrand with a sculpture for his efforts on the Métis Veteran's Legacy Program. The sculpture depicted images of the Canadian military services and pivotal milestones in Canadian history.

Minister Parr commented on the pride he felt leading the Métis Veteran's Legacy Program file and the 20-year struggle for recognition of Métis veterans, and their sacrifices in defending Canada during the war. The Legacy Program has recognized 30 Métis veterans or their families, with a \$20,000 payment.

President Chartrand confirmed that \$20 million of the \$30 million negotiated for the Métis Nation Legacy Program had been invested and the interest earned would be used to support Métis programs and services.

Co-Chair LeClair read aloud the Manitoba Métis Federation Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement (Agreement), Negotiator's Statement of Understanding:

"By signing this Agreement, the lead negotiators for the MMF and Canada wish to mark an important milestone in the negotiation of a Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement and at the same time reflect our mutual understanding that, as of March 25, 2021, we have achieved consensus on most elements of a draft Agreement for submission as soon as practicable within 30-days, for further review and approvals.

Once concluded, reviewed and approved, the Agreement will be signed by the MMF President and the Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations. The agreement will make significant progress towards the fulfillment of a key commitment in the 2016 Framework Agreement between the MMF and Canada to jointly develop a renewed government-to-government relationship between the Crown and the Manitoba Métis community.

This Agreement will recognize that the MMF is the government of the Manitoba Métis community; will recognize that the MMF is mandated to deal with the Manitoba Métis Section 35 rights under the Constitution Act, 1982, and represent the beneficiaries of the Supreme Court of Canada's declaration and MMF vs. Canada, in respect to the promises made in Section 31, of the Manitoba Act, 1870.

It will recognize the role and functions of certain governance jurisdictions of the MMF, such as citizenship, governmental structures at the local, regional and provincial level leaders, leadership selection and elections, and include detailed provisions which will among other things, set out a process for entering into agreements in respect of additional areas of Manitoba jurisdiction.

This milestone marks significant progress towards a shared solution that renews the relationship and advances reconciliation between the MMF and Canada, consistent with the purpose set out in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. This has been a long series of negotiations and this Agreement was signed on the 27 of March 2021."

Al Benoit, Chief MMF Negotiator and Deborah Corber, Chief Federal Negotiator, formally signed the Manitoba Métis Federation Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement.

Thanks were extended to President Chartrand for his leadership in the negotiations and to the MMF Cabinet for putting their faith in the negotiation team. The signing of the Negotiator's Statement of Understanding is an important milestone in the G2G relationship and the recognition of Métis rights, self-determination, and self-government.

Deborah Corber offered that it was a privilege to represent Canada and to work with the MMF to further share objectives for renewed relations and to advance reconciliation.

President Chartrand expressed his gratitude to the negotiation teams and noted the negotiations would provide a blueprint for future negotiations with government. In reference to the work on a MMF Land Claim, President Chartrand felt confident that Prime Minister Trudeau would honour the word of his government and bring a positive resolution to the claim.

Award Presentation  
Anita Campbell, Minister of Finance and Human Resources,

presented Partnership Recognition Awards to Stephen Fay, Head Indigenous Banking, BMO, and Jack Park, Chair of the Métis N4 Construction.

## **5. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

Co-Chair Goodon confirmed that quorum had been established and reviewed the voting protocols for the AGA. Participants were advised that voting would occur through a Zoom poll and were asked to raise their hands only when objecting, abstaining or requesting discussion on a motion.

The AGA was directed to a link to a co-developed MMF and Probe Survey, designed to hear directly from Manitoba Métis citizens. \$50 would be awarded to each delegate for completion of the survey. Participants were informed of the MMF Mini-AGA for children, scheduled on March 29 30, 2021 and were invited to take part in the virtual "Beat Goes On" following the AGA.

### **MOTION 02 03 21**

It was MOVED (Sandra Sharpe, Southwest Region) and SECONDED (Emma-Leigh Rusk, Northwest Region)

That the Agenda for the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly scheduled March 27-28, 2021, be adopted as presented.

### **CARRIED (One abstention)**

## **6. APPOINTMENT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Co-Chair Goodon reviewed the Resolutions Committee Appointment process and advised that resolutions could be submitted to the committee no later than 9:00 a.m. on March 28, 2021 at resolutions@mmf.mb.ca. Resolutions would be presented for information only and voting would occur at the 53rd AGA ,when in-person voting and discussion could occur.

### **MOTION 03 03 21**

It was MOVED (Minister Judy Meyer, The Pas Region) and SECONDED (Minister Frances Chartrand, Northwest Region)

That the following appointments to the Resolutions Committee for the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly scheduled March 27-28, 2021, be accepted as presented:

- Laura Forsythe, Winnipeg Region
- Scott Norquay, Interlake Region
- Chantal Kirouac, Southeast Region
- Bertha Bouet, Southwest Region
- Peter Fleming, Northwest Region
- Albert Limfit, The Pas Region
- Donna Spence, Thompson Region.

## **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **MOTION 04 03 21**

It was MOVED (Peter Fleming, Northwest Region) and SECONDED (Chantal Kirouac, Southeast Region) That all resolutions received by the Resolutions Committee at this 52nd Annual General Assembly be presented for information only, and carried over to the 53rd Annual General Assembly in order for delegates to fully deliberate and vote on, after COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have been lifted.

## **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **7. MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Related information: Draft Minutes of the Manitoba Métis Federation 51st Annual General Assembly held September 20-22, 2019

During a review of the 51st Annual General Assembly Minutes held September 20-22, 2019, it was requested that Motion 07 09 19 be amended to correct the spelling of the Seconder's name: "Lorna Sanderson".

### **MOTION 05 03 21**

It was MOVED (Adrienne Carriere, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Barb Lavallee, Interlake Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly adopts the Minutes of the 51st Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly held September 20-22, 2019, as amended.

## **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **8. AUDIT / FINANCE REPORT**

Related information: Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. Non-Consolidated Financial Statements, March 31, 2020

Minister Campbell referred to the MMF Audited Financial Statements provided within the Annual Report, noting the statements reflected the year April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 and were considered a good audit. The 2021 audit will be presented at the 53rd AGA in Fall 2021.

Terryl Lahoy, Meyers Norris Penny (MNP), reviewed the MMF Inc. Non-Consolidated Financial Statements March 31, 2020, noting the financial statements were presented fairly and in accordance with Canada standards for not-for-profit organizations. The MMF asset position was noted as positive and greater than its liabilities.

Minister Campbell informed that the regional 2020-2021 budget review process would occur mid-April through May

2021, in preparation for presentation to the MMF Cabinet. The work of the members of the Finance Committee and the MMF Finance and Human Resources departments was recognized. A full copy of the MMF Financial Statements was available upon request.

### **MOTION 06 03 21**

It was MOVED (Minister Anita Campbell, Infinity Women Secretariat) and SECONDED (Minister Leah LaPlante, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Manitoba Métis Federation 2019-2020 financial audit as presented.

## **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **MOTION 07 03 21**

It was MOVED (Minister Anita Campbell, Infinity Women Secretariat) and SECONDED (Minister Mona Buors, Interlake Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly approves the reappointment of Meyers Norris Penny (MNP) to conduct the Manitoba Métis Federation Audit for 2020-2021.

## **CARRIED (Two abstentions)**

### **9. CENTRAL COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM REPORT**

President Chartrand reflected on the early days of the pandemic and the MMF Cabinet's quick response to appoint Ministers Anita Campbell and Frances Chartrand to lead the COVID-19 Response file. The Central COVID-19 Response Team (CCRT) was formed and acted quickly to support Métis communities with supplies and the distribution of over 13,000 hampers.

A video was shared which demonstrated the efforts of the CCRT in supporting Métis families, communities and businesses including the rollout of a MMF Economic Response Program, Métis Emergency Business Loan, and the MMF Business Support Program.

Announcement - Resolution Deadline  
Co-Chair Goodon advised that the deadline for submission of resolutions had been extended to 11:30 a.m. on Day Two of the MMF AGA.

### **10. PORTFOLIO/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

10.1 Human Resources - Minister Anita Campbell

Minister Campbell provided highlights of the activities of the

Human Resources department:

- A review of the MMF workforce indicated it is well balanced with no age group more highly reflected than others
- Goal to recognize the MMF as a Top 100 employer in Manitoba
- Staff transitioning back to work post-COVID-19
- Department goals:
  - o Recruitment and retention
  - o Policy and review of current employment policies
  - o Potential to purchase Human Resources Information System (IS).

## **MOTION 08 03 21**

It was MOVED (Joan Church, Southwest Region) and SECONDED (Barbara Bruce, Infinity Women Secretariat)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Human Resources Report as presented by Minister Campbell.

## **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

10.2 Children and Family Services – Minister Mona Buors and Associate Minister Joanne Remillard

President Chartrand spoke of the importance of Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, a federal bill which provides the ability for Indigenous groups to regain jurisdiction of their CFS. The MMF seeks to implement Bill-C92 and regain control of their CFS noting this will require broad consultation and input from Métis communities.

A short video was shown outlining the efforts of MMF CFS and how service providers and frontline workers used innovative ways to ensure children and families were safe during the pandemic.

Minister Mona Buors shared a CFS Virtual Video and reviewed the highlights and accomplishments of the CFS including:

- The passing of the federal Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families in January 2020
- Engaging in discussions with Canada and Manitoba on a Coordination Agreement to transfer full jurisdiction of CFS to the MMF
- Creative approaches to the delivery of CFS and adapting to challenges COVID-19 presented
- Providing CFS staff with laptops and cell phones for greater ability to serve the regions
- Creating caregiver recruitment videos to urge Métis citizens to open their homes to children
- Providing mental health and addiction supports through the Community Addictions Recovery Team (CART)
- Using Métis Connect to coach and mentor Métis agency workers in decision-making

- Issuing a directive that no young person be released from care during the pandemic if they wished to continue to be supported.

Associate Minister Joanne Remillard shared a video which provided details of Bill C-92 and highlights of a Métis consultation session held March 16-17, 2021, which introduced communities to the Bill.

The purpose of the Act is to renew the relationship between Canada and Indigenous people and make meaningful nationwide reform to the CFS system. The hope is to shift from the use of programming and apprehension centers to an approach that is culturally appropriate and includes early intervention and family communication.

Al Benoit, Chief of Staff, MMF, provided a brief overview of the MMF CFS Implementation Report Consultation session held in March 2021. He noted that Bill C-92 was a quantum leap forward in terms of reconciliation and positively altered the approach of CFS away from colonial methods to an approach that is reasonable.

Bill C-92 affirms the Métis' inherent right to self-government of jurisdiction of CFS; however, its implementation will be complicated and will require significant consultation. Several principles for implementation will be applied in the approach including:

- Always focusing on the best interest of the child
- Creating a proactive child welfare model, that is restorative and preventative
- Using existing Métis authorities and agencies to ensure a smooth transition of service
- Cooperation with other jurisdictions
- Manitoba Métis CFS laws and policies.

Through the transition, short-term laws will be created in which to operate under, developed through community and agency consultation, to minimize confusion and ensure stability. Six Manitoba Métis CFS Acts have been drafted, including:

- The Manitoba Métis CFS Act - sets out the core laws of how the Manitoba Métis CFS services will be provided in the short-term
- The Manitoba Métis CFS Authority Act - puts authority under Métis jurisdiction
- The Manitoba Métis Adoption Act
- The Appeals Tribunal Act
- Métis Advocate for Children and Youth Act.

Within the MMF CFS Implementation Report, are a series of recommendations including:

- The MMF will take all necessary actions to fully implement Manitoba Métis Government jurisdiction and authority of CFS
- Put in place the Manitoba Métis CFS laws
- Develop, amend and pass required temporary or long-term Manitoba Métis CFS Acts and laws

- Negotiate a Coordination Agreement with Canada and Province of Manitoba
- Give authority to enter into agreements to implement all the previous recommendations.

### **MOTION 09 03 21**

It was MOVED (Minister Anita Campbell, Infinity Women Secretariat) and  
SECONDED (Minister Frances Chartrand, Northwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) 52nd Annual General Assembly:

- Accepts the Child and Family Services (CFS) Report as presented by Minister Mona Buors, CFS
- Accepts the MMF CFS Implementation Report as presented; and
- Endorses, agrees with, and authorizes with full support, the report's approach and recommendations on the implementation of the MMF jurisdiction and authority, as recognized in An Act respecting First Nation, Inuit, Métis children, youth and families.

**CARRIED**  
**(Two abstentions)**

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED**

The Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly scheduled March 27-28, 2021 adjourned on March 27, 2021, at 5:15 p.m. after agreeing to convene on March 28, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

## **DAY TWO - SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021**

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED**

The Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly scheduled March 27-28, 2021, reconvened on March 28, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. Co-Chair Goodon welcomed delegates and offered reflections on Day One of the AGA. Participants were reminded that resolutions would be accepted until 11:00 a.m.

### **10. PORTFOLIO / DEPARTMENT REPORTS (Continued)**

10.3 Constitution, Métis Rights, Métis Nation Agenda and Governance – Minister Judy Mayer

Minister Mayer and David Gray, MMF Legal Counsel, jointly reviewed several constitutional amendments, many of which related the Métis Cabinet elections in 2022.

The following 19 resolutions were provided for discussion purposes and would be presented for consideration at the 53rd AGA in the fall of 2021:

- Resolution 1: To Amend the MMF Constitution and Local By-Law with Respect to Secretary-Treasurer Position
- Resolution 2: To Amend the MMF Local By-Law with Respect to the Definition of an Active Local
- Resolution 3: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Definition of Deputy Returning Officer
- Resolution 4: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Local Executive Definition
- Resolution 5: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Definition of the Polling Station
- Resolution 6: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Preliminary List of Voters
- Resolution 7: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Regional Returning Officer
- Resolution 8: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Chief Electoral Officer Appointment
- Resolution 9: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Timing of Election and Rule for Calculation of Time
- Resolution 10: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Preliminary List of Electors
- Resolution 11: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to Additions to the Voters List on Election Day
- Resolution 12: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Qualifications of Electors
- Resolution 13: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Appointment of the Deputy Returning Officers
- Resolution 14: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Qualification of Candidates
- Resolution 15: To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to Polling Locations
- Resolution 16: To Amend the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law to Include Gender Neutral Language with Respect to the Qualifications of Electors
- Resolution 17: Changing Documents to Provide Gender Neutral Identification Option
- Resolution 18: Change to Article XV1 of MMF Constitution
- Resolution 19: Name Change – Articles of Incorporation.

David Gray provided details of the resolution process noting final draft resolutions would be forwarded to each Local through the regional offices for debate and voting at the fall AGA. The resolutions were available at <http://aga.manitobametis.com>.

During ensuing discussion, comments were offered including:

- Suggestions for Constitutional amendments should be submitted to the Constitutional Committee by end of June 2021
- Regions will need to determine the best way to communicate this to their citizens.

### **MOTION 10 03 21**

It was MOVED (Barbara Bruce, Infinity Women Secretariat) and  
SECONDED (Chantal Kirouac, Southeast Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Constitution Report as presented by Minister Mayer.

#### **CARRIED (Four abstentions)**

#### 10.4 Central Registry Office - Minister Leah LaPlante

Minister LaPlante reported that the department had been successful in addressing a variety of challenges and had upgraded the Citizenship Data Management System. Additionally, harvester information was included as part of citizen profiles. The Central Registry Office (CRO) approved 3,604 new citizenship cards and approved 2,113 Métis Harvester Identification Cards. The Mobile Citizenship Unit travelled to many communities, which the intent to reach those in rural areas.

### **MOTION 11 03 21**

It was MOVED (Joan Church, Southwest Region) and  
SECONDED (Laura Forsythe, Winnipeg Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Central Registry Report as presented by Minister LaPlante.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 10.5 Natural Resources - Minister Leah LaPlante

Minister LaPlante informed of the department's goal to implement natural resource-related programs to assist and support families and communities and protect the land, waters and resources of Manitoba.

Despite the MMF's best efforts, the provincial government continues to ignore the constitutionally protected rights of the Métis. Comments were offered on:

- Potential legal support for Métis harvesters to exercise their constitutionally protected rights
- Expanding the Recognized Métis Harvesting Areas (RMHA) to include all of Manitoba:
  - o Harvesters take risks when harvesting outside of the RMHA but the MMF will support them with any legal challenges
- Written permission needed from private landowners to harvest on their property
- The need for Métis harvesters to validate their Métis Harvest Cards and complete a mandatory Métis Harvesting Survey

- The passing of two resolutions relating to a prohibition on dangerous spotlighting and the prohibition of night hunting within Agro-Manitoba from dusk to dawn
- Moose harvesting closures in Duck and Porcupine Mountains, which the MMF was not consulted on
- Forestry management plans which triggered Crown consultation
- Timber Sale Agreements and building capacity within the Métis Nation
- The MMF's efforts to create Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas (IPCA).

### **MOTION 12 03 21**

It was MOVED (Minister Peter Fleming, Northwest Region) and  
SECONDED (Shirley Langan, Southeast Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accept the Natural Resources Report as presented by Minister LaPlante.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

During ensuing discussion, comments were offered on:

- A suggestion that the moose harvest be moved to an earlier date in the fall
- The involvement of Métis Youth in the moose harvest
- Concerns that in the event of declining stocks, Indigenous were the last to lose hunting rights
- Government's requirements that harvesters in the north purchase a license (cost to be fully reimbursed)
- The province's decision to not permit an annual moose count to be conducted.

#### 10.6 Early Learning and Child Care - Minister Frances Chartrand

Minister Chartrand reported on the work of the ELCC department including: feasibility studies to accurately understand the ELCC needs of communities; promoting and strengthening Métis culture within communities; using federal funding to build Métis-specific programming; opening of childcare centres in Duck Bay and the City of Dauphin with additional centres planned for St. Eustache and Winnipeg. Each center will have parenting programs, community outreach and land-based programming.

### **MOTION 13 03 21**

It was MOVED (Jeanette Brown-Porter, Northwest Region) and  
SECONDED (Candice Bercier, Thompson Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Early Learning and Child Care Report as presented by Minister Chartrand.

#### **CARRIED (Two abstentions)**

During ensuing discussion, it was confirmed that the Infinity Women Secretariat was involved in the build and programming of daycare sites in Winnipeg and with the Keewatinowi Awasisak Op-Ki-Wak (KAO) in the Thompson region. Feasibility studies were conducted in the Southeast Region and a preliminary presentation will be provided to the regional leadership and potentially at upcoming Local meetings.

#### Announcement – Resolution Deadline

Co-Chair Goodon announced that the deadline had now passed for submission of resolutions.

#### 10.7 Health and Wellness – Minister Frances Chartrand

Minister Chartrand reported that the Province of Manitoba had cut funding in 2015, however the Métis government continued to focus on closing the gaps in the health status of Métis families. Priorities included the development of the first Métis Health Benefits Prescription Drugs Program, available to Métis Elders and seniors 65 years of age and older (with annual earnings of \$25,000 or less per year). Elders and Seniors could also access a Métis Senior Vision Care Initiative. Research continued on: the opioid crisis; a Métis-specific cancer strategy; cannabis and mental health; and a tobacco reduction strategy. Data gathered, will be used to build programming.

#### **MOTION 14 03 21**

It was MOVED (Joan Church, Southwest Region) and SECONDED (Jason Leshchyshyn, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accept the Health and Wellness Report as presented by Minister Chartrand.

#### **CARRIED (One abstention)**

During ensuing discussion, comments were offered on:

- The MMF's partnership with Prairie Eye Care on reduced costs of eyeglasses for Métis citizens
- Suggestion that more research be done on addiction management and the opioid crisis
- Considering youth camps for all regions in the province
- Local community liaison officers assisting Métis citizens with their Pharmacare deductible and income taxes
- Suggestion that cancer mentors be considered to guide citizens through their cancer journey
- Establishing Métis daycares to reduce discrimination of children with disabilities.

#### 10.8 Energy and Infrastructure – Minister Jack Park

Minister Park reported on the positive relationship with proponents, including Enbridge and Alamos Gold. No

improvements were noted on the relationship with the government of Manitoba, as they continued not to consult with the Métis Nation on many projects. The Energy and Infrastructure Department participated in work on the environmental assessment regulatory process to ensure Métis-specific concerns and priorities were reflected in the legislation.

#### **MOTION 15 03 21**

It was MOVED (Joan Church, Southwest Region) and SECONDED (Shirley Langan, Southeast Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Energy and Infrastructure Report as presented by Minister Park.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### Video Presentation

A video was shared regarding an economic trade partnership between the Métis Nation and the Indigenous peoples of Colombia, an agreement that would be mutually beneficial.

#### 10.9 Engagement and Consultation – Minister Denis Thomas

Minister Thomas informed that consultation remained a priority for the Métis government. The passing of Resolution 8 mandated a single-window approach for engagement and consultation with the community through the MMF Home Office and applies to any project that impacts the protected rights, interests and claims of the community.

The Resolution 8 framework includes five phases: notice and response; research and capacity; engagement and consultation; partnership; and accommodation and implementation. Planned consultations on strengthening economic development and Bill C-92 An Act Respecting First Nation, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families will be held virtually in 2021.

#### **MOTION 16 03 21**

It was MOVED (Shawn Nault, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Rachelle Roussin, Northwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Engagement and Consultation Report as presented by Minister Thomas.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 10.10 Housing and Property Management – Minister William Goodon

Minister Goodon advised that the MMF Housing and Property department has 15 full-time staff members, with experience in many aspects of housing including: policy development;

commercial development; housing construction; affordable housing; and housing programs.

Key activities within the department included:

- A partnership with the province, which resulted in 26 affordable housing units
- Opening of the Frank Bruce Métis Seniors Complex
- Affordable housing projects in Portage La Prairie and Winnipeg
- Successful launch of the First Time Home Purchase Program (FTHPP), providing Métis families with a “head start” to build equity:
  - o Administered through the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) providing up to \$15,000 for down payments and \$2,500 for closing costs
  - o Stimulated over 190 jobs and provided 412 new homes
- MMF Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP), launched in 2019 designed to help low to moderate income Métis households make essential and emergency repairs to their homes:
  - o Up to \$15,000 in forgivable loans were offered for the next seven years
- The Reaching Home Initiative, to address Métis homelessness and expansion to all regions
- Federal Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative (IHII), to create new and innovative Indigenous housing projects:
  - o Michif Manor – offers temporary housing for families staying in Winnipeg while loved ones receive care
  - o Infinity House of Hope – provides housing for Métis Youth transitioning out of care.

#### **MOTION 17 03 21**

It was MOVED (Minister Denise Thomas, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Barb Lavallee, Interlake Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Housing Report as presented by Minister Goodon.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

During ensuing discussion, comments were offered on:

- The HELP program, which assists with home repairs to extend the life of a home
- Ongoing work on development of affordable housing programs for Elders or those with disabilities
- The net income threshold for the HELP and FTHPP, set at \$90,000 annually
- Prioritizing transitional housing
- Encouraging locals to contact HELP, if they see homes in disrepair, particularly where Elders live
- HELP funds are guaranteed for seven years regardless of the presiding federal government
- The MMF seeks to purchase Crown harvesting lands or provide financial support to farmers and ranchers.

10.11 Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations, Sixties Scoop and Engagement and Consultation – Minister Denise Thomas

The Canada-Métis Nation Accord reflects the shared commitment to a renewed N2N relationship based on recognition of rights, respect and cooperation, yet Canada has not engaged in direct discussion with the MNC or the MMF regarding the Sixties Scoop. Canada is a defendant in an ongoing class action suit.

A Sixties Scoop symposium in the fall of 2019, marked the first of a series of engagements directed and guided by survivors to shape the framework for reconciliation with Canada. The MNC launched an enhanced website for Sixties Scoop survivors with up-to-date information on all Sixties Scoop activities and includes the summarized What We Heard report.

#### **MOTION 18 03 21**

It was MOVED (Joseph Nault, Southwest Region) and SECONDED (John Lee, Thompson Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Sixties Scoop Report as presented by Minister Thomas.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

10.12 Métis Justice Institute – Minister Julyda Lagimodiere

Minister Lagimodiere reported on the current initiatives of the Métis Justice Institute (MJI) including programming for: court diversion; justice support; domestic violence; anger management; life skills; Métis community safety; policing; and a COVID-19 response. Work is ongoing on the development of a MJI Strategic 5-Year Plan and the identification of 11 departmental sectors that will guide the work. These sectors will provide strategic direction to the MJI for the future development of a MJI in Manitoba.

#### **MOTION 19 03 21**

It was MOVED (John Lee, Thompson Region) and SECONDED (Candice Bercier, Thompson Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Métis Justice Institute Report as presented by Minister Lagimodiere.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

During ensuing discussion, comments were offered on:

- A lack of cases for mediation for justice in the Northwest Region
- Funding available for Métis citizens seeking to access MJI programming

- The province's closure of the jail in Dauphin, without informing Métis government:
  - o The local Métis council was on the ground to support the affected Métis citizens
  - o The Mayor of Dauphin is working to build back employment in the area
- A lack of information on the number of incarcerated Métis who contracted COVID-19 and what supports were offered; this information be gathered and shared at the fall AGA
- Regrets sent from the Winnipeg Police, as they did not have a representative to attend the AGA
- Concerns with the level of medical care that addicted citizens receive when placed on remand.

#### 10.13 Métis Employment and Training - Minister John Fleury

Minister Fleury informed that the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) program, has an annual budget of over \$15 million. The Métis Employment and Training (MET) continues to create opportunities for employment, provide employment and career counselling, and offer financial assistance for training.

#### **MOTION 20 03 21**

It was MOVED (Joseph Nault, Southwest Region) and SECONDED (Shawn Nault, Southeast Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Métis Employment and Training Report as presented by Minister Fleury.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 10.14 Provincial Education - Minister Joan Ledoux

Minister Ledoux informed that funding through the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, will provide financial and academic support for post-secondary Métis students and for implementing a strategy to close the educational gaps and improve outcomes. 557 Métis students were awarded funding through the Post-Secondary Education Support Program. The MMF has partnered with the University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba and other post-secondary institutions to collaborate and ensure successes for Métis students. Additionally, the MMF has partnered with the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) with a focus on K-12 education.

The Blueprint for the Indigenous Education Steering Committee is an initiative committed to making excellence in Indigenous post-secondary school, a priority. The MMF is also collaborating with the Frontier School Division on meeting the needs of K-12 Métis students.

#### **MOTION 21 03 21**

It was MOVED (Scott Norquay, Interlake Region) and SECONDED (Charlene Nault, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Provincial Education Report as presented by Minister Ledoux.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

During ensuing discussion, comments were offered on:

- The establishment of a Task Force and potential Board representation to ensure Métis input is included into curriculum development in relation to the new Bill C-64 Education Modernization provincial legislation; there will be opportunities for parent input at the local level
- Contacting the LRI to learn more on the initiative with the Frontier School Division
- Struggles facing mature Métis students seeking to obtain MMF financial support
- Living allowance and tuition costs provided to Métis students studying a trade
- Focus needed on the career pathway for Grades 9-12
- Unknown long-term impacts of the amalgamation of the school system
- Additional supports required for students with special needs, seeking to find meaningful employment when they leave school:
  - o MMF Life and Essential Skills programming could be of support for these students
  - o Potential to emulate Standing Tall program used with Maori students
- MMF working with Canada for post-COVID-19 economic recovery to ensure jobs
- Potential agreement with Enbridge to ensure Métis employment within their industry
- Suggestion that the LRI run accredited trades programs and employ Métis instructors
- Offer more remote learning to expand community reach
- The need for of a stronger apprenticeship program and funding.

Due to time constraints, participants were asked to indicate via a Zoom poll, their preference to extend the meeting time to accommodate the remaining Portfolio/Department Report updates or accept the reports as they are presented within the AGA Annual Report.

#### **MOTION 22 03 21**

It was MOVED (Jeanette Brown-Porter, Northwest Region) and SECONDED (Jack Fleming, Northwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accept the following reports as found in the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual Report provided with the meeting materials:

- Métis Community Liaison Department – Minister Andrew Carrier
- French Language – Minister Andrew Carrier
- Michif Language – Minister Andrew Carrier
- Residential Schools – Minister Andrew Carrier
- Riel House – Minister Andrew Carrier
- Culture and Heritage – Minister Alfred Anderson
- Environment and Mining – Minister Vincent Parenteau
- Fisheries – Minister John Parenteau
- Sport and Youth – Minister Richard Genaille.

**CARRIED**

**(Six delegates voted in opposition)**

10.15 Métis Community Liaison Department – Minister Andrew Carrier

An update is included in the MMF Annual Report.

10.16 French Language – Minister Andrew Carrier

An update is included in the MMF Annual Report.

10.17 Michif Language – Minister Andrew Carrier

An update is included in the MMF Annual Report.

10.18 Residential Schools – Minister Andrew Carrier

An update is included in the MMF Annual Report.

10.19 Riel House – Minister Andrew Carrier

An update is included in the MMF Annual Report.

10.20 Culture and Heritage – Minister Alfred Anderson

An update is included in the MMF Annual Report.

10.21 Environment and Mining – Minister Vincent Parenteau

An update is included in the MMF Annual Report.

10.22 Fisheries – Minister John Parenteau

An update is included in the MMF 52nd Annual General Assembly Annual Report.

10.23 Sport and Youth – Minister Richard Genaille

An update is included in the MMF Annual Report.

11. MNC UPDATE – President Clément Chartier

MNC President Chartier thanked members of the MMF for their support and advised that this would likely be the last time he addressed the MMF AGA as MNC President. He expressed his gratitude to the MMF, the bedrock of the Métis

Nation, for standing firm in defending the identity of the Métis Nation in the Homeland.

The MNC is facing challenges. It is unknown how the actions of the Tri-Council formed by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN-S) and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), would impact the Métis Nation’s budget ask in the Federal Budget to be announced April 19, 2021. The MNC seeks to hold a Board of Governors meeting or a General Assembly, but this would be difficult without participation from the MNA and the MN-S. The MNC continues to seek resolution on this issue and regardless of the outcome, the MMF will stand strong in protecting the Métis Nation.

**MOTION 23 03 21**

It was MOVED (Jackie Mason, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Joseph Nault, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Métis National Council Report as presented by Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

During ensuing discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- The federal funding distribution formula provides 25% to the MMF, MNA and the MN-S, and 12.5% to the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and the MNO
- The MNC receives less than 2% of funding
- Federal funding goes directly to the Governing Members and not through the MNC.

**12. REPORT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

The Resolutions Committee acknowledged the 19 Resolutions that will be brought forward for consideration at the 53rd AGA in Fall 2021.

It was further noted that a resolution from the floor proposed changes to election bylaws, and was deemed not in compliance with Article 14 of the MMF Constitution, which sets out a process for constitutional amendments.

**MOTION 24 03 21**

It was MOVED (Marielle Gauthier, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Scott Norquay, Interlake Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Resolutions Committee Report as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 13. 10-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Minister Campbell presented a watch to the following individuals in recognition of their 10-Years of service to the MMF:

- Ashley Davies, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Wanda Freeland McKenzie, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Sharon Henkelman, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Anettka Herrick, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- April Lavallee, Senior Policy Analyst at President Chartrand's Office
- Paul Jerome, IT department of the MMF
- Jacqueline Kehler, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Devyn Lavoie, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Deborah LeClair, Métis Employment and Training Department
- Vanessa Pica; Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Richard Rosalas, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Jennifer Rye, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Rhonda Stone, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Amber Teischroeb, Métis Child and Family Community Services
- Cassie Teischroeb, Métis Employment and Training Department
- Terri Thevenot, Métis Child and Family Community Services.

Glorian Chartrand, MMF, and her team, were additionally recognized for their efforts in organizing the MMF's 52nd AGA.

### 14. CONCLUDING REMARKS and CLOSING PRAYER

President Chartrand extended his thanks and appreciation to the MMF staff for their work in preparing the 52nd AGA, the Locals for their ongoing efforts, the participants and to the many donors and sponsors of the event. He referenced an announcement from Minister Richard Genaille, Minister of Sports and Youth, regarding \$1 million in funding for structured sports programs for the Youth, with the potential of professional athlete instruction.

Co-Chair Goodon thanked President Chartrand for his strong leadership and Co-Chair Marc LeClair and to all the MMF staff who made the 52nd AGA a success. Each participant would receive a Louis Riel commemorative coin for their attendance at the AGA. President Chartrand led the meeting in a raffle prize draw and expressed his gratitude to the many sponsors that contributed items. Elder Verna DeMontigny provided a closing prayer.

### 15. CONCLUSION

#### **MOTION 25 03 21**

It was MOVED (Peter Gorzen, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Jason Leshchyshyn, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly scheduled March 27 28, 2021, be now concluded.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Time: March 28, 2021 at 6:12 p.m.)**

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This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General

#### LIST OF APPENDICES

The following were referenced in the Minutes and are appended accordingly:

- Appendix A: List of Acronyms (used throughout these minutes)
- Appendix B: List of Motions (resolved during March 27-28, 2021 AGA)
- Appendix C: List of Resolutions (for consideration at the next AGA)

AGA	Annual General Assembly
BMO	Bank of Montreal
CCRT	Central COVID-19 Response Team
CFS	Child and Family Services
CART	Community Addictions Recovery Team
CRO	Central Registry Office
ELCC	Early Learning and Child Care
FTHPP	First Time Home Purchase Program
G2G	Government-to-Government
HELP	Home Enhancement Loan Program
IHII	Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative
IPCA	Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas
ISET	Indigenous Skills and Employment Training
IS	Information System
KAO	Keewatinowi Awasisak Op-Ki-Wak
LRCC	Louis Riel Capital Corporation
LRI	Louis Riel Institute
MET	Métis Employment and Training
MJI	Métis Justice Institute
MMF	Manitoba Métis Federation
MNA	Métis Nation of Alberta
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
MN-S	Métis Nation-Saskatchewan
MNC	Métis National Council
MNP	Meyer Norris Penny
N2N	Nation-to-Nation
NDP	New Democratic Party
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RHMA	Recognized Métis Harvesting Areas

**(MOTION 01 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly appoints Minister Will Goodon and Marc LeClair as the Co-Chairs of the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly.

**(MOTION 02 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly adopts the agenda for the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly scheduled March 27-28, 2021, as presented.

**(MOTION 03 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the following appointments to the Resolutions Committee for the 52nd Annual General Assembly scheduled March 27-28, 2021:

- Laura Forsythe, Winnipeg Region
- Scott Norquay, Interlake Region
- Chantal Kirouac, Southeast Region
- Bertha Bouet, Southwest Region
- Peter Fleming, Northwest Region
- Albert Limfit, The Pas Region
- Donna Spence, Thompson Region.

**(MOTION 04 03 21)**

That all resolutions received by the Resolutions Committee at this 52nd Annual General Assembly be presented for information purposes only and carried over to the 53rd Annual General Assembly in order to fully deliberate and vote without COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

**(MOTION 05 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly adopts the Minutes of the 51st Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly, held September 20-22, 2019, as amended.

**(MOTION 06 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Manitoba Métis Federation 2019-2020 financial audit as presented.

**(MOTION 07 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly approves the reappointment of Meyers Norris Penny (MNP) to conduct the Manitoba Métis Federation Audit for 2020-2021.

**(MOTION 08 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Human Resources Report as presented by Minister Campbell.

**(MOTION 09 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) 52nd Annual General Assembly:

- Accepts the Child and Family Services (CFS) Report as presented by Minister Mona Buors, CFS
- Accepts the MMF CFS Implementation Report as presented; and
- Endorses, agrees with and authorizes with full support, the report's approach and recommendations of the implementation of the MMF jurisdiction and authority recognized in An Act respecting First Nation, Inuit, Métis children, youth and families.

**(MOTION 10 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Constitution Report as presented by Minister Mayer.

**(MOTION 11 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Central Registry Report as presented by Minister LaPlante.

**(MOTION 12 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Natural Resources Report as presented by Minister LaPlante.

**(MOTION 13 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Early Learning and Child Care Report as presented by Minister Chartrand.

**(MOTION 14 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Health and Wellness Report as presented by Minister Chartrand.

**(MOTION 15 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Energy and Infrastructure Report as presented by Minister Park.

**(MOTION 16 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Engagement and Consultation Report

as presented by Minister Thomas.

**(MOTION 17 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Housing Report as presented by Minister Goodon.

**(MOTION 18 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Sixties Scoop Report as presented by Minister Thomas.

**(MOTION 19 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Métis Justice Institute Report as presented by Minister Lagimodiere.

**(MOTION 20 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Métis Employment and Training Report as presented by Minister Fleury.

**(MOTION 21 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Provincial Education Report as presented by Minister Ledoux.

**(MOTION 22 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the following reports as found in the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual Report provided with the meeting materials:

- Métis Community Liaison Department – Minister Andrew Carrier
- French Language – Minister Andrew Carrier
- Michif Language – Minister Andrew Carrier
- Residential Schools – Minister Andrew Carrier
- Riel House – Minister Andrew Carrier
- Culture and Heritage – Minister Alfred Anderson
- Environment and Mining – Minister Vincent Parenteau
- Fisheries – Minister John Parenteau
- Sport and Youth – Minister Richard Genaille.

**(MOTION 23 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Métis National Council Report as presented by Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier.

**(MOTION 24 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly accepts the Resolutions Committee Report as presented.

**(MOTION 25 03 21)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation 52nd Annual General Assembly scheduled March 27 28, 2021, be now concluded.

**Resolution 1:**

To Amend the MMF Constitution and Local By-Law with Respect to Secretary-Treasurer Position

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Julyda Lagimodiere

WHEREAS the MMF Constitution provides for each Local to be administered by a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary-Treasurer;

AND WHEREAS the duties of the Local Executive positions are set out in the MMF Local By-Law;

AND WHEREAS various Locals have increased in the number of citizens belonging to the Local;

AND WHEREAS various Locals have increased the activities of the Local;

AND WHEREAS as a result, the responsibilities of a Secretary-Treasurer for various Locals have increased;

AND WHEREAS certain Locals have expressed an interest in being able to have a Local Executive consisting of four (4) positions namely Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary;

AND WHEREAS in those cases of Locals who wish to have four (4) Executive positions, a more efficient division of labour will occur by separating the Secretary-Treasurer positions;

AND WHEREAS the creation of an optional four (4) member Local Executive will serve the best interests of the Manitoba Métis by, amongst other matters allowing additional individuals to serve in elected office at the Local level and thereby meet the qualifications required of candidates for elected office at the Regional and Presidential level;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

1. Article V(b)(iii) of the Constitution which states:

Each "Local" shall be administered by a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:  
Article V(b)(iii) of the Constitution:

Each "Local" shall be administered by a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Secretary-Treasurer or, if approved by the Local, a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

2. Article V(4) of the Local By-Law which states:

#### 4. Local Executives

Each Local shall be represented by an Executive, which shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer. In order to be eligible for election to a Local Executive position, an individual member must first obtain a valid membership (citizenship) card in accordance with Article III 5(a) of the Federation's Constitution.

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer shall all be elected at the same time for a four (4) year term beginning in 2006 and every four (4) years thereafter. Any two (2) of the three (3) Local Executives shall be the signing Officers of the Local.

Duties/Responsibilities of Local Executives:

#### Chairperson

- Chief Executive Officer of the Local.
- Chairs Local meetings.
- Spokesperson on behalf of Local.
- Calls and ensures that meetings are held.
- Follows up on motions.
- Is ex-officio member of all Local committees.
- Performs other duties as directed by Local membership.

#### Vice-Chairperson

- Assumes all the responsibilities of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

#### Secretary-Treasurer

- Keeps minutes of meetings and records and files such minutes as well as all correspondence and activities of the Local.
- Assumes all responsibilities of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
- Reads minutes of previous meetings and correspondence at all Local meetings.
- Responsible for all advertisement and notices regarding meetings, fund-raising notices and all other notices relating to the Local business.
- Maintains and is responsible for all Local financial records, (e.g., bookkeeping, ledger, deposits, income, bank statements, etc.).
- Presents financial statements to the membership at all Local meetings.
- Second signing Local authority.

Is hereby deleted and the following is substituted:

#### 4. Local Executives

Each Local shall be represented by an Executive, which shall be:

- A. A Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer; or
- B. If a local has at least 100 members and the division of the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer into a Secretary and a Treasurer is approved by the Local, a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer
- C.

In order to be eligible for election to a Local Executive position, an individual member must first obtain a valid membership (citizenship) card in accordance with Article III 5(a) of the Federation's Constitution.

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer or if applicable Treasurer and Secretary shall all be elected at the same time for a four (4) year term beginning in 2006 and every four (4) years thereafter. Any two (2) of the three (3) or four (4) Local Executives shall be the signing Officers of the Local.

In the case of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer the Duties/Responsibilities are:

#### Chairperson

- Chief Executive Officer of the Local.
- Chairs Local meetings.
- Spokesperson on behalf of Local.
- Calls and ensures that meetings are held.
- Follows up on motions.
- Is ex-officio member of all Local committees.
- Performs other duties as directed by Local membership.

#### Vice-Chairperson

- Assumes all the responsibilities of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

#### Secretary-Treasurer

- Keeps minutes of meetings and records and files such minutes as well as all correspondence and activities of the Local.
- Assumes all responsibilities of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
- Reads minutes of previous meetings and correspondence at all Local meetings.
- Responsible for all advertisement and notices regarding meetings, fund-raising notices and all other notices relating to the Local business.
- Maintains and is responsible for all Local financial records, (e.g., bookkeeping, ledger, deposits, income, bank statements, etc.).
- Presents financial statements to the membership at all Local meetings.
- Second signing Local authority.

In the case of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary the Duties/Responsibilities are:

#### Chairperson

- Chief Executive Officer of the Local.
- Chairs Local meetings.
- Spokesperson on behalf of Local.
- Calls and ensures that meetings are held.
- Follows up on motions.
- Is ex-officio member of all Local committees.
- Performs other duties as directed by Local membership.

#### Vice-Chairperson

- Assumes all the responsibilities of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

#### Treasurer

- Maintains and is responsible for all Local financial records, (e.g. bookkeeping, ledger, deposits, income, bank statements, etc.).
- Presents financial statements to the membership at all Local meetings.
- Second signing Local authority.
- Assumes all responsibilities of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

#### Secretary

- Keeps minutes of meetings and records and files such minutes as well as all correspondence and activities of the Local.
- Reads minutes of previous meetings and correspondence at all Local meetings.
- Responsible for all advertisement and notices regarding meetings, fund-raising notices and all other notices relating to the Local business.

#### **Resolution 2:**

To Amend the MMF Local By-Law with Respect to the Definition of an Active Local

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Leah LaPlante

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By- Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following

resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article VIII be added to the MMF Local By-Law which states:

#### ARTICLE VIII

1. Active Local An "Active Local" shall mean a Local that has, for three (3) consecutive years, met the following criteria:
  - a) provided notice of the dates and times of its meetings to members in a manner prescribed by the Cabinet of the MMF by resolution or enactment;
  - b) provided its minutes of meetings to the corresponding Regional Office and the MMF Home Office on a regular basis, and in any event, within three (3) months of any meeting;
  - c) had at least one (1) member attend the Regional meetings of the MMF to which the Local belongs; and
  - d) had at least one (1) member attend the AGA of the MMF.

#### **Resolution 3:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Definition of Deputy Returning Officer

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Julyda Lagimodiere

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By- Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article II 4. of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

4. "Deputy Returning Officer" - means a person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to manage and conduct voting procedures at polls that are established by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

4. "Deputy Returning Officer" - means a person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to:

a) manage and conduct voting procedures at a poll or polls that are established by the Chief Electoral Officer; and  
b) provide such further and other support as may be required by the Chief Electoral Officer for that poll including, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the placement of advertisements, materials, posters, or other like items as directed by the Chief Electoral Officer to inform the Citizens of the election and its details.

**Resolution 4:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Local Executive Definition

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Leah LaPlante

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article II 11. of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

11. "Local Executive" – means the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary- Treasurer of a Local of the MMF.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

11. "Local Executive" – means the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer of a Local of the MMF and includes a Secretary-Treasurer if one person holds both the Secretary and Treasurer positions.

**Resolution 5:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Definition of the Polling Station

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Julyda Lagimodiere

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article II 15. of the Election By-Law which states:

15. "Polling Station" – means a place established by the Chief Electoral Officer where electors may vote in person.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

15A. "Polling Location" means a geographic area or local designated by the Cabinet, by resolution or law, for the establishment by the Chief Electoral Officer of a Polling Station. If Cabinet fails to establish polling locations by proper resolution, "Polling Location" shall mean an area designated by the Chief Electoral Officer, in advance of the calling of an election, for the establishment of a Polling Station.

15B. "Polling Station" – means a place established by the Chief Electoral Officer where electors may vote in person.

**Resolution 6:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Preliminary List of Electors

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Leah LaPlante

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article II 16. of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

16. "Preliminary List of Electors" – means the Master List of individual members of the MMF on file at the MMF Head Office on the date the election is called.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

16. "Preliminary List of Electors" – means the names registered with the MMF Central Registry Office as members and eligible voters (Citizens) of the MMF as provided to the Chief Electoral Officer by the MMF Central Registry Office.

**Resolution 7:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Regional Returning Officer

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Julyda Lagimodiere

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By- Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article II 20. Of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

20. "Scrutineer" – means a person appointed by a candidate to represent his/her interest at a polling station and to act as his/her agent.

Be re-numbered to 21. and the following be added as Article II 20.:

20. "Regional Returning Officer" – means a person who may be appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to:

- a) manage and conduct voting procedures at a poll or polls as directed by the Chief Electoral Officer;
- b) to provide support to the Deputy Returning Officers in that region; and
- c) provide such further and other support as may be required for that region by the Chief Electoral Officer including, without restricting the generality of the foregoing,

the placement of advertisements, materials, posters or other like items as directed by the Chief Electoral Officer to inform the members (Citizens) of the election and its details.

**Resolution 8:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Chief Electoral Officer

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Leah LaPlante

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By- Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article III 1. and Article III 3(b) of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

1. The Board of Directors of MMF shall appoint a person to serve as Chief Electoral Officer for each election. The person so appointed shall also have the responsibility to conduct any necessary by-elections while his/her appointment remains in effect.

3. The duties and powers of the Chief Electoral Officer shall include but not be limited to:  
(b) Appointing a Deputy Chief Electoral Officer and all Deputy Returning Officers and Poll Clerks.

Are hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

1. The Board of Directors of the MMF shall appoint a person to serve as the Chief Electoral Officer for a fixed term. The person so appointed shall also have the responsibility to conduct any necessary elections or by-elections while their appointment remains in effect.

3. The duties and powers of the Chief Electoral Officer shall include but not be limited to:  
(b) Appointing such election officials as are necessary to conduct the business of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer including Regional Returning Officers, Deputy Returning Officers, and Poll Clerks.

**Resolution 9:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Timing of Election and Rule for Calculation of Time

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Julyda Lagimodiere

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article IV of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

1. There shall be no more than sixty (60) days between the date of the notice setting the date of the election and Election Day. In order to calculate compliance with this provision, the first day counted shall be the day after the date of the notice setting the date of the election and the last day counted shall be Election Day.
2. For the purpose of calculating a period of time as provided for anywhere in this By-Law, when anything is to be done within a time after, from or before a specified day, the period of time does not include that day.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

1. The Cabinet of the MMF shall call an election by resolution passed by a majority vote of the members.
2. The President, upon passage of the resolution, shall transmit a certified copy of the resolution to the Chief Electoral Officer within two (2) days after the passing of the resolution by Cabinet.
3. The Chief Electoral Officer shall set the date for such election or by-election within seven (7) days after the receipt of the resolution calling the election.
4. There shall be no more than sixty (60) days between the date of the notice setting the date of the election and Election Day. In order to calculate compliance with this provision, the first day counted shall be the day after the date of the notice setting the date of the election and the last day counted shall be Election Day.
5. For the purpose of calculating a period of time as provided for anywhere in this By-Law, when anything is to be

done within a time after, from or before a specified day, the period of time does not include that day.

**Resolution 10:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the List of Electors

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Leah LaPlante

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article V of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

**ARTICLE V PREPARATION OF LIST OF ELECTORS**

1. MMF Head Office shall distribute the Preliminary List of Electors, for each Region, to each Regional Office within three (3) days of the Chief Electoral Officer announcing the date of the election.
2. Each Regional Office shall post the Preliminary List of Electors at the Regional Office and shall, within two (2) days of receipt, send out a copy to each Local within the Region.
3. Members shall have twenty-one (21) days from the date of the notice setting the date of the election to apply for revision of the Preliminary List of Electors by adding or deleting a name/names.
4. The Chief Electoral Officer shall decide the procedure to be followed to allow for the revision of the Preliminary List of Electors by adding or deleting the names of members.
5. The Chief Electoral Officer may accept proof of death of any member from anyone who provides the Chief Electoral Officer with a valid Death Certificate or copy of a published obituary.
6. The Chief Electoral Officer shall only accept the submission of a name for addition to the Preliminary List of Electors, if the member has completed a form approved by the Chief Electoral Officer requesting that the member's name be added to the Preliminary List of Electors.
7. The Chief Electoral Officer shall revise the Preliminary List of Electors and shall distribute the List of Electors.
8. No names shall be added to the List of Electors by a

Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk on Election Day.

9. The Chief Electoral Officer may add the name of a member to the List of Electors on Election Day after consulting with a Deputy Returning Officer only when there has been an obvious clerical mistake or omission and the member to be added satisfies the Chief Electoral Officer that he/she is a member of the MMF.

10. In the event, that an individual has made application for membership in the Manitoba Métis Federation prior to the date on which the Chief Electoral Officer gives notice of the date of the Election, and that application is processed and the individual is approved by the Central Registry Office prior to Election Day, the Chief Electoral Officer shall add the name of the new member to the List of Electors on Election Day.

Are hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

#### ARTICLE V PREPARATION OF LIST OF ELECTORS

1. The Central Registry Office shall, within two (2) days, at such times as requested by the Chief Electoral Officer, provide the Chief Electoral Officer with an alphabetical list or lists of Citizens of the MMF divided by Region and Local.

2. Not later than the day the election is set by the Chief Electoral Officer, the Chief Electoral Officer shall transmit by email, or other appropriate means, to the Deputy Returning Officer or other person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to receive the preliminary List of Electors for each Local and to the Secretary or Secretary-Treasurer of the Local, as the case may be, the Preliminary List of Electors.

3. The persons to whom the list has been transmitted shall post the list, together with such other notices as the Chief Electoral Officer may require, within 24 hours of its transmission in at least two public places which are within the geographic boundary of the Local. The Chief Electoral Officer may publish, by electronic means, a voters list to enable members (Citizens) to determine if they are registered to vote and Local at which they are entitled to cast their ballot.

4. Members (Citizens) shall have twenty-one (21) days from the date of the notice setting the date of the election to apply for revision of the Preliminary List of Electors by adding or deleting a name/names.

5. The Secretary or Secretary-Treasurer of the Local, as the case may be, shall review the list and shall cause to be communicated to the Chief Electoral Officer, by a certificate in proper form, the names of such persons as the Secretary knows are deceased or otherwise disqualified from voting and the reason they are disqualified from voting within seven (7) days of receipt of the preliminary voters list.

6. The Chief Electoral Officer may accept proof of death of any member (Citizen) from anyone who provides the Chief Electoral Officer with a valid Death Certificate or copy of a published obituary.

7. The names of those persons that are listed by the Secretary or Secretary-Treasurer of a Local, as the case may be, as deceased or for whom a proof of death has been provided shall be deleted by the Chief Electoral Officer from the list of electors. The Chief Electoral Officer shall transmit

the information received and the decision to remove the name from the list of electors to the Central Registry Office.

8. The persons otherwise disqualified may be contacted by the Chief Electoral Officer, or a person designated by the Chief Electoral Officer, to determine the eligibility of that person to vote. If the Chief Electoral Officer is able to determine that the person is not qualified to vote in the election the name of that person shall be deleted from the voters list but otherwise the name shall remain on the voters list and the person shall be entitled to vote. The Chief Electoral Officer shall transmit the information received and a decision to remove the name from the list of electors to the Central Registry Office.

9. The Chief Electoral Officer shall only accept the submission of a name for addition to the Preliminary List of Electors, if the member (Citizen) has completed a form approved by the Chief Electoral Officer requesting that the member's name be added to the Preliminary List of Electors.

10. The Chief Electoral Officer shall revise the Preliminary List of Electors and shall create and distribute the List of Electors as required by this By-Law.

11. One (1) copy of the list of electors eligible to vote in an election may be provided to each candidate for that election or by-election, provided the candidate complies with such requirements as may be set by the Chief Electoral Officer. The List of Electors shall provide only the names of registered voters, the address of the registered voters as known to the MMF, and the Local at which each voter is entitled to cast a ballot. The candidates shall not copy, memorialize, transmit, secure electronically or otherwise keep or share the List of Electors and shall return the list so provided to the Chief Electoral Officer after the conclusion of any election. In addition, each scrutineer may, by complying with such requirements as may be set by the Chief Electoral Officer, obtain one (1) copy of the List of Electors from the Deputy Returning Officer at the polling place, which list must remain at the polling place and which must be returned to the Deputy Returning Officer when the scrutineer leaves the polling place.

12. No names shall be added to the List of Electors by a Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk on Election Day.

13. The Chief Electoral Officer may add the name of a member (Citizen) to the List of Electors on Election Day after consulting with a Deputy Returning Officer only when there has been an obvious clerical mistake or omission and the member (Citizen) to be added satisfies the Chief Electoral Officer that they are a member (Citizen) of the MMF.

14. In the event, that an individual has made application for membership (Citizenship) in the MMF prior to the date on which the Chief Electoral Officer gives notice of the date of the Election, and that application is processed and the individual is approved by the Central Registry Office prior to Election Day, the Chief Electoral Officer shall add the name of the new member (Citizen) to the List of Electors by Election Day.

**Resolution 11:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Voters List on Election Day

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
 SECONDED BY: Minister Judy Lagimodiere

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article V 8. of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

8. No names shall be added to the List of Electors by a Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk on Election Day.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

8. No names shall be added to the List of Electors on Election Day by any person except the Chief Electoral Officer.

**Resolution 12:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Qualifications of Electors Candidates

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
 SECONDED BY: Minister Leah LaPlante

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following

resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article VI 1. Of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

1. A member whose name appears on the List of Electors may vote in a MMF Election.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

1. Only a member whose name appears on the List of Electors may vote in a MMF Election.

**Resolution 13:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Appointment of the Deputy Returning Officers Locations

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
 SECONDED BY: Minister Judy Lagimodiere

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article VII of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

ARTICLE VII APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICERS

1. The Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint a Deputy Returning Officer and a Poll Clerk for every polling station.  
 2. A person appointed as Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall hold office from the time appointed until thirty (30) days after the election and all recounts and appeals have been completed.

3. If a vacancy occurs in those offices during the election process, the Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint another person to fill the vacancy.  
 4.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

ARTICLE VII APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION OFFICIALS

1. The Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint a Deputy

Returning Officer and a Poll Clerk for every polling station and may appoint such other officials, including a Regional Returning Officer as are necessary to conduct the election.

2. A person appointed as an election official shall hold office from the time appointed until thirty (30) days after the election and all recounts and appeals have been completed.

3. If a vacancy occurs in those offices during the election process, the Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint another person to fill the vacancy.

**Resolution 14:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to the Qualification of Candidates

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Leah LaPlante

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article IX 4.a), 4.b), and 4.c) of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

a) In order to be able to stand for election for the position of Board Member in a Region, a member must, during the previous twenty (20) years, have held office for at least three (3) years as either Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Secretary-Treasurer of an active Local; or have held office for at least three (3) years as a Regional Board Member of Infinity Women Secretariat Inc.

b) In order to be able to stand for election for the position of Regional Vice-President in a Region, a member must, during the previous twenty (20) years, have held office for at least three (3) years as either Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Secretary-Treasurer of an active Local; or have held office for at least three (3) years as a Regional Board Member of Infinity Women Secretariat Inc.

c) In order to be able to stand for election for the position of President, a member must, during the previous twenty (20) years, have held office for at least three (3) years as either

Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Secretary-Treasurer of an active Local, or have held office for at least three (3) years as a Regional Board Member of Infinity Women Secretariat Inc., and as well, have held office for at least three (3) years as either a Regional Board Member or Regional Vice-President, or as Spokeswoman of Infinity Women Secretariat Inc.

Are hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

a) In order to be able to stand for election for the position of Board Member in a Region, a member must, during the previous twenty (20) years, have held office for at least three (3) years as either Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary, or Treasurer of an Active Local; or have held office for at least three (3) years as a Regional Board Member of Infinity Women Secretariat Inc.

b) In order to be able to stand for election for the position of Regional Vice-President in a Region, a member must, during the previous twenty (20) years, have held office for at least three (3) years as either Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary, or Treasurer of an active Local; or have held office for at least three (3) years as a Regional Board Member of Infinity Women Secretariat Inc.

c) In order to be able to stand for election for the position of President, a member must, during the previous twenty (20) years, have held office for at least three (3) years as either Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary, or Treasurer of an active Local, or have held office for at least three (3) years as a Regional Board Member of Infinity Women Secretariat Inc., and as well, have held office for at least three (3) years as either a Regional Board Member or Regional Vice-President, or as Spokeswoman of Infinity Women Secretariat Inc.

**Resolution 15:**

To Amend the MMF Election By-Law with Respect to Polling Locations

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Julyda Lagimodiere

WHEREAS the MMF established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship, and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the committee also involved staff, legal counsel, and the MMF Chief Electoral Officer;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has received recommendations from the committee with respect to the appropriate amendments to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following

resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article XVI 2. and 3. of the MMF Election By-Law which states:

2. Elections shall be held at the Polling Stations established by the Chief Electoral Officer.
3. A Polling Station shall be established in such places as the Chief Electoral Officer may decide.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

2. Elections shall be held at the Polling Stations established by the Chief Electoral Officer.
3. The Chief Electoral Officer shall establish one or more Polling Stations within each Polling Location as are in his opinion necessary to afford reasonable access to voting by Citizens.

**Resolution 16:**

To Amend the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law to Include Gender Neutral Language with Respect to the Qualification of Electors

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Leah LaPlante

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) established a committee to review the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law, and Election By-Law under the direction of the Ministers responsible for the Constitution, Natural Resources & Citizenship and Justice;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet passed a resolution providing Métis Citizens with a gender neutral identification option with respect to MMF applications for Citizenship and Harvesting and the issuing of Citizenship and Harvester cards;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law, and Election By-Law contain many references to he/she and his/her which is inconsistent with the previously adopted approach of gender neutrality;

AND WHEREAS the MMF is the recognized government of the Manitoba Métis Community and, as the governing body, it is the MMF’s mandate to ensure good governance practices are adopted to protect both the collective Indigenous rights and individual human rights of Manitoba Métis Citizens;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet has determined that it is appropriate that the language used in the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law and Election By-Law be inclusive of individuals who do not identify with the genders currently being referenced in the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law, and Election By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

1. The MMF Cabinet directs that all necessary changes be made to the MMF Constitution, Local By-Law, and Election By-Law to reflect gender neutral language throughout; and
2. That the MMF when making the necessary changes use various terms, including but not limited to, “he/she/they”, “his/hers/theirs” and “they/their” as appropriate and on a section-by-section basis.

**Resolution 17:**

Changing Documents to Provide Gender Neutral Identification Option

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Leah LaPlante

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) is the recognized government of the Manitoba Métis Community and, as the governing body, it is the MMF’s mandate to ensure good governance practices are adopted to protect both the collective Indigenous rights and individual human rights of Manitoba Métis Citizens;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet passed a resolution providing Manitoba Métis Citizens with a gender neutral identification option with respect to MMF applications for Citizenship and Harvesting and all subsequent cards issued by the MMF will reflect this option;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet wishes to ensure, that a gender neutral identification option is available to Manitoba Métis Citizens with respect to other documents being used by the MMF and its affiliates where information on a Métis Citizen’s gender is sought;

AND WHEREAS it is part of the MMF’s self-government mandate to ensure the ability of Manitoba Métis Citizens to participate in the exercising of their Citizenship rights in a manner that is inclusive and welcoming;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet directs that:

1. The MMF and all MMF affiliates conduct a review of all documents currently being used by them which require gender based information to be disclosed and, to make the necessary changes to ensure that all such documents contain a gender neutral option where “Gender: X” is provided as a choice.

**Resolution 18:**

Change to Article XVI of MMF Constitution

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Anita Campbell

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) Constitution currently has provisions dealing with the ability of elected officers to serve as employees of the MMF;

AND WHEREAS the current provisions are not sufficiently clear and, do not provide for the flexibility which would best serve the interests of the Manitoba Métis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet adopts and approves the following resolution to amend the MMF Constitution and local by-law which shall be presented at the next Annual General Assembly:

Article XVI of the Manitoba Métis Federation Constitution which states:

#### ARTICLE XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

1. Each director shall be entitled to receive an amount by way of Director’s fees or any other form of remuneration, which amount shall be established by the Board of Directors on an annual basis.
2. No elected officer of the Federation may do work for the Federation, either as an employee or by contract, other than the fulfillment of the obligations of his or her position within the Federation.
3. For greater clarity, and not restricting the generality of the foregoing, no person who receives remuneration either by way of Director’s fees, nor as payment for the holding of any office within the Federation (i.e. President or Vice-President) shall be considered an employee of the Federation. NO person elected to office shall by reason only of having failed to be re-elected to such office be entitled to any further or other notice, or to any severance pay or other employee benefit.

Is hereby deleted and the following substituted for it:

#### ARTICLE XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

1. Each Director (member of Cabinet) shall be entitled to receive an amount by way of Director’s fees or any other form of remuneration, which amount shall be established by the Board of Directors (Cabinet) on an annual basis.
2. Those elected representatives who serve as President, Regional Administrators, Chief Administrative Officer, or any other employee position created by the MMF Cabinet, are entitled to serve as employees to fulfill the obligations of their position with the Federation.
3. Other than as provided for in (2) above, no member of Cabinet elected as a Regional Executive or Spokeswoman of Infinity Women Secretariat Inc. may do work for the Federation, either as an employee or by contract.
4. The MMF may establish a compensation and benefits package for the President and all other members of the Board of Directors (Cabinet) to provide, in addition to Director’s

fees or any other form of remuneration, an amount of remuneration to be paid following the person ceasing to be a member of the Board of Directors (Cabinet) whether by having failed to be re-elected or, deciding not to stand for election.

5. Other than as provided for in (4) above, no person elected to office shall by reason only of having failed to be re-elected to such office be entitled to any further or other notice, or to any severance pay.

#### Resolution 19:

Name Change – Articles of Incorporation

MOVED BY: Minister Judy Mayer  
SECONDED BY: Minister Andrew Carrier

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. (“MMF”) was incorporated on December 28, 1967;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis include both English and French speaking Métis;

AND WHEREAS Louis Riel and the Métis Provisional Government demanded both English and French language rights be safe guarded in the legislation creating the Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS it is appropriate to ensure that the MMF may be referred to in both English and French;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Cabinet passed a Resolution on February 11, 2021 directing that the Articles of Incorporation of the Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. be amended to reflect the name as both Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. and Fédération Métisse du Manitoba Inc.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MMF Annual General Assembly approves that the Articles of Incorporation of the Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. be amended to reflect the name as both Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. and Fédération Métisse du Manitoba Inc.



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# State of the Nation

## President David Chartrand



### HOW WE STAYED CONNECTED

The year 2021 has seen tragedy and heartache for the Indigenous community as we grapple with the devastating reality of the residential and day school system, as the remains of more children continue to be found at schools across our country. We have also experienced overt racism and marginalization at the hands of Brian Pallister's provincial government.

But there have been rays of hope like the passing of Bill C-15, An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the July 6th signing of our recognition agreement with Canada, acknowledging us as the government of the Red River Métis.

And then, of course, there is COVID-19, which has robbed us of so much over the past year. The challenges it has presented have given us hardship, but it has also given us the chance to be creative and find new ways to stay connected.

### Coming together in the new era

The need to stay connected is the reason why our 53rd Annual General Assembly went virtual, and out of respect for our Citizens and our democratic process, we did not deliberate or vote on constitutional resolutions. Instead, we wanted to wait until our next full Assembly so that our Citizens can meaningfully discuss, debate, and provide feedback on the proposed resolutions.

Local Executives stayed online throughout the entire proceedings and even worked through their lunch to focus on our important work. I was so proud of the delegates who attended the event, along with the many Métis Citizens and allies who livestreamed the event to watch our democratic process in action.

Citizens took to the internet to watch the virtual AGA in record numbers, with Facebook page

views up 225%, well over 55,000 hits on our AGA website, and an additional 7,500-plus hits to our mmf.mb.ca website. Social media engagement reached its peak with over 7,000 reactions to our evening of music and entertainment.

The Assembly was followed by a mini-Annual General Assembly on Monday and Tuesday, where 90 youth ages 5 - 12, from across the Homeland registered to learn about Métis democracy and governance matters.

### Surveys

During the virtual Assembly and for several months afterward, we conducted Citizen surveys to understand your needs and concerns. The results have told us that you are thinking a lot about recognition for our self-government, which happened on July 6th, after we had concluded our negotiations with Canada. You also told us that you were deeply concerned about educating Manitobans and Canadians about who we are as the Red River Métis. Métis-specific healthcare was also a priority.

Additional targeted interviews and surveys with selected sectors to understand trends affecting industries and specific parts of our community were also conducted. We reached out to parents of young children, Elders, students, harvesters, business owners, ranchers and farmers, as well as fishers.

Your voice has been heard. The thoughts you shared with us are important and should be heard by other governments in Canada. That's why we have brought your thoughts and your voice, together with ours to create a set of policies that will help us continue to advance our agenda. Together, these policies create a platform that we will use to guide us, as we outline Métis-specific programs and services and continue our nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with Canada.

## COVID-19 care

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on our Nation. Though Métis businesses showed a strong ability to adapt to the unprecedented impact of the pandemic, we knew that we needed to support our entrepreneurs. By supporting businesses, we support not only the business-owners and their families, but also the community they operate in. Keeping doors open throughout the pandemic was a difficult task, but with the support of your Métis government, many of our entrepreneurs were able to keep their doors open and continue to employ staff.



We also knew that the support our Citizens needed went beyond business. For example, we acted immediately to mobilize a strategy to deliver hampers and conduct wellness checks on our Elders and vulnerable Citizens. This was just one component of the robust COVID-19 response of your Métis government.

I am so proud that we have continued to be strong throughout the pandemic, by working together and designing programs that match our own rules and customs. You'll see the successes we achieved with this approach demonstrated throughout this written report.

Your Métis government has a long and proud history of meeting your needs in a way that is both sustainable and conservation minded. That's why we launched our fish distribution program as a way for all of us to benefit from commercial fishing, one of the last remaining traditional economies.

I'm happy to report that the program was a great success. So many of you came out to collect and enjoy the fish from our local waters, you made this program our most popular and well-recognized COVID-19 initiative.

Our COVID-19 testing site and Métis government-led vaccination program have both been well-received. So many of you turned to your Métis government for your vaccination needs, knowing that we would have your back.



## HISTORIC RECOGNITION FROM CANADA

### Affirming our rights

July 6, 2021, was an historic day for the Red River Métis, one I know will be celebrated for generations to come.

On that day, we signed an agreement that says the federal government acknowledges and recognizes the Manitoba Métis Federation as the government of the Red River Métis. Members of the Liberal caucus, including the Honourable Dan Vandal, representing Saint-Boniface–Saint Vital, the Honourable Jim Carr, representing Winnipeg South Centre, the Member of Parliament representing Winnipeg South, Terry Duguid, and the Member of Parliament representing Winnipeg North, Kevin Lamoureux, were in attendance.

During the Reign of Terror that took place after the Red River Resistance in 1870, the Government of Canada sent the Wolseley Expedition to violently suppress the voice of the Métis. This forced many of our ancestors to flee. This agreement establishes a non-territorial form of Indigenous government, not restricted to a specific land base. It means that we are the government of the Red River Métis, no matter where they live in the world.

This agreement is Canada's first Métis self-government agreement that immediately recognizes an existing Métis government. The other agreements signed by the Métis

Nation of Ontario, Métis Nation of Alberta, and Métis Nation – Saskatchewan sets out a process to become self-governments. Lacking immediate acknowledgements means that they admit that they are clubs and societies, and not governments.

The agreement further recognizes our right to continue to use the Métis Nation Citizenship criteria based on the national definition of Métis adopted by the Métis National Council (MNC) General Assembly in 2002. This solidifies our definition and will prevent potentially corrupt leaders from selling out the Nation.

It also sets out the principles and scope of fiscal arrangements and commits the parties to reach an agreement for ongoing financing of your Métis government. This creates a legally binding funding commitment from the Government of Canada.

But it is important to know, as Paragraph 53 of the Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement says, our agreement does not affect other Section 35 rightsholders. It simply recognizes our existing, inherent, Section 35 rights to self-government for the Red River Métis. This agreement cannot unilaterally affect the rights of the First Nations, nor would we ever wish it to. Since the times of Cuthbert Grant, we have supported our First Nations cousins, neighbours, relatives, partners, colleagues, and friends.



While this agreement is important, we know that recognition of our government was never Canada's to give – it was always Canada's to respect. This is the foundation of inherent rights – they are not given to us; they are our birthright. We collectively hold the rights and freedoms referred to in the Constitution Act, 1982 because of direct ancestral connection to the Red River Métis.

While we negotiated Canada's entry into the North-West and Manitoba's entry into confederation, it is only now that we now have the formal respect of Canada as the Red River Métis government. The signing ceremony took place at the Upper Fort Garry site, which was where Louis Riel's Provisional Government sat during the Red River Resistance.

While Canada did not recognize Louis Riel's Provisional Government in 1869-70, we have now, 151 years later, achieved the formal recognition of the Manitoba Métis Government.

Along with the formal recognition of self-governance, Canada recognizes our existing institutions, such as our Constitution and General Assembly.

Recognizing our existing Constitution is tremendously important to us. Our traditional institutions such as our General Assembly provide our Citizens with responsible and accountable governance. We do not have to change a single component of our governance system. We have been the Manitoba Métis Government since the MMF was formed in 1967 and the only changes we will make in the future are the ones guided by your voice.

This is what the nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationship with Canada is truly about. Your Métis government, using our existing institutions and traditional practices, approved and ratified this historic agreement, as did the federal Cabinet.

I, along with my Cabinet, have dedicated our lives to getting formal recognition of our inherent right to self-government and I am proud to say that we have arrived. The Trudeau government showed their firm commitment to reconciliation with us, like no other we have experienced.

The agreement also sets the pathway forward, which includes the passage by Parliament of Implementation Legislation and continuing the negotiations toward a modern-day treaty.

### **Modern-day treaty**

The agreement we signed with Canada also commits Canada to complete a constitutionally protected modern-day treaty.

Make no mistake, in *MMF v. Canada*, the Manitoba Act was described as more than a treaty. It sets out "solemn promises which are no less fundamental than treaty promises". It was a set of constitutionally binding commitments in their highest form.

The term "treaty" signals an agreement between two countries or sovereign states. The Red River Métis are sovereign, with a single government and a unified voice, capable of making agreements with governments both inside and outside of Canada.

The development of this treaty is really the nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship put into action.

It will include the provisions of the agreement and address the relationship of laws, enforcement and adjudication, tax treatment, and further agreements for expanded jurisdictions for your Métis government. It is where you will find the nuts and bolts of long-term recognition for our Nation and your Métis government.

The modern-day treaty will have force of law and will fall within the meaning of the Constitution Act, 1982. We will ratify this treaty at an extraordinary General Assembly, in accordance our customs, traditions, and processes.

What is important to understand is that a modern-day treaty does not make us First Nations. In fact, we expect the result of our negotiations to look and feel very different from the First Nations treaties that came after the Manitoba Act. Understand this: the Manitoba Act was the first treaty between the Crown and the Indigenous people of Canada.

As we work toward this, we will also continue negotiations on land claims, to end the ongoing rift in the national fabric caused by Canada's failure to fulfill the obligations to the Red River Métis contained in section 31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870.

## **ADVANCING OURSELVES**

### **New ministerial appointments**

In 2021, your Métis government filled two vacant portfolios: Agriculture and French Language.

Associate Minister David Beaudin was appointed Minister of Agriculture. The Métis have a long history of relying on the land to feed our families and as the foundation of our economy. In addition to being known as the buffalo hunters, the Métis have been farming and ranching since the early days of the Red River Settlement. Caring for this land is our responsibility; it is in our blood.

I know we will focus on supporting ranchers and farmers as they face significant changes to the climate and Crown Land management and legislation, finding alternatives and programs that help them keep their land and their way of life sustainable.

Minister Andrew Carrier, Vice-President of the Winnipeg Region and Minister of Michif Language, Residential Schools, Riel House, Pemmican Publications, and the Métis Community Liaison Department, has also been appointed

Minister of French Language. The French language has deep, far-reaching roots in our community. It was the Métis Provisional Government of 1870 that worked to enshrine the language and protect it in the Manitoba Act. Combined with the Michif Language portfolio, I am confident Minister Carrier will deliver on a vision that incorporates our Nation's French and multilingual perspectives and protects Michif, our own critically endangered language.

Minister Carrier is passionate about preserving the culture and heritage of the Red River Métis and has been a strong representative for our government with the French language media.

### Professional sports development program

This program started with a simple question: Why do we have empty baseball diamonds in our communities? Your Métis government is committed to doing our part to bring down barriers that face our Youth. We are committed to not only answer this question through organized sports initiatives in our communities, but also through the development of a pro athlete approach to growing and developing Métis athletes. Along with skill-building conferences, we will support Red River Métis Youth as they pursue their athletic goals in hockey, baseball, curling, golf, and more. Whether it is subsidizing families so kids can participate in the more costly sports or taking great natural talent

and producing elite performers through coaching and development, we will support our Youth and cultivate their potential.

It is time to start filling the empty baseball diamonds in our communities.

### Pey Key Way Ta Hin – Bring me home

It is a fact that Indigenous women are murdered at six times the rate of non-Indigenous women. It is a fact they are 12 times more likely to go missing. It is a fact that there have been approximately 4,000 murdered or missing Indigenous women and children in the last 30 years.

One of the ways we are helping to bring our murdered and missing loved ones into the light is through a \$1 million fund. Called Pey Key Way Ta Hin in Michif and Bring Me Home in English, this initiative allows us to offer \$10,000 rewards for information that leads to the location of these missing individuals and financial support to put billboards up near their last known location. This is an enhancement to a previously announced \$200,000 support program for families.

This family-driven and inclusive initiative was named this way to give voices back to those that are missing - to bring them into the light so that no one can forget them or ignore their



loss. It exists to make sure we hear their voices reminding us that they want to come home and rest. We know their families cannot forget, nor can they rest until this happens – they need to be able to bring their loved ones home so they can have peace, gather, and grieve.

Last year, in partnership with Jennifer Catcheway's family, your Métis government announced the infusion of an additional \$10,000 dollars for tips leading to her location; that funding remains in place. In 2021, we offered \$10,000 for information leading to the location of Marcus McKay, who has been missing for 20 years. Marcus was last seen in a wooded and marshy area off Bison Road near Mallard, Manitoba, on July 15, 2000. Marcus was eight years old at the time of his disappearance.

## **BUSINESS AND SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Traditionally, the Métis people have demonstrated strong entrepreneurial spirit, and nothing shows that better than the reputation that the Red River Settlement had. The hard work and economic mindset of our ancestors led to the Red River Settlement and surrounding areas being known as the economic jewel of the North-West prior to being settled by Canada. Our people continue to be the economic engine of the West, as we continue to build the Métis economic footprint in our Homeland to the benefit of all Canadians and both governments who collect our taxes.

All our families have ever needed to be successful is opportunity; our strength and determination mean we will find a way to achieve it. We have learned to be strong, capable, resilient, and committed to helping each other, as is our way. That is why your Métis government is working hard to develop the right infrastructure to give each Citizen that opportunity.

### **Working with Canada to power our economic engine**

Earlier this year, we announced a partnership to advance reconciliation and support Métis economic development. The partnership with Western Economic Diversification Canada that provided \$15 million to your Métis Government helped close socio-economic gaps, promote economic development for the Red River Métis, and create jobs for Manitoba's Métis community.

The nation-to-nation, government-to-government approach we have with the federal government is an important step to improve opportunities, outcomes, and our overall well-being. This partnership will help increase our participation in economic development and support capacity building and business development in our community-based Red River Métis workforce.

We have continued to bring strength to our economic engine by building enterprises that deliver wins for everyone. That includes our investments in early learning and childcare that will allow for Métis-specific early education, as well as employment for many childcare workers across our regions. Opening our second pharmacy in Dauphin allows us to provide medication to our Elders and seniors, as well as generate employment and build economic strength within the community.

I am happy that the Government of Canada made this much-needed investment in our Nation. It provides opportunities for us to strengthen the reach of our investments in the economy, increase the number of Red River Métis people in the workforce, and ensures your Métis government and its businesses are prepared as we begin to rebuild and better our economy in the post-pandemic era.

We will continue to work with our federal partners to establish sustainable infrastructure funding, which will help us pay for the operation and maintenance costs of our properties.

### **Supporting traditional economy: Farmers, ranchers, and fishers**

With the drought and fires of the summer, on top of the impacts of an economy that was slowed down due to the pandemic, Métis ranchers and farmers have had their share of challenges.

Over the last two and a half years, the Pallister government has substantially changed the rules on provincial Crown Land management, to the detriment of small and medium ranchers and farmers in our province. Two pieces of legislation have been released over the last two years – the Agricultural Crown Lands Leases and Permits Regulation Amendments and the Crown Land Disposition Act – both make it more challenging and more expensive to keep and develop Crown Land. These changes also affect parks and conservation areas.

Métis farmers and ranchers have told us that the new legislation has caused severe financial hardship, due to the payment increases on their leased property – land that has been in their care for generations. In one example from a Citizen, the Métis leaseholder has stated that his lease cost tripled by tens of thousands in just two years.

The province also passed Bill 12, an amendment to the Crown Lands Disposition Act which, among other things, allows the sale of Crown Lands to private citizens at the discretion of just the Minister, without public consultation.

This plan for Crown Lands potentially makes it advantageous for private citizens of wealth to take away the hard-earned family legacies of all Manitoban ranchers and farmers, including many of our Citizens. This is clearly within the purview of triggering the Minister's duty to consult.



I assure you we will take legal and political action to defend these farmers and ranchers as they are being forced to the verge of bankruptcy, having to shut down the very businesses that their families have committed to for generations.

Our plan is to work toward a Métis-specific remedy against these negative effects, in part through advocacy for Indigenous right of first refusal, the restoration of legacy leases, and the establishment of a fund that provides loans and grants for the purchase of Crown Land. We are also fighting for the establishment and expansion of harvesting areas in all regions of Manitoba.

We also had a goal of reducing overhead costs for commercial fishers during the pandemic, which is why we created the MMF Commercial Fisher Net Program. The Métis make up a vast majority of commercial freshwater fishers, and most of them are located here in Manitoba. It is one of our oldest forms of providing for our families and we will continue to find innovative ways to support our freshwater fishers going forward.

Because we expect the climate to continue being volatile, we will continue to develop supports for fishers, farmers,

and ranchers to transition toward clean and climate change-related mitigation practices in order to ensure that the



long-term sustainability of these traditional economies in our province remain our priority.

### Microbusinesses

One of the trends that has emerged with the pandemic is the growth of microbusinesses. Between the drive to buy local and support small businesses, as well as the need for creativity in employment, microbusiness is being seen as a sustainable form of income in the long term. From beadwork to clothing design, leatherwork, and jewelry design, we see this as a growing space that suits the entrepreneurial spirit of the Red River Métis.

We have plenty of talent to offer all Canadians. We want to ensure that there is a way that our local artisans, artists, musicians, and other microbusinesses have a venue to showcase this pride and talent for all. When you are ready to start your business, we want to be ready for you. We are working on developing microbusiness program development and enhancements to existing programs, tailored to meet the needs of a microbusiness.

## Housing

I would like to recognize and commend Will Goodon, Minister of Housing for the Manitoba Métis Federation. In 2021, he was named to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) new 10-member Indigenous Advisory Council. We know he will represent us well at this council and continue to advocate for the needs of the Red River Métis.

We know that affordable, efficient housing for our Citizens has remained an ongoing priority for Citizens. Our first-time homeowner program has put well over 1,000 people into more than 600 homes since its inception. I know the department continues to get daily calls about this program and our Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP).

Our HELP program has assisted nearly 1,000 of our Citizens in renovating their homes. This program will undoubtedly extend the life cycle of many homes. Because of the cost of lumber and other construction materials and due to the additional challenges with maintaining and improving houses in the North, we announced a temporary increase in the program limits from \$15,000 to \$18,000 for those in Southern Manitoba and a temporary increase to \$25,000 for those north of the 53rd parallel.

I know the team is actively working on processing applications as quickly as possible, given the number of Citizens who wish to participate in this program.

We are also delivering on our commitment to develop 55+ seniors complexes. In the summer, we broke ground on the St. Ambroise Métis Seniors Duplex. This project is a result of the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord signed in 2018. Without the nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship between the two parties, the project would not have been possible.

More seniors housing projects are on the way, as the Housing Department conducts market research and engages with the regions to determine where future projects are most needed and if they can be sustained into the future. We have only begun to address the housing needs of our Citizens.

## PROTECTING OUR NATIONHOOD

### Who are the Red River Métis?

In recent years, there has been an increase in individuals and organizations calling themselves Métis and attempting to use our name, symbols, history, and rights for their own ends, distorting and stealing our identity by their very numbers, as well as their appropriation of our culture.

You might have noticed that your Métis government has started using the phrase Red River Métis in places where you would have seen us say Métis Nation in the past. It is important to know that we are not giving up the term "Métis Nation". We are, and remain, the people of the Métis Nation.

But words have weight. We need to be crystal clear on who we are as a Nation. No one can or should tell us who our Citizens are but us – not any other level of government, nor those who are greedy for power and do not care that the cost is sacrificing our people's identity. And certainly not the people seeking to become us by finding a small blood quantum and proclaiming themselves to be Métis.

We know there are legitimate heirs of our Red River Métis ancestors out there who do not know who they are. They are people who have had their history taken away from them, either because they were part of the Sixties Scoop and the residential and day school system or are descended from survivors. Or they are people from the families who erased their own history to protect themselves from racism, oppression, and violence. We should welcome these people into our Nation. We should guide them and let them know they will always have a place among us.

But these people who live out east who have no connection with our Homeland, our ancestors, or our experiences? These are not our people. They are not Red River Métis. When we use our Homeland as part of our name like we do with Red River Métis, we tell everyone who we are in ways that cannot be duplicated or stolen.

So, while we are still the one and only Métis Nation, we will refer to ourselves as the Red River Métis to help others understand who we are and who does not belong to us. We are Louis Riel's people, and we will stand ready to defend the Métis Nation, which was born in the Red River and extends into the West.

### Withdrawing from the Métis National Council

One group who is seeking to add themselves to our Nation are supported by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The MNO is challenging the democratically agreed-upon national definition of Métis – one that they voted in favour of – by introducing what they call "historic communities" in places like Mattawa, Georgian Bay, Killarney, and Temiskaming,

with no historic connection to the Red River. They are also including those who could be referred to as “Powley’s people”, who won harvesting privileges through a court battle. By their own report, only 22% of their citizenship are ancestrally connected to Métis communities in Western Canada.

Together, these three groups of individuals are the ones the MNO is accepting in their definition of Red River Métis, despite there being less than a quarter of the population with any legitimate claim to our identity.

The Presidents and many board members of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan (MNS), Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) have thrown their support behind the MNO, despite the obvious evidence and risks to our identity, as well as the lack of consultation or support from Citizens.

Unlike the other provinces within our Homeland, your Métis government asked for, and received, a clear mandate from its Citizens to protect our national identity and prevent the so-called “historic communities” from diluting our culture and legacy. That mandate included leaving the Métis National Council.

That is why, in 2019, the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet unanimously passed authorization for your Métis government to withdraw from the Métis National Council. At the 51st MMF Annual General Assembly, you expressed your support and voted to authorize your Cabinet to withdraw from the MNC.

We know that only the Red River Métis can decide who we are and our identity. These eastern people of mixed heritage are not us and they must pursue their rights separately. We will not let their numbers overwhelm us and distort our Nation’s identity.

In 2021, the MNO brought the MNC to a corporate court in eastern Canada to rule on Métis governance issues. In their arguments, MNO said that the MNC is just a corporation, with no ability to operate as a government. It also argued that the General Assembly, a traditional and core institution of the Métis Nation since our inception, does not have authority over its own governance.

It has become clear to us that the leaders of MNA, MN-S, MNBC, and MNO want the MNC to be a pan-Indigenous, membership-driven club that would include people with no historic connection to our Nation. Leaving that body was not an easy decision, but we knew that we were backed by your support.

In many ways, MNBC’s shocking coup against their President, Clara Morin Dal Col, is another example of how these groups are dismissing our democratic traditions. Removing an elected President by board vote was unwarranted, unjust, without merit, and without consultation from Citizens.

This assault on our traditions and democratic practices cannot be allowed to stand. It has always been clear to me, in ways I am not sure it is clear for these other so-called leaders – as your President, I do not have power. You, as Citizens have power that you entrust to me. If I do not honour your wishes, I expect to be held accountable by you. That is what democratic leadership is about.

One of the ways we will continue to honour our democratic traditions in Manitoba is through investment in our grassroots political bodies, expanding and strengthening participation in Locals. We want to see more resources available at the community level, for things as simple as flags or signs that acknowledge and welcome people to Métis villages across our province. These resources will also come with accountability, but now is the time for us to be visible to everyone in our province, to speak as one voice and share the same message, so all Manitobans and Canadians can better understand our identity.

### **Implications for your Métis government**

Thanks to the agreement we signed with Canada at Upper Fort Garry on July 6, 2021, leaving the MNC will not take away our ability to protect and represent the rights of the Red River Métis. The agreement cements the recognition of your Métis government as the democratically elected representative for the Métis who trace their ancestry back to the Red River, no matter where they live in the world.

The MMF has experienced a sharp increase in applications for Citizenship from the other provinces and beyond. This only proves that the Red River Métis know it is their right to be a Citizen within our Nation, rather than part of a club in another province.

### **Creating new partnerships**

Along with interest from individuals, we are seeing an increase in opportunities to join forces with other groups of Red River Métis who are frustrated with the current political situation across the other provinces in our Homeland.

That is why I travelled to Edmonton in the summer, to meet with the Alberta Métis Federation (AMF) and sign a memorandum of understanding, creating a framework that allows for the pursuit of shared goals, including the protection of the historic Métis Nation identity, exercising of s.35 rights outlined in the Constitution Act, 1982 and pursuing legal, cultural, economic, and business opportunities where there are common interests.

This memorandum of understanding is an important document, one that shows a new pathway forward for the many Métis Nation Citizens who have been abandoned by provincial bodies that say they represent their rights and interests, but instead consider them to be clubs.

Partnering with the AMF strengthens our joint ability to protect our identity, while recognizing the independence of the AMF's member communities and their right to self-determination.

We expect to see more partnerships like this over the coming months and years as our Nation reorganizes itself towards a singular identity as Red River Métis, rather than tolerating undemocratic provincial representation.

## ADVANCING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The year 2021 has seen us face extraordinary challenges and heartache, but also a provided us a chance to witness extraordinary advancements in truth and reconciliation for the Red River Métis.

### Battling for recognition with Manitoba's government

Brian Pallister's provincial government has remained a particular thorn in our side. From leaving us out of the Indigenous vaccine strategy, to remarks about the well-intentioned settlers who came to our province to do good things, ignoring Métis nurses during Indigenous Nurses Day, selecting a justice committee without consultation with us, and calling us "Métis settlers", it has been another year of overtly racist behaviour from our provincial government.

Eileen Clarke resigned from her role as Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations within Pallister's Cabinet. This was unfortunate for our Nation as she has been a longstanding advocate and friend of our people. However, we respect her

principled stand against the remarks and attitudes of our current Premier. We also understand, as a particular target of Pallister's ire and racist tactics, the challenge and difficulty of trying to engage with a provincial leader who has no interest in truth and reconciliation, and consistently fails to engage in meaningful consultation.

The appointment of Alan Lagimodiere to the newly renamed Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations portfolio was disastrous right out of the gate. As a Red River Métis who was raised in The Pas, he should have known better than to support Pallister's racist rhetoric, saying that residential schools were well intentioned. We have no intention of engaging with someone who is so out of touch with his own identity that he would take this stand.

Thankfully, momentum for truth and reconciliation is growing, and it cannot be stopped by small-minded individuals.

### Aligning with international recognition for Indigenous peoples

The agreement we signed with Canada that recognizes our right to self-determination came hot on the heels of the passing of Bill C-15, an Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

UNDRIP is an important instrument of international law, and it holds a great deal of promise for the Red River Métis Nation. It presents a strong vision for the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, built on a foundation of meaningful



self-determination. The important thing to us is that this new legislation sets a new floor for Indigenous people's human rights, rather than a ceiling.

We worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the Government of Canada, the MNC, the Assembly of First Nations and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in the development of this legislation. It requires the Government of Canada, in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, to develop an action plan and align federal laws with UNDRIP. It also ensures we have the standing to work in harmony with political leaders and industry, while protecting our environment and the land on which we were born. Our work with Enbridge is a good example of the positive outcomes that can come from consultation, creating economic opportunities within our community.

### **Shining a light on the impacts of the residential and day school system**

The year 2021 was a painful one for Indigenous people across Canada, as the stories about deaths and cruelty in residential and day schools were brought into focus by the discovery of the unmarked graves of children across the country.

We know residential and day schools were designed to take the spirit away from the Indigenous peoples of Canada, to "kill the Indian in the child". Survivors of these institutions remain among us today, struggling to reconcile with what was done to them. That trauma gets handed down to the generations that follow, threatening the fabric of our communities and our Nations.

The results of this systematic cultural genocide resonated with all Canadians for the first time, and the outpouring of love and support from all communities has been powerful to watch.

The anger from within the Indigenous community has been equally powerful, and understandable. This anger and sadness, as well as the long-term devastation in our families and our communities is the truth that must come before reconciliation.

### **Seeking apology and reconciliation with the Catholic Church**

While planning for a delegation to Rome to meet His Holiness has been in the works for several years, perhaps it is fitting that the meeting was stalled by COVID-19 and now coincides with a year of hard truths about the harms of the residential and day school system.

We will ask Pope Francis to come to our soil to issue an apology to those who were harmed by the system. We will also speak to His Holiness about the importance of the Catholic church to many of our Elders and our rural and remote communities, with the hope that we can work

together to achieve renewal and revitalization of our historic relationship with the Catholic church.

The delegates who will join me in meeting with the Pope will be charged with coming back to their communities to share their experiences, so the messages of the Holy Father about peace, solidarity, and hope are transmitted to as many of our people as possible.

### **Evolving the criminal justice system**

Canada has a shameful history of imprisoning Métis, First Nations and Inuit people at higher rates than non-Indigenous people. Even though Indigenous people are only 5% of the adult population of Canada, we account for 30% of the inmates in federal prisons.

In 2021, the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, introduced Bill C-22, intended to provide a better framework for how lower-risk and first-time offenders are handled in the justice system, with an eye to reducing Indigenous incarceration. Getting rid of minimum mandatory penalties for simple drug possession is a positive step on the right path.

Along with removing the mandatory minimums, the Bill also allows judges to issue conditional sentences for individuals who do not pose a threat to the community, and leeway to send offenders to addiction support networks instead of prisons.

Of course, this Bill's success will also depend on effectively implementing the Gladue principles and reports.

The Gladue principles and report structure are recommendations that ask the courts to factor in the specific issues and challenges facing Indigenous people as part of the judicial process. The Gladue report can also make recommendations for alternatives to prison, including Indigenous-based treatment approaches for addictions.

Though we know that changing systemic biases will take time, creating pathways for Métis-specific, distinctions-based approaches is an important part of this Bill's outcomes.

This year also saw us assume responsibility for operating the majority of the Indigenous Court Workers Program in key regional and circuit court locations. The move is integral to ensuring that Métis people receive the proper supports through the best possible channels. A significant part of this will be through culturally appropriate support, including restorative justice and considerations of family and community impacts.

Restorative justice and consideration for the impacts on the family and the community are important parts of our Nation's identity. Through this program, we look forward to providing support to those who need it.

We will continue working toward an expanded Indigenous Investigations Unit, as well as Métis Nation consultation regarding the Police Services Act.

### **Preservation of Michif – a critically endangered language**

Dutch linguist Peter Bakker from Aarhus University in Denmark made the study of Michif one of his academic focuses. Calling it “an impossible language”, he was dedicated to understanding how the Red River Métis made the impossible possible. That is how rare and unique our language is, making it something to be preserved, cherished, and grown.

The creation of the Office of the Commissioner for Indigenous Languages Canada was an important advancement that took place in 2021. The Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages is intended to support Indigenous language practitioners and to help ensure that the federal government lives up to its commitments under the 2019 Indigenous Languages Act. The Commissioner and Directors are appointed by the federal government but will work independently.

Ronald E. Ignace has the honour of being the first Commissioner of Indigenous Languages and our very own Georgina Liberty is the first Director for Michif languages, joining Director Joan Greyeyes and Director Robert Watt.

It is very important to the Red River Métis that the leadership of the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages included one of our Citizens, with direct experience of the unique language and cultural needs of our Nation. I know Georgina Liberty is well placed to play that key role in the preservation and revitalization of Michif.

The next few years will be crucial to expanding the number of fluent speakers so that Michif can continue to be a living language. I am glad that the new office is in the hands of people who appreciate this urgency and who have the skills and expertise needed to support this vital work.

If we are successful, then la lang di Michif ta-pashipiikan (the Michif language) will survive.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

None of the advancements toward truth and reconciliation would have been possible without our nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with Canada. Working together, we have made considerable progress towards full realization of our inherent right to self-governance.

## **Bill C-92 – A shift in thinking for children in care**

March 16 and 17 of this year saw the continuance of ongoing, broad consultation of Métis Citizenship with respect to Bill C-92, which came into effect January 1, 2020. The Bill, called An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families, transferred the jurisdiction and authority over Métis Child and Family Services away from the provincial government to your Métis government. This legislation was a major step forward for reconciliation and returns the responsibility to care for our children and families to our people.

The consultation in March, called “Transforming Métis Child and Family Services, Implementing Bill C-92”, was designed to gain feedback, guidance, and wisdom from Elders and Citizens about how to proceed with restoring the inherent right of the Métis Nation to care for Métis children and families in the communities where they live. This was the first consultation of many.

The federal view of Child and Family Services has historically been proactive and protective apprehension policies, and this focus has been directed to the provincial governments. Our focus will be on strengthening our families. Going forward, we will design and implement what child welfare looks like, with a focus on prevention, and engagement with the extended family and the community. Together, we will find ways to ensure Métis children are raised in culturally aware and sensitive environments, where they do not lose the kinship ties that are so precious to our Nation.

We thank the many Elders and Citizens who participated in the consultation and provided their guidance on our pathway forward. By working together, we will keep our children within the care of our Nation, which fulfills the vision of our ancestors.

## **Métis-specific funding in federal budget**

The Red River Métis are taxpaying citizens of Canada, so it makes sense that our tax dollars would benefit our Nation. With this government, led by Justin Trudeau, we are actually seeing our tax dollars earmarked to go to work for our Nation and our Citizens.

The federal budget of 2021 saw allocations of funding for Métis-specific programs and activities, as well as economic development plans for post-COVID-19 recovery. Overall, the Métis Nation was referenced approximately 30 times in the budget. Those references included Red River Métis-specific funding packages for early learning and childcare, justice, environmental sustainability, Métis entrepreneurs and businesses, and a significant investment in women, to name a few. We were also pleased to see the plans for an inclusive, sustainability-minded COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

However, we will need to do a lot of work to understand what the funding impacts are for Manitoba's Métis community among the Indigenous allocations. Additionally, there were areas where Métis-specific inclusions were missed. Canada's commitment to provide low-cost broadband for low-income families does not adequately cover the needs of our rural and remote communities. The vision for broadband held by the federal government is good but requires work to align with our needs. We will treat this as a priority in our conversations with the federal government because we know access to the internet is critical to encourage economic participation, particularly considering the growth in the microbusiness economy.

The stronger our Citizens are, the more purchasing power they have and the more employment and economic opportunities we can sustain. Funding for Métis-specific initiatives will help all Manitobans, which was the vision Louis Riel had for his Nation - to provide a future for the Red River Métis Nation that would benefit everyone. It is our privilege and our responsibility to honour that vision.

### **The next phases of the Métis Veterans Legacy Program**

For over 20 years, I have been meeting with our Second World War Métis veterans and their families. I have listened to their stories, and their message is consistent - all they hoped for is an apology and the recognition they deserve as our heroes

who risked or sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom. Fighting to preserve their legacy resulted in a contribution agreement and an apology from Canada. The program began in 2019, with a focus on reconciling with Second World War Métis Veterans.

I remain very proud that we have completed the roll-out of the program.

Recognition payments were awarded to 30 living WWII Métis veterans, including veterans like Thomas Charles Johnston, who was born in 1925 in Teulon, Manitoba. Payments have also been delivered to 27 spouses and 15 children of deceased WWII Métis veterans.



In the next phase, the MVLP Commemorative Program was announced in 2021, providing funding for commemorative initiatives focused on preserving the legacy of Métis Nation veterans by acknowledging their sacrifices and contributions through memorials, events, and educational programming.

In the summer of 2021, the MVLP officially inaugurated all members of the newly established MVLP Commission, representing the final phase of the MVLP, putting it into full operations. The appointees to the Commission of the Métis Veterans Legacy Program (MVLP) are:

- Jim Durocher (Elder), Île-à-la-Crosse, SK
- Jack Park, Chair, Winnipeg, MB
- Alex Maurice, Beauval, SK
- Ted Mitchell, Dryden, ON
- Dave Armitt, Comox, BC

The Commission was chosen following an open, transparent, and merit-based selection process. It was built to support the overall objectives of the MVLP, with the following four specific responsibilities:

- Approving MVLP Commemoration projects
- Establishing and providing oversight related to a National Métis Veterans advocacy body
- Representing the Minister and/or the Commission at official functions
- Appealing MVLP recognition payments

I will continue to advocate for our veterans and expect to be able to deliver well-deserved recognition for our heroes – today, tomorrow, and forever.

## **BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE**

As you can see, there is a lot to celebrate as the Red River Métis continue to develop strength, capacity, and economic power; but there is still a lot of work to be done. We have many programs, initiatives, and negotiations under way that will continue our advancement into this new dawn for our Nation.

Even among these initiatives, there are several key priorities that we will focus on, guided by your wishes and thoughts.

### **Settling our land claim**

When I began as your elected leader, I committed to Citizens that I would restart our land claim case. At the time, your

Métis government had no money to allocate to this cause. In fact, we were deeply in debt and had to work to earn money and pay up front for any legal support we received.

Section 31 of the Manitoba Act – the section that describes how land will be given to Métis children – has been described as the biggest defrauding of land in Canadian history. Not only did our ancestors lose their land and the promise of land that was made as a condition of Canada entering the Northwest, but we lost the economic possibilities that come with that land.

Each step we have taken since then has been part of working towards the successful conclusion of our claim. As I head into my seventh term, the promise I made to start the land claim and never give up still rings in my mind. Despite the setbacks and challenges we have faced, we have obtained the ruling that says the claim must be honoured, and all that remains is the negotiation. We are close to completing this work, and I want you to know that I will see it settled.

### **Métis-specific healthcare**

The COVID-19 pandemic was instrumental in revealing gaps in Canada's Indigenous healthcare strategy. It highlighted that we are always at risk of other levels of government excluding us from targeted Indigenous healthcare supports, as was our experience with the vaccination rollout in Manitoba. The province's unwillingness to share health data for Citizens who suffered from COVID-19 made the work of supporting our families and communities through the pandemic more challenging.

That is why we will seek inclusion in the First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIB), not only in spirit but in name. From there, we can work toward Métis-specific and local clinical health services including clinics, nursing stations, laboratories, homecare, hospital funding, long-term care, and soft care costs. With that, we would expect to see a data-sharing policy for Citizen health information sovereignty and governance, including population health surveillance, infectious disease management and immunization records.

### **Enhancing educational supports for our youth**

We know that strong, interconnected families are the bedrock of our Nation. Our youth are vital to our future, as leaders and as builders. The importance of investing in these young Citizens cannot be emphasized enough.

That is why we will work with other levels of government and educational institutions to improve access to post-secondary education for students in remote and rural areas, including availability of tutoring, as well as technology supports like internet and data access.

We will also explore culturally appropriate student housing with community connections and making mental health

support available, particularly for those students relocating to gain their education.

We know that education is only the first step in the journey to economic well-being, which is why we will partner with Canada to establish procurement policies that allow your Métis government to equip, educate, and train Citizens to compete for opportunities and explore federally supported internship and first job opportunities to combat systemic racism.

### **Economic evolution for entrepreneurs**

The businesses of the Red River Métis come in all shapes and sizes. From microbusinesses to traditional economies like ranching, farming, and fishing, they are run by families and individuals according to each business need. Supporting new entrants into the entrepreneurial marketplace, like women, youth, and seniors, will be a focus for your Métis government.

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we know the economy will take significant stimulation and support for all our business models. Historically, small and medium businesses have carried this country forward and the new and emerging microbusiness space seems likely to carry new weight with the traditional small and medium businesses. We will also work to revitalize traditional economies and find new investments in emerging economies.

We will work toward the creation and funding to aid Métis entrepreneurs engaged in traditional businesses like ranching and fishing and others that are expanding the scope of microbusinesses, especially those that elevate Red River Métis culture. We will also work toward interventions to protect Métis businesses when our funding is at risk due to ideological or racially motivated considerations by other levels of government.

We will continue to partner with our ranchers and farmers to make the leasing, development, and transfer of Crown Land more equitable and affordable, including advocacy for the first right of refusal for Indigenous people.

For fishers, we will work toward greater support of traditional Métis-led commercial fishery including stocking of lakes, investing in infrastructure, local population management and monitoring processes, and aquatic invasive species management and biosecurity for Métis-claimed waterways.

### **Protecting our identity**

We will work towards holding all levels of government accountable to upholding our definition of our Nation's identity, as accepted by the Red River Métis. This will include clear language around distinctions-based programs offered to the Red River Métis, including permanent policies and mechanisms for consultation on Indigenous initiatives.

Together, we will also explore initiatives that deliver educational programming about Métis identity, history, and culture for the public – from early education to post-secondary programs – with the potential for a degree or certification.

As you can see from this report, your Métis government remains dedicated to enhancing the lives of all our Citizens.



# Departments & Portfolios





# Agriculture

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## Minister David Beaudin



Newly appointed Minister of Agriculture David Beaudin is ready to start tackling the issues that confront today's Métis farmers and ranchers. He looks forward to working with our farmers and ranchers to find alternatives and programs that help them keep their land and their way of life sustainable.

### Bison

In May 2020, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management staff worked with Iron Head Bison Ranch to relocate the MMF bison herd from Rosa, MB to Iron Head Bison Ranch in Richer, MB. The MMF bison herd currently consists of 16 animals, predominantly comprising of cows and calves. The herd was weighed, tagged, vaccinated, and provided with all necessary care to ensure a healthy transition to their new home.

In December 2020, two bulls were butchered, producing approximately 1,000-lbs of meat. This meat was inspected, certified, and distributed to our Métis Elders through the MMF Regions.

We will continue to maintain the bison herd so that we may harvest the animals for food, as well as cultural and educational purposes. Opportunities to utilize the herd for educational purposes and economic opportunities are being explored. The MMF will continue working with our partners to support our bison, as the herd serves as a valuable teaching tool for our Youth and helps sustain a resource heavily relied on by our Ancestors.

### Agricultural Crown Land

Métis farmers and ranchers have a long history in the Métis Nation Homeland. Farming and ranching represent not only a modern livelihood, but a traditional economic foundation of the Métis Nation. New provincial legislation, the Agricultural Crown Lands Leases and Permits Regulation Amendments and the Crown Lands Dispositions Act, has resulted in severe hardships for Métis Crown land lease holders.

The MMF has connected with our Métis farmers and ranchers to better understand the impacts associated with the changes to the Crown land leasing program. The MMF has offered interim financial support through the MMF COVID-19 Business Support Program, and committed legal support to defend our Métis farmers and ranchers forced to the verge of bankruptcy.

For questions concerning the Agriculture Portfolio, you may contact Riley Bartel, Conservation Coordinator, by phone at 204 586-8474 or by email at [riley.bartel@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:riley.bartel@mmf.mb.ca).

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# Central Registry Office

Minister Leah LaPlante



## Central Registry Office Data Management

The 2020-21 fiscal year was exceptionally challenging for the Central Registry Office (CRO), as the COVID-19 global pandemic caused a great deal of havoc to normal operations and CRO was forced to quickly adapt to these changes. We saw the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Manitoba in March 2020, which caused CRO to revamp the Department's work plans for the 2020-21 fiscal year in order to respond. The global pandemic has posed a series of challenges through the entire 2020-21 year and the MMF has worked together to mitigate the halting of CRO services.

The CRO saw several changes in processes and procedures during the fiscal year of 2020 - 21. The internal database was already undergoing re-development prior to the start of the global pandemic. During the 2019-20 fiscal year, the CRO undertook the large project of completely redesigning, redeveloping and implementing a new data management system in response to an internal technical challenge. It was successfully implemented the first phase of a new data management system but many of these plans were altered to adapt to the pandemic changes.

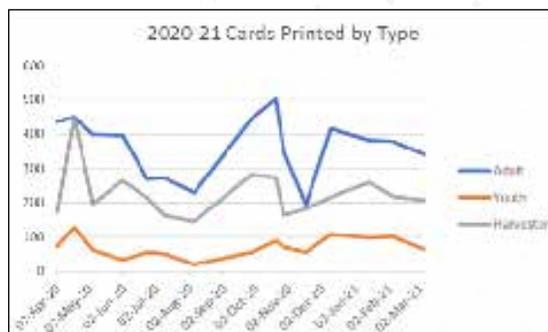
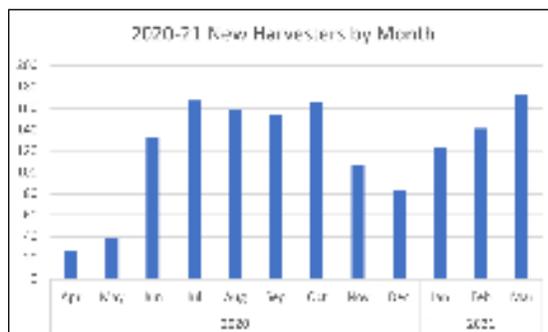
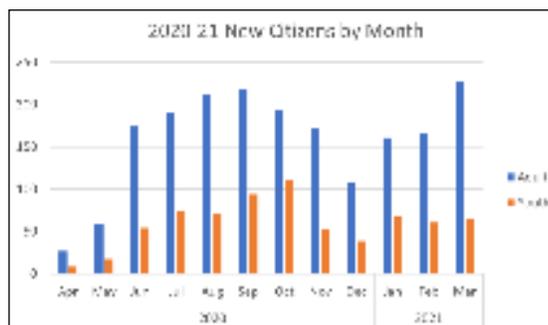
In March 2020 the beginning of COVID-19 hit Manitoba, and the Department operations were considerably impacted by it. This impact can be seen in the number of applications received and approved at the time, as well as the card ordering numbers. Although the CRO's operations were significantly altered by the pandemic, CRO worked together quickly to respond to the constant changes.

As part of this series of changes, CRO staff were required to adapt to working from home during the pandemic. Since the CRO staff normally work closely as a team, this change was difficult to adjust to in the beginning. As time went on and staff became more accustomed to the new norm, the CRO worked together to ensure Citizenship and Harvester requests continued to be processed. Many process changes were

challenging and they would like to thank our Citizens for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times.

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, the CRO:

- Approved 2,372 new Adult Citizenship cards,
- Approved 900 new Youth Citizenship cards,
- Approved 3,272 total new Citizenship cards,
- Approved 1,470 new Métis Harvester Identification cards, and
- Issued a total of 39,369 Citizenship cards and 20,883 Harvester cards to date.



## Harvester Survey & Harvester Data

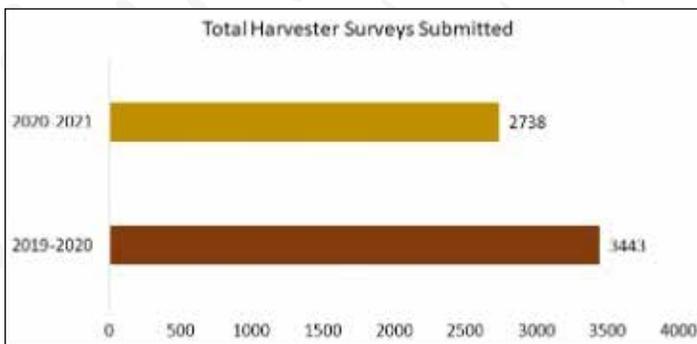
## Management

Part of the pandemic response plan the CRO implemented was to expedite the development of an online Harvester Survey. As CRO adjusted to the use of more online platforms, the online Harvester Survey was a good initial project to transition to an electronic processing system. As the CRO has still been redeveloping the internal database system since prior to the pandemic, there was still work to be completed in order to have the systems work accurately and safely for our Citizens. The online Harvester Survey project was able to be quickly developed and implemented in time for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

As a first step, the content of the Harvester Survey from previous years was redeveloped. As we continue to grow as an Indigenous government and take responsibility for conserving our natural resources, we must ensure we are collecting the proper information. The Survey was redesigned to ensure the questions are asked clearly and it is easy for a Harvester to fill out. CRO is immensely appreciative of the time Harvesters take to complete their mandatory Harvester Survey so that the MMF has a better ability to protect our Indigenous harvesting rights.

CRO then transformed the paper version of the new Harvester Survey into an online version. The new online survey allows every Métis Harvester the ability to complete and submit their Harvester Survey online at any time. Each Harvester who completes their survey is given a confirmation number and that number is used to verify submission of the survey. Once a Harvester has completed their survey for the previous year, they are then entitled to pay for and receive their CTF sticker and tags for the upcoming year.

The introduction of the online survey has already proven successful for effective data management. In previous years, staff were required to conduct many hours of manual data entry in order to access statistical reporting. With



the help of the online system, the electronic information goes directly into the data management system which then provides statistical reporting. This system upgrade now allows the CRO to report on harvesting data in real-time and has substantially reduced the amount of data entry hours required.

CRO has also initiated the development of an online Citizenship & Harvester Application system during the 20-2021 fiscal year as part of the pandemic response plan. This project is a much larger undertaking, particularly considering the ongoing database redevelopment work. To achieve a successful online application system, a great deal of planning and work hours has been required. A large portion of the work was completed during the 2020-21 fiscal year and plans to launch the new online application system, including an online payment option, is scheduled to occur by Fall 2021.

## Non-Binary Gender Option Recognition on Citizenship and Harvester Cards

As an Indigenous government, the MMF ensures inclusivity and respect for all Métis Citizens. In December 2020, the MMF Cabinet unanimously passed a Resolution to recognize and adopt an alternate gender-neutral option for non-binary gendered Métis Citizens who do not identify within traditional male and female genders. The MMF application for Citizenship and Harvesting was revised to allow for a third gender option, otherwise known as a non-binary gender option. This option can be printed on Citizenship and Harvester cards at the request of the individual Citizen as "Gender: X", following the same form as other Canadian government entities. All existing MMF Citizens who have a Citizenship or Harvester card printed with a "male" or "female" identification but do not identify as one of the traditionally recognized genders are eligible, upon their request, to have their card reprinted with a revised "Gender: X" identification at no additional cost to them.

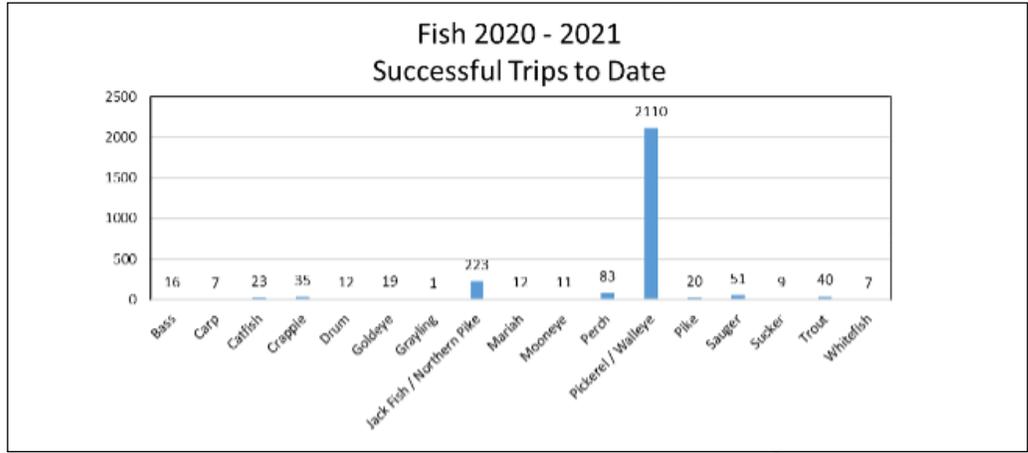
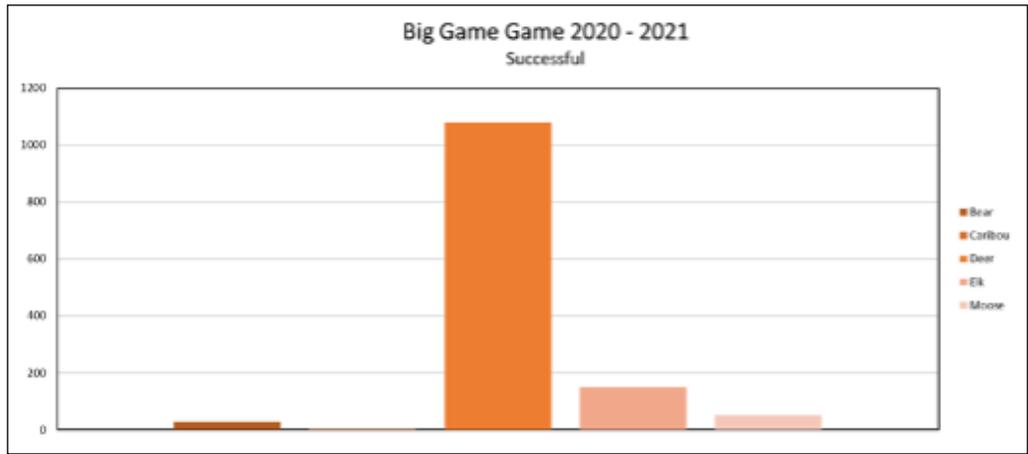
## Out-of-Province Citizenship Applications

Given the traditional practice of mobility for Métis people and the history of the Métis Nation being forced to flee from our Homeland, many Métis people who have ancestral connections to Manitoba now live outside of the province. In response to this, the CRO has been processing Out-of-Province Citizenship cards and this option for our kin who have moved away from the historical Métis Homeland has had an incredibly positive response. The Central Registry Office has received over 1900 applications to date for MMF

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During the 2019-20 fiscal year, the CRO undertook the large project of completely redesigning, redeveloping and implementing a new data management system in response to an internal technical challenge.

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Citizenship cards from Métis people who live outside of Manitoba and the number of applications continues to grow daily.

### **Mobile Citizenship Office**

In the past year, the Mobile Citizenship Office was unfortunately forced to remain parked due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With so much uncertainty around COVID-19 during the 2020 year, they felt the most responsible decision was to keep the Mobile Office from travelling to ensure the safety of Citizens and staff alike. During this time, plans were created to have the Mobile Office safely travel and start accepting appointments, to ensure proper sanitization and distancing. These plans are intended to be used during the 2021-22 year, as we hope to see pandemic restrictions ease enough to allow for it.

As they start to get the Mobile Office running once again, the Central Registry Office would like to encourage MMF Locals to utilize the presence of the Mobile Office during Local meetings, events, or Citizenship/Harvester drives. If your Local would like to have the MMF Mobile Office attend a meeting or event, please contact your Regional Office for more information.

### **Local Capacity Grants**

The CRO has spearheaded the implementation of the new Local Capacity Grant application process. These grants will assist with funding for events, meetings, and fundraising initiatives.

The amount a Local can apply for is \$5,000 per fiscal year which will be funded in stages:

Installment #1 - \$2,500

Installment #2 - \$2,000

Installment #3 - \$500

During the 2020-21 fiscal year, CRO has issued \$95,325.49 in Grant Reimbursements

The CRO has been working with Locals through their Regional Office to assist with expenses related to community events, cultural activities, and Local meetings. The Local Capacity Grant provides financial support for each Local and the CRO strongly encourages each active Local to apply.

If your Local has questions about the Local Capacity Grant process, please contact your Regional Office for more information.





# Culture & Heritage

## Minister Alfred Anderson



Minister Alfred Anderson, of Culture and Heritage, had the privilege of connecting with Our Manitoba Métis Community throughout the year. Seeing how much the Community grows each year inspires him to spread Métis culture and heritage even further. The department continues to create opportunities for Métis Citizens to come together and celebrate their vibrant culture and heritage. Despite unprecedented challenges within the past year, they have found ways to connect with one another and keep our Community alive. The Métis have always been a resilient people and the past year is no exception. Minister Anderson is infinitely proud of our Community for finding ways to be together despite the many obstacles that were put in the way.

### Winterlude 2020

In January of 2020, the Culture and Heritage Department along with the Métis National Council (MNC) spearheaded the Métis 150 theme at Winterlude in Ottawa. Many talented Métis Citizens were invited to perform or perform demonstrations such as Morgan Ginther, a young fiddle player from Interlake Region and Master Beader, Jennine Krauchi.

Several events were organized to honour Métis Culture and Manitoba's 150th Anniversary (Métis 150) including:

- Unveiling an ice sculpture of Louis Riel (See photo),
- Children's ice picking competition,
- Métis National Gala,
- Historic representation of a Red River Village from the 1800's, and
- "The Life of Louis Riel" – a theatric play.

### The Life of Louis Riel

The theatric play "The Life of Louis Riel" follows Manitoba's founding father through his struggles and successes since his childhood. The play, which premiered last year, played for many audiences including Winterlude in Gatineau, Quebec, Multiculturalism Conference in Ottawa, Ontario as well as the RCMP "D" Division in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions throughout Canada the play was unable to travel as originally planned. The play is currently on hold until it is safe to gather again.

### COVID-19 Pandemic

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the traditions of previous years including: the Elders and Youth Gathering, Canada Day, National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations, the Selkirk Fair and Rodeo Parade, the Santa Clause Parade, along with many graduation ceremonies. Although the pandemic impacted in-person gathering, we still found innovative ways to connect within our Métis Community.

Throughout the year the Métis Music Van visited many schools, seniors' homes, and hospitals to brighten their day. The department also celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day this year by flying Métis flags all down Main Street in Selkirk, Manitoba. They're proud to have worked with several of our Regions to have Louis Riel banners put up throughout the province. They were also able to create a one-of-a-kind virtual variety show, the Métis Jig and Jam.

### Métis Jig and Jam Variety Show

The department showcased some incredibly gifted Métis Citizens via the virtual Métis Jig and Jam Variety Show. The live streamed event included musical performances, Métis art, demonstrations of Métis artifacts and even a Bannock making lesson from one of our Elders.

Some of the performers in attendance were:

- Ray St. Germain,
- Brandi Vezina,
- Clint & Riley Dutiaume,
- Patti Kusturok,
- Melissa St. Goddard,
- Gary Lepine,
- Johnny Deitrich,
- Eldon Campbell, and
- Michael Audette.

Citizens are still able to enjoy the event by accessing the video of the Métis Jig and Jam on the MMF YouTube channel.

### **Commemoration of the Victory of Frog Plains**

On June 19, 1816, 204 years ago, Cuthbert Grant led the Victory of Frog Plains. Each year on June 19th, we commemorate that Victory by gathering and appreciating our culture at the Seven Oaks Monument Site. This year was no exception with a community barbecue, a commemoration ceremony, as well as a wonderful performance from the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers and Métis musicians Lionel Desjarlais and Jason Lepine.

### **Michif Word of the Day**

This year the Culture & Heritage Department started the "Michif Word of the Day"; a series of social media posts translating Michif words into English. This pilot project was created to encourage more Citizens to keep the language alive. This project will continue into the upcoming year working in partnership with the Michif Language Portfolio and the Louis Riel Institute.

### **Métis Music Van**

Spreading our culture across Manitoba was the mission of the Métis Music Van and the reason why it was created during the COVID-19 restrictions. This first prototype van has been a proud achievement of our department this year. The van drives through the Interlake and Winnipeg regions playing fiddle music from local artists and handing out infinity flags. It has proven to be an exciting way to engage and educate the public on Métis culture. The van has brought media attention from CBC, APTN and CTV. We are eager to expand this project into the coming years to visit every corner of the province. The Métis Music Van and Selkirk Red River Local received the Community Leadership Award from Promoting Aboriginal Student Success (PASS) for their dedication to spreading joy during the long winter confinements.

It is anticipated during the next year to create a Manitoba Métis Events Calendar; a calendar for all events created for/by Métis Citizens to increase Métis visibility. The goal in creating this calendar is to encourage tourists and residents of Manitoba alike to learn about the Métis Nation's

Manitoba Métis Community and culture as well as facilitating organization and promotion of future events.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the Culture and Heritage Department Provincial Coordinator, Barney Morin, via e-mail [barney.morin@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:barney.morin@mmf.mb.ca) or via telephone 204-586-8474. Meeqwetch!







# Early Learning & Child Care

## Minister Frances Chartrand



The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) strongly believes that all Métis children should have a real and fair opportunity for high-level early learning, to set them up for a future filled with success. The Early Learning and Child Care Department (ELCC) staff continue to work on feasibility studies prioritizing early learning and childcare needs across the province in the second year as a department.

The Métis children and families' programming and curriculum include culture, language, values, and traditions. The MMF aims to channel financial, educational, and informational resources to Citizens, affiliates, partnerships, and initiatives within Manitoba. The ELCC's goals are to promote, empower, and strengthen the Métis culture in Manitoba's Communities.

### Early Learning Education Opportunities

ELCC partnered with Louis Riel Vocational College to facilitate the Early Learning Childhood II Diploma Program in Dauphin and Winnipeg. Students enrolled in this program will be a priority for employment opportunities in each of the ELCC's child care centres. ELCC has also partnered with MET to support the students through living supports and funding programs.

### Early Learning and Child Care Centres

The ELCC built a strong foundation for ongoing collaborative work within the Regions to achieve a shared path forward.

They look forward to implementing a Métis culturally appropriate curriculum to promote and inspire children, Youth, Elders, and families

in the community. Each child care centre will have access to the ELCC Department's guidance and recommendations for their child care centre's day-to-day operations. Furthermore, each site will have access to all departments and affiliates in the MMF to partner and share programming and training opportunities.

### MMF Owned and Affiliate Early Learning and Child Care Centres

The ELCC continues to build and grow a strong presence of child care centres within the Regions, with the numbers moving towards five operational and ten active builds.

### Operational Sites

- Duck Bay – Abinoje Aboriginal Head Start
- Dauphin – Michif Children's Place
- St. Eustache – Li Chi Shevru
- Winnipeg – Little Stars PLAYhouse
- Thompson – Keewatinowi Awasisak Opi-Ki-Wak Inc.



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The ELCC continues to build and grow a strong presence of child care centres within the Regions, with the numbers moving towards five operational and ten active builds.

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### Active Builds

- Interlake Region
- Northwest Region
- Southeast Region
- Southwest Region
- The Pas Region
- Thompson Region
- Winnipeg Region

### Supplementing Child Care Fees

Child care affordability was improved by assisting families with child care costs and security emergency placements in childcare centres for Métis children in Child and Family Service care.

### Removing Transportation Barriers to Child Care

ELCC purchased vans and buses with properly equipped tethered car and booster seats providing Manitoba Métis Early Learning and Child Care centres to assist families with their transportation needs and the opportunity to enhance educational outreach and field trips.

### COVID Community Outreach - Culture Kits

The ELCC Department delivered two hundred kits to licensed child care centres, licensed child care home centres, and Aboriginal Head Starts across Manitoba. They celebrated

Louis Riel Day, and I Love to Read Month, honouring our Elders, authors, and publishers, while sharing the ELCC Educational and Cultural Kits across Manitoba. The kits were a way to keep children engaged while sharing our rich Métis culture and language during a tough financial time due to the pandemic.

### COVID Community Outreach - My Little Métis Box

The My Little Métis Box has been designed for Métis children between zero to six years of age. It is filled with books to enhance literacy, hone gross motor skills, and strengthen numeracy skills, focusing on STEAM education with a Métis cultural focus. ELCC is set to deliver over one thousand boxes per quarter to young Métis Citizens.

### Conclusion

Thank you for the guidance of our Elders, the support and recommendations from the Regions and locals. Your Métis Government is committed to accessibility and affordability of Early Learning and Child Care for all Métis children and families throughout the province. For more information about Early Learning and Child Care programs or services, please email us at [elcc@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:elcc@mmf.mb.ca).







# Energy, Infrastructure & Resource Management

## Minister Jack Park



The Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management (EIRM) department was created by the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) to address the development and management of energy projects and infrastructure constructed on lands utilized by the Citizens and Harvesters of the Manitoba Métis Community. The amalgamated department also manages the MMF's Resolution 8 engagement and consultation process and lands management files as well as the natural resources and conservation portfolios related to harvesting, environmental assessment, Métis monitoring, forestry, mining, migratory birds, commercial fisheries, wetland restoration, fish and fish habitat, environment and climate change.

### **Enbridge – Line 3 Replacement Project (L3RP)**

Line 3, built in the 1960s, is part of the Enbridge crude oil pipeline system known as the Mainline System. The L3RP is the largest project in Enbridge history and replaces 1765 kilometres of existing pipe – from Hardisty, AB to Superior, WI, with the Canadian portion ending in Gretna, MB – with modern materials. Construction on the project is complete across the nine (9) spreads and Line 3 came online in December 2019. With the majority of pipe installed, your Métis Government is now focused on ensuring Enbridge adheres to the Métis-specific mitigation and accommodation measures that were agreed to in 2018.

The MMF, through a joint venture with MN4CI and Steel River Group, was awarded the

contract for decommissioning the current pipeline. The MMF is continuing to work towards a stewardship of the land approach for the operations and maintenance phase of the replacement pipeline. Part of that work includes having Métis Nation monitors out on the project and the MMF is working with both N4 and Enbridge's contractors to ensure that we have Métis Nation "eyes and ears" out on the project, working to ensure appropriate environmental and safety compliance.

The MMF is working with Enbridge to revise their Indigenous Operational Engagement plan and their current Indigenous policy to better reflect the Métis Nation. In addition, the MMF will continue to work with Enbridge and the Canada Energy Regulator to ensure the engagement strategy appropriately considers the needs of the Manitoba Métis Community.

### **Line 3 – Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (IAMC)**

Canada's approval of L3RP was subject to 37 binding conditions recommended by the National Energy Board (NEB) in its report, including the establishment of the IAMC to provide ongoing monitoring and engagement throughout the life cycle of the Project.

The IAMC was established with two government members, one from Natural Resources Canada and one from the Canada Energy Regulator (formerly the National Energy Board or NEB), and 16 Indigenous members from across



The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) recently transitioned to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and your Métis Government was approved for funding to participate in consultation and engagement activities on the development of policies and guidance related to the proposed new impact assessment system.

Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba – four of whom are from the Métis Nation (1-MNA, 2-MN-S, 1-MMF).

Through the IAMC, Canada provided funding for two Métis monitors (Tayler Fleming and Jade Dewar) from the MMF to accompany CER inspectors during their scheduled inspections of L3RP. These inspections were focused on compliance measures specific to environmental and safety conditions along the project right of way. With pandemic restrictions in place, the CER hosted a number of virtual inspections and tabletop exercises to review the compliance activities and verify Enbridge was fulfilling its obligations.

Your Métis Government worked with committee members from MN-S and MNA on issues specific to the Métis Nation and will continue to push a Métis-specific focus with the committee through various work components.

The MMF's representative, Marci Riel, is the Indigenous Co-Chair of the Committee and continued to take a lead role in the IAMC and the various subcommittees to ensure the MMF and the Métis Nation are appropriately represented with a focus on Indigenous monitoring. The MMF took the lead on both the filings review process and the Indigenous monitoring to ensure the rights, claims, and interests are respected by the Proponent, its mainline contractors and sub-contractors as well as representatives from Canada and the CER.

### **Canada Energy Regulator - Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC)**

Through the new Canada Energy Regulator Act, the CER is now responsible for federal Crown consultation on projects that fall within their jurisdiction. The Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) fulfils a key requirement of the CER Act to establish an advisory committee to enhance the involvement of the Indigenous peoples of Canada and Indigenous organizations in the CER's regulated infrastructure.

The IAC serves as part of the overall governance of the CER as its overarching role is to advise the Board of Directors on how the CER can build a renewed relationship with the Indigenous peoples of Canada. The IAC plays a key advisory role to the Board on how best to enhance the involvement of Indigenous Nations in respect of the CER regulated infrastructure. The IAC advises on the integration of Indigenous perspectives throughout the lifecycle of projects and assists with the CER's strategy related to integrating Indigenous rights, interests and values into the CER's work and process.

The IAC is a committee of nine (9) representatives led by a Chair and vice Chair selected by the IAC. Three (3) IAC Members are directly nominated by national Indigenous organizations: the Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. For reference, the MNC representative at the IAC is Marci Riel.

### **Impact Assessment Legislation**

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) recently transitioned to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and your Métis Government was approved for funding to participate in consultation and engagement activities on the development of policies and guidance related to the proposed new impact assessment system.

Canada has proposed a system that is intended to include:

- respect for Indigenous rights,
- including mandatory consideration of impacts on rights and Indigenous culture,
- Indigenous engagement and partnership early and throughout the process,
- mandatory consideration of Indigenous knowledge,
- provisions for arrangements with Indigenous groups to exercise powers and duties under the legislation and
- aiming to secure free, prior and informed consent through processes based on mutual respect and dialogue

The MMF has applied for funding to provide recommendations specific to the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and will be undertaking that work over the next few months with community consultation meetings to follow.

### **Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Project (MMTP)**

Manitoba Hydro's MMTP includes construction of a 500-kilovolt AC transmission line in southeastern Manitoba and upgrades to the associated stations at Dorsey, Riel, and Glenboro. Construction on the Manitoba Hydro's Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project (MMTP) is now complete with the transmission line in-service last year.

The MMF is currently reviewing Manitoba Hydro's offset management plan to ensure it fully considers the "value" of the land that is being lost due to the size of the ROW. Through this process, the MMF will be working with Manitoba Hydro and other Indigenous Nations to ensure that the land being taken up by the transmission line is provided elsewhere in Manitoba.

Flowing from a licensing condition specific to this project, the MMF is also undertaking a cultural and terrestrial study on Crown land and the cumulative impacts of transmission projects in southern Manitoba. This study will lead to a protocol between the MMF and Canada specific to cultural and heritage resources. Flowing from a licensing condition specific to this project, the MMF is also undertaking a cultural and terrestrial study on Crown land and the cumulative impacts of transmission projects in southern Manitoba.

## St. Vital Transmission Complex

The project includes construction of two 230-kv transmission lines that will both start at the St. Vital Station and run to either Letellier Station or La Verendrye Station. The project is being built on existing right of way and was designed to enable the Winnipeg network to withstand various severe outages; improve performance during normal operation and promote the reliability of the power system in southern Manitoba.

The St. Vital Transmission Complex received a Class 2 development Licence under The Environment Act (Manitoba) on January 30, 2017 and construction began in the summer of 2019.

## Birtle Transmission Project

Manitoba Hydro recently built a 230-kV transmission line from the Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border. Construction on this project ended in December and the line went into service in January 2020.

The MMF undertook a Métis Land Use and Occupancy Study to assess the impacts of the Project on the Manitoba Métis Community and will continue to work with Manitoba Hydro to ensure the information is incorporated in the development of their environmental protection program and construction management plans.

The Birtle project is among the projects that are the focus of the legal claim against Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro. The MMF continues to push Canada on this project as it crosses a provincial border but was not subject to a federal assessment nor is it regulated by the Canada Energy Regulator (CER). Despite these issues, the MMF is working to identify issues that are not, or cannot, be mitigated by Manitoba Hydro in the drafting of their environmental protection and monitoring programs and will continue working with Canada and the federal Regulator to ensure the protection of areas of interest to the Métis Nation.

## BP 6/7 and PACE project

Manitoba Hydro is replacing a damaged transmission line near Portage la Prairie (PLP) and is also undertaking some improvements at the PLP station. The MMF recently conducted an analysis of TK information currently available in the data catalogue and will be hosting a community consultation meeting in the coming months to discuss impacts of the construction of the line and the work being done. Manitoba Hydro provided funding for a Métis Community Assessment Specialist, Keith Kowall, who will be connecting directly with Citizens and Harvesters who are likely to be impacted by the work being undertaken by Manitoba Hydro.

## Project 6 – All Season Road

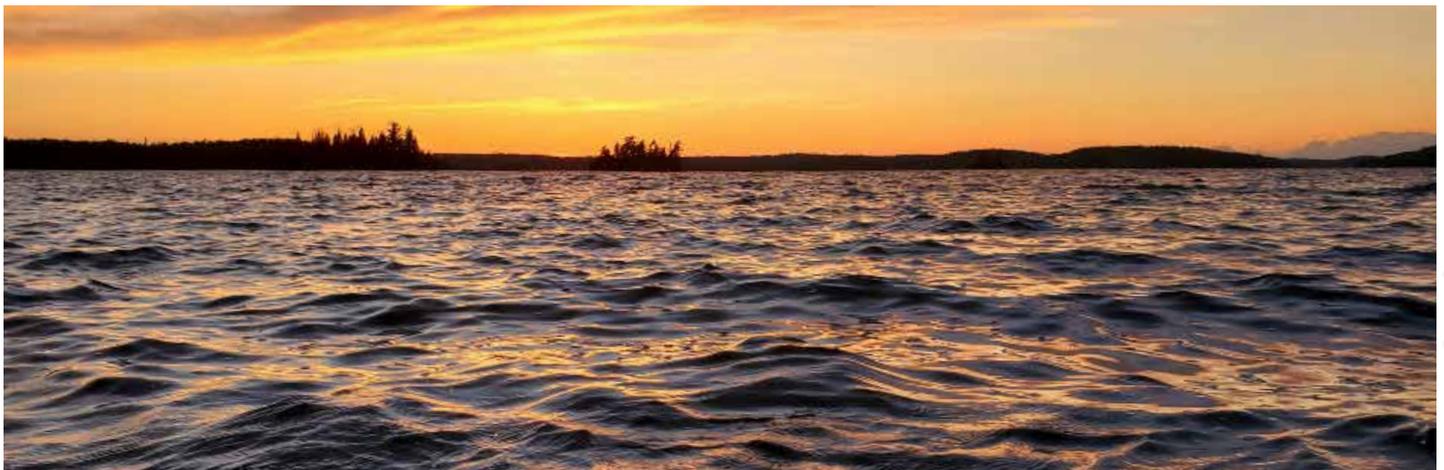
Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) is proposing to construct Project 6 – an all-season road linking Manto Sipi Cree Nation, Bunibonibee Cree Nation and God's Lake First Nation.

This is currently on hold as Manitoba Infrastructure is required to file a revised Environmental Impact Statement in line with the new impact assessment legislation. The MMF will continue to follow up with Canada with regard to next steps.

## Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Project

Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) is undertaking the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Project to regulate both lakes during peak flooding season. In addition to the channels, the project includes an access road and a transmission line. Your Métis Government has worked diligently to ensure the appropriate regulatory bodies are aware of the potential impacts of the project and our Community's concerns are fully considered, mitigated where possible and accommodated where mitigation is not possible.

Your Métis Government recently completed a Métis traditional knowledge, land use and occupancy study that appropriately considers the potential impacts of the project



on the way in which our Citizens use the land, water, and resources in and around the Project area. Unfortunately, Manitoba refuses to provide the MMF with sufficient funding to meaningfully participate and further, it refuses to recognize the MMF as the Métis Government.

This Project is subject to multiple regulatory reviews by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, as well as Manitoba's department of Conservation and Climate. The MMF is working with all applicable federal departments to ensure the components of the project that fall under their mandate are prioritized.

The Manitoba Métis Community was identified by Canada as one of the Indigenous communities to be most affected by the project and invited the MMF to participate in a Technical Advisory Group where federal and provincial regulators, local governments and impacted indigenous communities met to discuss the Project. The Technical Advisory Group met only once last year but remains a priority for the MMF.

The MMF has undertaken several studies to assess both the impacts of the project on our rights, claims and interests as well as to develop an alternate plan that will ensure the flooding issue is addressed without the long-term impacts of the channel project as proposed by Manitoba. The MMF has hired a number of experts in the field to review the material and recommend a more appropriate plan for construction and to then assess the costs associated with doing so.

Your Métis Government has conveyed concerns about the Project as well as the consultation and engagement processes to the appropriate federal and provincial Ministers. The MMF will continue to advocate for appropriate studies to ensure that the path forward fully considers the impact of the project on the rights, claims and interests of our Citizens.

### **Whiteshell Reactor #1 – Decommissioning Project**

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is decommissioning the Pinawa site and is applying for a license from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on their proposed decommissioning plan to bury the reactor in concrete and grout.

With funding from the CNSC and CNL, your Métis Government has undertaken a Technical Review of the Project, a community consultation meeting, a consumption survey, Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study (TKLUS) and an assessment of the value components (VCs) used by the Proponent to assess the potential impacts of the Project.

Your Métis Government participated in the regulatory hearings for the environmental licensing of both the current reactor and the planned decommissioning of the nuclear reactor. As a result of that intervention, the MMF had a Métis

Environmental Monitor on site for a variety of monitoring tasks over the past year including water sampling at the discharge lagoon, environmental monitoring of the lagoon operation, ground water sample collection and garden crop monitoring.

The MMF and CNL have partnered on a Métis-specific monitoring program to ensure the MMF has a Métis monitor onsite when water quality and other environmental testing is conducted. The MMF recently participated in the regulatory hearings for the environmental licensing of both the current reactor and the planned decommissioning of the nuclear reactor as well as the hearing specific to the oversight of all CNL operations.

The MMF and MN4CI are currently reviewing CNL's procurement and prequalification process to determine the best options for economic development opportunities.

### **Lynn Lake Gold Mine - Alamos Gold**

Alamos Gold Inc. proposed the construction, operation, decommissioning, and reclamation of an open pit gold mine and new metal mill located near Lynn Lake, Manitoba. The Lynn Lake Gold Project would involve the redevelopment of two historical gold mines (the Gordon site and MacLellan site) and have an ore input capacity of 8,000 tonnes per day over an 11-year period. Components of the project would include new mine infrastructure, open pits, an access road, a central ore milling and processing plant, ore stockpiles and mine rock storage areas, and a tailings management facility.

The Project is subject to a federal environmental assessment by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) as the Manitoba Métis Community has been identified by CEAA as being highly affected by the project. The MMF applied for, and was granted, funding to participate in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Assessment (EA) review of the Project and to hold a community consultation meeting in the Thompson Region.

The MMF worked closely with representatives from Alamos Gold Inc. to negotiate appropriate funding towards a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study, technical review of the Project as well as a community engagement meeting. With the combination of funding provided by Canada for consultation on the project and the funding from Alamos for engagement on the project, the MMF completed and submitted to both Canada and Alamos, a Métis Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study. They were also fortunate to host a Community Consultation/Validation meeting in Thompson in January 2020 – just prior to the onset of the pandemic.

## Efficiency Manitoba

Efficiency Manitoba is one of Manitoba's newest crown corporation devoted to energy conservation. The goal is to make saving energy and reducing energy bills easy, affordable, and satisfying. The department wants to collaborate with our fellow Manitobans, to identify needs and how to fulfill them.

With regard to the MMF, Efficiency Manitoba filed their plan with Public Utility Board and the department continues to review the Plan to determine the best fit for the Manitoba Métis Community.

Efficiency Manitoba and the department are working with LRCC and MMF Housing to refer Métis small businesses to the programming. More details to follow as the program evolves.

## Low Carbon Economy Fund – Energy Retrofits

The MMF applied for funding to renovate MMF Home Office with the intention of reducing our carbon footprint and making the building more energy efficient. The retrofit included the building envelope and windows, a solar wall, the replacement of the boilers and related infrastructure, additional renovations as appropriate such as low flush toilets. Work on the building will start as soon as possible and will continue through to the end of the fiscal year.

## Infrastructure Projects

Canada recently provided funding to rural municipalities and smaller communities across Manitoba and the MMF is working with each project team to ensure that Métis Nation rights, claims, and interests are appropriately considered and mitigated through project development, construction, and operation. Projects under this process include road improvements, docks, access trails, drainage systems, and boardwalks. The MMF also worked with the projects teams to develop a process for N4 to participate in the work as appropriate. Additional information on these projects will be made available as it becomes available.





# Energy, Infrastructure & Resource Management: Water & Land

Minister Jack Park



## **Additions to Reserve (ATR) and Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Consultations**

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and Canada have engaged in a collaborative consultation process to identify the potential impacts which proposed addition of lands to First Nation reserves in Manitoba will have on the rights, claims and interests of our Manitoba Métis Citizens. The MMF and Canada continued the work of minimizing the impacts associated with ATR/TLE by developing and agreeing on a process for meaningful and appropriately funded consultations.

The MMF and Canada have developed a multi-year funding Agreement facilitating the MMF to undertake the work of engaging Manitoba Métis Citizens and identifying potential impacts on a site-by-site basis. To date, the MMF has held several Community Meetings with Métis Citizens to explain the ATR/TLE process, inform Métis Citizens of proposed Additions to Reserve, and acquire input, concerns and priorities to ensure community-based perspectives are highlighted during ongoing consultation.

## **Federal Land Disposals and Divestitures**

In 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada found that the Federal Government breached the honour of the Crown as it failed to implement the long outstanding contract of lands owed

to the Manitoba Métis. This history helps inform the MMF's work with regard to Crown Lands. Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is responsible for disposing and divesting federally owned lands that are deemed "surplus" and no longer necessary for Crown purposes. The MMF and PSPC engage in a process where PSPC identifies and notifies the MMF of Federal Land to be disposed or divested in the near future. Notification of newly identified disposals/divestitures are communicated through monthly updates between MMF staff and PSPC. The MMF continued to work with Canada to advance reconciliation with the Manitoba Métis and address any concerns or opportunities this process poses.

## **Kivahiktuq Agreement**

The MMF has engaged with Crown Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) regarding the intent to consult the MMF on the proposed Kivahiktuq Agreement. The Agreement is a trilateral lands claims agreement between Canada, Manitoba, and the Inuit, and sets out Inuit harvesting, land ownership, and other related rights within a specified area of Northeastern Manitoba. The MMF has been working with legal counsel to navigate discussions with Canada and to ensure our Community's rights, claims, and interests are protected.

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The MMF has engaged with Crown Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) regarding the intent to consult the MMF on the proposed Kivahiktuq Agreement.

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The MMF's Energy, Infrastructure & Resource Management Department has secured funding to hold a Community Meeting specific to the Kivahiktuq Agreement. Manitoba Métis Citizens can expect a Community Consultation Meeting specific to this Agreement in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

### **Small Craft Harbours**

In 2016, the MMF began to receive notifications from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regarding the federal government's intended divestiture of recreational Small Craft Harbours. Through consultation with DFO over the proposed divestitures, the MMF has been able to protect Manitoba Métis Citizen's continued access to the harbours for commercial, cultural and subsistence use.

The MMF has been engaging with DFO regarding the proposed transfer of a Small Craft Harbour Wharf Site to the Town of Lac du Bonnet. The MMF, Canada, and the Town of Lac du Bonnet have registered a caveat that recognizes Métis Citizen use and rely on the lands and waters within the area of the Wharf Site to exercise their collectively held Métis Harvesting rights. The parties entered this agreement to protect and preserve the harvesting, fishing, and other rights of the Manitoba Métis on the Wharf Site. This agreement will be used as a template for future Small Craft Harbours divestitures such as the Amaranth and The Pas Wharf Sites.

### **Lac du Bonnet Gun Range and Education Centre**

The Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association (LDBWA) is proposing to construct a Gun Range and Education Centre on Crown land within the RM of Lac du Bonnet. The proposed project will consist of a rifle range, handgun range, trap range, trap house, clubhouse, and parking lot. Our Métis Harvesters

continue to use and rely on this area to exercise their Section 35 Métis harvesting rights and raised several concerns to the MMF in relation to this proposed project. The MMF has engaged with the LDBWA and Manitoba's Lands Branch regarding the proposed construction on Crown land. Manitoba Métis Citizens can expect an upcoming Community Consultation Meeting in the 2021-2022 fiscal year specific to this proposed project.

For questions concerning the Lands portfolio, you may contact Riley Bartel, Conservation Coordinator, by phone at (204) 586-8474 or by email at [riley.bartel@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:riley.bartel@mmf.mb.ca).







# Engagement & Consultation

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## Minister Denise Thomas



While the past year looked a little different for everyone, the Engagement and Consultation Department (the Department) continued to engage and consult with our Métis Citizens to discuss projects which may impact their rights, interests, and claims. Despite the pandemic restrictions in place, the Department continued to advocate for the collective rights of Citizens with governments and proponents. They also created solutions which allowed them to meet virtually with our Community.

The Department has continued to ensure Resolution No. 8 is consistently implemented within all Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Departments, Affiliates, and Regions. The Department works to maintain a “single-window” approach for engagement and consultation with our Community through the MMF Home Office. The Department further ensures Resolution No. 8 is consistently implemented on all projects and works to continually provide education on how to properly engage and consult with the Métis Nation’s Manitoba Métis Community, through the MMF.

The Department worked closely with subject matter experts (SMEs) within all MMF Departments and Affiliates on projects that impact the rights, interests, and claims of our Community. Over the past year, the Department worked with SMEs to support all Ministers and portfolios whose projects required engagement and/or consultation work. At the end of the fiscal year, the Department, in conjunction with Métis Child and Family Services, virtually hosted a major consultation on Bill C-92: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MMF put the safety of our Community first and put many in-person community engagement and consultation meetings on hold. Despite this, staff were able to create solutions which allowed them to host community meetings virtually. Such virtual meetings included Citizens who attend from their own homes and, within the limits of Manitoba’s public health restrictions, Citizens who attended at the Regional Offices in small, socially-distanced groups.

It has been a busy year within the Department, which looks forward to being able to meet with everyone again soon, whether it be virtually or in person.

### History of Consultation

At the 2007 Annual General Assembly, the MMF unanimously passed Resolution No. 8, which mandates a “single-window” approach for engagement and consultation with the Community through the MMF Home Office. Based on Resolution No. 8, the MMF Home Office works with the Regions and Locals to ensure that the rights and interests of all MMF Citizens, including Harvesters, are effectively represented in matters related to engagement and consultation. This applies to any project that impacts the rights, interests, and claims of the Community. The Department then liaises with the appropriate Regions and Locals potentially affected by a project.

Consultation is about respecting our constitutionally protected rights. Where rights have been established, a consultation process must be designed and implemented in a way



The Department has continued to ensure Resolution No. 8 is consistently implemented within all Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Departments, Affiliates, and Regions.

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that respects those rights and fulfills the Crown's obligations to rights holders. The government must engage in meaningful consultation to ensure Métis rights – including the right to hunt, fish, trap, and gather – will not be infringed upon.

### **Resolution No. 8 Framework**

In 2013, there was a need to establish a central point of contact to address the high volume of projects and plans regarding the Crown's duty to consult with the Community. Thus, the Engagement and Consultation Department was created. In addition to the Department's creation, the MMF also developed a framework for engagement and consultation with the Community. This framework was designed by Métis, for Métis, and is based on the MMF's Resolution No. 8. It sets out the process that is to be followed by governments and proponents when developing plans or projects that have the potential to impact the section 35 rights, claims, and interests of our Community.

The Resolution No. 8 Framework can be summarized into five phases:

Phase I: Notice and Response;

Phase II: Research and Capacity;

Phase III: Engagement or Consultation;

Phase IV: Partnership and Accommodation; and

Phase V: Implementation.

Each phase is an integral part of the entire Resolution No. 8 Framework and must be successfully completed before moving into the next phase.

Over the past year, the Department has assisted many MMF Departments and/or Affiliates through the Resolution No. 8 process by attending technical meetings, planning, and hosting consultation meetings. It is the Department's focus over the next fiscal year to undertake workshops on Resolution No. 8 with MMF staff, affiliates, and Citizens, as well as with proponents and governments. These workshops will be designed to inform participants about the evolution and implementation of Resolution No. 8 and how it is used as a tool to ensure the MMF is meaningfully engaged and consulted on all projects which impact the rights, interests, and claims of our Community.

### **Bill C-92 Legislation: Child and Family Services Act Consultation**

On March 16 and 17, 2021, the Department and Métis Child and Family Services hosted a community consultation about Bill C-92 – new Canadian legislation which provides Indigenous groups the ability to design and deliver child and

family services solutions that best suit the needs of their community. Some of the discussions held with Citizens included defining who is a care provider, and how culturally-appropriate services could be provided. The consultation was a success, and additional consultations on care providers, adoptions, and the Sixties Scoop will be the focus for the following year. These consultations are the basis which will inform the MMF's own Child and Family Services laws.

### **Strengthen Economic Development Consultation**

The Department was assisting in the organization and planning of the Strengthen Economic Development Consultation meeting. The plan was to hold discussions with Métis Citizens about ways to strengthen the economic well-being of the Manitoba Métis Community by gaining perspectives from small and large businesses, crafters, fishers, and musicians. Topics of discussion included local, traditional, and green economies. The conference has been postponed, but the Department plans to hold this consultation in the future.

### **Virtual Consultation**

Over the past year, the Department created innovative solutions to allow the MMF to safely restart community meetings. Such solutions include the utilization of teleconferencing or videoconferencing software to meet with Citizens as a group or calling Citizens to speak with them individually about projects to gain valuable traditional knowledge and feedback. As Proponents and the Crown continue discussions with the MMF on their projects, it is important that community meetings restart so the voice of the Manitoba Métis Community continues to be heard on matters that impact our rights, interests, and claims. While the hope is to return to in-person meetings in the summer and fall of 2021, the tools developed by the Department can be used in the future, should they be required.

Please contact the Department via email at [consultation@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:consultation@mmf.mb.ca) if you have any questions regarding Engagement and Consultation.





# Environment & Mining

Minister Vincent Parenteau

Associate Minister Mildred Dorion



## Environment

Historically the Métis have been deeply connected to the lands, waters, and environment which lie within our Homeland. Contemporarily many Métis Citizens work closely within, and rely heavily on, our environment to provide a livelihood, sustenance, and the ability to practice our traditional Métis culture. Your Métis Government understands the importance of protecting and conserving our traditional territory and beyond. It is imperative the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) works to ensure our environment is protected for ourselves and future generations. Without a healthy, sustainable environment, it is not possible to continue many of our traditional social and economic practices or exercise our Métis rights.



The Ministers responsible for Environment, will continue to establish and explore traditional methods of stewardship undertaken by our ancestors to cultivate a future that allows for the continued and lasting culture of the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis. Your Métis Government has the unique opportunity to bridge the generational divide between the traditional practices of our Elders and the adaptive and innovative perspectives of our Youth to ensure that together, the prosperity of our Nation is upheld, and our environment is protected. We are committed to working collaboratively to ensure our rights are upheld, and all issues concerning the environment are given the utmost attention. With this in mind, the department is working on several environment-related files, including the following:

### **Métis Nation-Canada Joint Table on Clean Growth & Climate Change**

MMF Leadership and Staff have participated in the Métis Nation-Canada Joint Table on Clean Growth & Climate Change since the first

meeting in December 2017. The Joint Table was formed to ensure the Métis Nation holds active and meaningful involvement in the implementation goals outlined within the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth & Climate Change. The measures to be implemented aim to protect our environment and address climate change issues, while the Joint Table ensures adequate representation is present to advocate for Métis-specific perspectives on climate-related issues.

The Joint Table consists of representatives from the Métis Nation Environment Committee and applicable Federal Departments. Dialogue between the Métis Nation and Canada on issues surrounding clean economic growth and climate change mitigation strategies ensures both sides are fully informed regarding concerns, opportunities, priorities, and programs. Throughout the 2020/21 year, the MMF was able to bring our Métis Nation priorities forward to key federal departments, advocating for long-term, multi-year funding to execute key climate priorities, including emergency management, climate monitoring, land-based education, youth, health, economic development, carbon pricing and Métis-led conservation.

The MMF will continue to attend Joint Table meetings during the 2021/22 year, bring our Citizens' views forward and ensure awareness of any emerging opportunities.

### **Community Engagement on Climate Change**

As the democratic representative of the Manitoba Métis Community, it is important that activities undertaken by the MMF are in line with the interests of our Citizens. To help guide our environment and climate-related work moving forward, the MMF hosted Climate Consultation Meetings in each of the MMF's seven Regions in 2019.

Eight Citizen-identified priorities emerged from Community Feedback as outlined below:

- Water quality monitoring,
- Wildlife and ecosystem conservation and management,
- Weather monitoring,
- Educational programming,
- Community resiliency,
- Habitat restoration, and
- Clean energy development.

To build on these priorities, our Environment portfolio continued to conduct outreach through an online Community Outreach Survey and during community meetings to seek Community knowledge holders, landowners, and volunteers interested in supporting our work and to identify project locations to begin implementation of the programming. The feedback collected through outreach activities will be consolidated and reviewed to ensure environmental priorities outlined by the Manitoba Métis Community are enacted.

### **Métis Youth Boreal Forest Stewardship Program (Guardians)**

The MMF's Métis Youth Boreal Forest Stewardship Program, which is funded under a commitment through Environment and Climate Change Canada's Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program is just one of the MMF's environmental initiatives. Led by the Energy and Infrastructure Department, with assistance from the Louis Riel Institute and Métis Employment & Training, the program aims to develop training and educational opportunities in environmental stewardship and conservation work, eventually leading to both direct and indirect skills development and employment opportunities.

Key focus areas or Citizen-identified priorities for the program include tree planting, food security, forest health, waterway stewardship, and educational programming. With help from the Community Outreach Survey, interested Citizens will be identified to support these goals.

### **Tree Planting Initiative – Pilot Program**

Staff from the Energy and Infrastructure Department have been developing a Tree Planting Initiative – Pilot Program to support the One Million Tree Commitment made by the MMF. This commitment was recently increased to two million trees at the last Annual General Assembly in March. Funding opportunities, project feasibility and potential options for the construction of a tree nursery to support a tree planting program are all being explored, and progress has been made.

They are currently analyzing responses received as part of the 2020-2021 Environmental Initiatives survey and will be guided by the responses received. Staff continue to reach out to potential project partners and forestry experts to build a feasible work plan and budget.

They are always looking for interested Métis Citizens, Youth, Elders & Harvesters who want to be involved in tree planting and other boreal forest related programming. If you would like more information or are interested in Métis Youth Boreal Forest Stewardship, Tree Planting, Food Security and other related programs, please contact the Green Initiatives Coordinator, Tayler Fleming, by phone (204) 586-8474 ext. 250 or by email at [tayler.fleming@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:tayler.fleming@mmf.mb.ca).

### **Métis Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program**

Our Métis government's Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program is funded through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. This monitoring program currently has dedicated Métis Citizen Scientists collecting valuable climate data and will work closely with the Boreal Forest Stewardship Program and Lake Winnipeg Basin Program with a focus on climate monitoring efforts.

Currently, the department has a monitoring application called Survey 1,2,3 where Métis Citizen Scientists are conducting environmental monitoring and collecting valuable climate data. Additionally, they have nine rain, snow, hail, and snow gauges that are monitored daily across the province. These gauges contribute to a growing climate network called the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. Our Métis Government is growing our Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program through the purchase of weather stations in partnership with the Centre for Earth Observation Science at the University of Manitoba and these weather stations will be deployed on the upper Manitoba Great Lakes including Lake Winnipegosis, Lake Manitoba, and Waterhen.

They are always looking for interested Métis Citizens who want to be involved in climate monitoring. If you would like more information or are interested in these programs, please contact our Aquatic Biologist, Bryanna Sherbo by phone (204) 586-8474 ext. 269 or by email at [bryanna.sherbo@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:bryanna.sherbo@mmf.mb.ca).

### **Federal Carbon Pricing Backstop**

The Federal government implemented carbon pricing in Manitoba on April 1, 2019, beginning at a rate of \$20/tonne increasing by \$10/tonne annually until it reaches \$50/tonne by 2022. Of these revenues, 90% will be returned to individuals through taxation, while 10% will be distributed through programs to help small businesses, schools, universities, and Indigenous Communities pursue environmental initiatives.

Environment Canada has notified the Métis Nation Environment Committee that a Métis Nation set-aside would be awarded within the 10%. The Métis Nation is currently allocating first year funds towards the Indigenous Community Based Climate Monitoring Program. The MMF will be using these funds to create a Climate Adaptation and Health Strategy to better prepare our community for climate change impacts.

Second year funding is anticipated within the next fiscal year and MMF staff are preparing program options to target this funding towards currently unfunded priorities (for example: Emergency Management, Firesmart, Food Security, etc.).

### **Manitoba Métis Climate Change and Health Action Plan**

The MMF has received a funding commitment from the federal government to support Climate Change and Health Priorities. The MMF's Environment and Health Portfolios are splitting this funding 50/50 to work collaboratively in supporting an elder and youth gathering on health and climate change, the development of a recommendations report on key health and climate change issues as well as supporting land-based traditional knowledge education.

Food security, emergency management, fostering inter-generational relationships between our Elders and Youth, as well as our Youth and Harvesters to provide educational and skills developing opportunities remain key priorities for our Portfolio. They continue to work with federal officials in exploring partnerships to support these priorities outside of this limited funding allotment.

They are always looking for interested Métis Citizens, Elders, Youth and Harvesters who want to be involved in environment and climate change related programming. If you would like more information, please contact our Environment & Climate Change Coordinator, Nicole Lischynski by email at nicole.lischynski@mmf.mb.ca.

### **Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow (MELT)**

Staff from the Energy, Infrastructure & Resource Management Department secured a 5-year funding agreement during the 2020/21 year to provide land-based education focusing on climate action and environmental stewardship for Métis Youth, ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 12. For this year, MELT will seek to run a minimum of three workshops and/or environmental camps and one youth symposium, with a minimum participation of 190 youth. Through these workshops and symposium, MELT will seek to educate youth on the impacts of climate change, while providing educational programming on how environmental stewardship and Métis Traditional Knowledge can lead to positive climate action they can take back and impart on their communities.

They are always looking for interested Métis Youth who want to be involved in environment and climate change related programming. If you would like more information or are interested in participating, please contact our MELT Coordinator, Amber Chambers by phone (204) 725-7520 or by email at amber.chambers@mmf.mb.ca.

### **Water Monitoring and Aquatic Ecosystem Health**

The Manitoba Métis Community has always been very connected to water, for drinking, commercial and recreational fishing, and using rivers for transportation. Water quality is consistently identified as a main priority of Citizens during community meetings, Traditional Knowledge interviews, outreach surveys, and consultation discussions.

#### **Lake Winnipeg Basin Program:**

Our Métis government's Community-Based Water Monitoring Program focuses on the Lake Winnipeg Basin and is funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada. The MMF has been monitoring phosphorus and salinity concentrations in the Lake Winnipeg Basin over the past three years with the help of dedicated Métis Citizen Scientists. Our Métis Citizen Scientists have taken many water samples over the years. To supplement this scientific data our Métis Government conducted a Traditional Knowledge study to determine how the Lake Winnipeg Basin has changed and impacted our Citizens. Additional funding was awarded to provide further training and opportunities for our Citizens. They have expanded this program by increasing the number of Métis Citizen Scientists and creating new partnerships; this includes a partnership with the Centre for Earth Observation Science. As part of this partnership, they are looking for a Métis graduate student to compile and analyze data we have collected. Additionally, they are conducting regular monitoring of the Seine River in Winnipeg to ensure optimal water quality.

#### **Water Testing of Métis Communities:**

The MMF is starting an initiative to test drinking and water treatment plants in Manitoba Métis Communities across the province in all seven regions. They will start by testing drinking water of the local chairs in communities that have shared water. The testing will be expanded as results are analyzed and reviewed with the goal of this water testing initiative is to highlight any issues with the water in which our Citizens consume. They will share the results with the Manitoba Métis Community and are looking forward to working with the regions and the local chairs to ensure Citizens are consuming clean freshwater.

#### **Cross-Boundary Water Relations:**

Our Métis Government has been very involved with the International Joint Commission (IJC) on transboundary discussions on waterways crossing the United States and Canada. The IJC is currently looking at strategies to incorporate Indigenous representatives on their various watershed boards. Our Métis Government attended many

virtual and in person meetings on the International Souris River Board and International Red River Board this past year. Our continued involvement ensures that the IJC engages with the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community. If you would like more information or are interested in these programs, please contact our Aquatic Biologist, Bryanna Sherbo by phone (204) 586-8474 ext. 269 or by email at bryanna.sherbo@mmf.mb.ca.

## **Mining**

Mining and development projects play a variety of roles in the lives of our Citizens with many of our Northern Citizens residing in areas where mining has been the primary economic driver and source of employment for many years. The benefits of economic development have allowed for a sense of self-reliance and financial stability for many Métis families. However, the Mining Industry has also led to many negative impacts to our environment which have affected the health and well-being of our Community.

There are new operations being explored across the Province, drawn in by the demand for new resources and products. Unfortunately, the Métis were left out of the First Nations-Manitoba Mining Protocol, Provincial officials and project proponents are not currently notifying or reaching out to the MMF.

These mining operations pose their own unique opportunities and challenges. As the Ministers responsible for Mining, it is their responsibility to ensure that our Community is properly engaged and consulted on any Mining operations across the Province, and that they can best utilize opportunities to avoid negative impacts to our Community. Some of the most recent mining files include:

### **Vivian Silica Sand Project**

CanWhite Sands (CWS), a private company based in Calgary, AB has proposed to construct a silica sand processing facility and extraction process to produce 1.36 million tonnes of processed silica sand per year.

The Provincial licensing process is being split between two Manitoba Environmental Assessment Proposals (EAP) – the first for the processing facility and the second for the extraction process which has yet to be filed.

The Province of Manitoba has chosen not to recommend a CEC hearing for this Project.

The MMF formally requested a designation of the Project under Federal Law (IAAC 2019) along with four other indigenous governments and organizations, however, the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, chose not to federally designate the Project.

### **Wanipigow Silica Sand Mine**

Canadian Premium Sand Inc. (CPSI) proposed to construct the Wanipigow Silica Sand Project near Seymourville, MB. The project has a projected life of more than 50 years and includes an open pit silica sand mine, a silica sand processing facility, 6 kilometre access road, 6 km powerline, and progressive annual site reclamation.

The MMF contacted both Manitoba and CPSI to initiate full, proper, and meaningful engagement and consultation with the Manitoba Métis Community. Both the Province and CPSI have ignored the MMF and their correspondence, and despite the lack of consultation, Manitoba issued an Environment Act Licence on May 16, 2019. The MMF filed an appeal to this decision on June 12, 2019 and the MMF is currently pursuing further legal options to ensure that the MMF is fully engaged and consulted on the Wanipigow Silica Sand Project.

### **Mineral Exploration**

In 2019, the MMF sent letters to New Age Metals Inc. and the Province seeking information and meaningful engagement related to proposed Lithium Mine Exploration Projects in Nopiming Provincial Park. While New Age Metals signed an exploration agreement with Sagkeeng First Nation, the MMF was never notified by either the Proponent or the Crown.

MMF is awaiting further information from the Province of Manitoba regarding other mineral exploration permits and technical level staff are meeting with the Province to address the continued lack of appropriate notification or information on these Projects.

### **Tundra Oil and Gas License Application**

The MMF received notification from the Province of a Tundra Oil and Gas well exploration application near St. Lazare and the Ellice-Archie Community Pasture. MMF staff met with provincial officials to discuss the project as well as the process of consultation between Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade and the MMF regarding oil and gas license application files.

### **Sherridon Mine**

Citizens in the Sherridon local have been engaged periodically to discuss concerns from the Community on the remediation of Camp Lake and their concerns with the Project. The 2019 draining of Camp Lake into Kississing Lake resulted in an orange discolouration of the water due to increased iron content which led to staining citizens' boats and raising immense concern around the impacts to local Tourism business in Sherridon, MB. The MMF has continually reached out to the Provincial and Federal governments regarding Citizen concerns and consultation with Community through the Manitoba Métis Federation.

## Lynn Lake Gold Mine - Alamos Gold

Alamos Gold Inc. has proposed the construction, operation, decommissioning, and reclamation of an open pit gold mine and new metal mill located near Lynn Lake, Manitoba. The Lynn Lake Gold Project would involve the redevelopment of two historical gold mines (the Gordon site and MacLellan site) and have an ore input capacity of 8,000 tonnes per day over an 11-year period. Components of the project would include new mine infrastructure, open pits, an access road, a central ore milling and processing plant, ore stockpiles and mine rock storage areas, and a tailings management facility.

The Project is subject to a federal environmental assessment and Canada identified the MMF as being highly affected by the project. The Energy & Infrastructure portfolio will be reporting further on the environmental licensing aspect of this Project and the economic development opportunities that are being explored with Métis N4 Construction.

The Project is currently undergoing environmental assessment and is receiving information requests from various departments to address information gaps in the Project Proposal. The MMF has received capacity funding to participate in this process, and ensure consultants review technical level concerns and appropriately consider specific issues raised through our Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study.

They are always looking for input, comments, questions, and concerns from Métis Citizens who are directly or indirectly impacted by mining projects underway in their local communities. If you would like more information, please contact our Environment & Climate Change Coordinator, Nicole Lischynski by email at [nicole.lischynski@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:nicole.lischynski@mmf.mb.ca).





# Fisheries

## Minister John Parenteau



Many challenges were realized in the year of 2020, with these challenges persisting into 2021. With the wisdom gained from the first year of the pandemic, we were able to adapt and succeed in some important areas of the Fisheries portfolio. The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) took steps toward protecting and advocating the rights and interests of Métis commercial fishers and the inland fishing industry to ensure its sustainability and profitability for future generations.

Minister of Fisheries, John Parenteau, made it his top priority to lead, work with, and keep the Manitoba Métis Community updated with developments within the industry. The Fisheries portfolio covers all aspects of fish and fish habitat, including:

- Engaging Manitoba and Canada on projects affecting resources and the environment,
- Protecting and advocating for Métis commercial fishers,
- And building valuable skills in Métis Citizens towards fish and fish habitat protection and stewardship.

The MMF worked on several key projects impacting the inland fisheries, our fish, and fish habitat, including an aquatic invasive species initiative, commercial fishing, rearing ponds and fish hatchery, and new Arctic region and northern low impact shipping corridors.

### Aquatic Invasive Species Initiative

In 2019, the MMF began working on an Aquatic Invasive Species (“AIS”) initiative funded by the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk. The MMF hoped to use the AIS initiative to provide Watercraft Inspection Training: Level 1 certification to Métis Citizens to increase awareness and identify AIS to help reduce its spread. The project would also create an opportunity for Citizens to return to their

community and create awareness regarding approved processes and mitigation measures for AIS. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the courses could not proceed. Instead, the MMF held virtual information sessions providing valuable knowledge on Aquatic Invasive Species and Species at Risk identification. The MMF provided 50 Citizens attending the virtual information sessions with AIS Toolkits to help them identify AIS species in the field. The MMF set up databases to keep records of the data Citizens find through their continued efforts to stop the spread of AIS throughout Manitoba.

### Commercial Fishing

On May 8, 2019, the MMF, in coordination with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (“MKO”) and Southern Chiefs Organization (“SCO”), held a Commercial Fishers Emergency Meeting. The meeting consisted of presentations and breakout group discussions dealing with the inland commercial fishing industry. Attendees shared their pressing concerns, including those regarding the Lake Winnipeg quota buy-back option and the new change to fishing mesh size regulations. There is general unease about the industry’s future and, therefore, a desire to work together to ensure industry sustainability. The MMF plans to hold a validation meeting in response to the 2019 emergency meeting in fall 2021 once COVID-19 public health restrictions allow it.

In January 2021, the MMF launched the MMF Commercial Fisher Net Program. This program allowed for active Métis commercial fishers to apply to receive ten commercial-grade fishing nets free of charge. The program has helped over 100 commercial fishers and will enable them to fish the 2021-2022 winter season with some extra resources.

Last year, the MMF launched the Fish Distribution Initiative, where the MMF provided pickerel and whitefish to those Métis Citizens and their families who signed up.

The MMF distributed thousands of pounds of fish across Manitoba to help hundreds of Citizens support their families.

### **Rearing Ponds And Fish Hatchery**

The Manitoba Métis Community has raised interest in investing in rearing ponds and fish hatcheries. Rearing ponds the MMF established near St. Laurent were damaged by flooding. Due to a lack of funding, the MMF has yet to restore these ponds. However, the MMF is currently researching opportunities to restore and re-establish these rearing ponds. The rearing ponds project will help fish stocks in Manitoba lakes and provide training and employment opportunities for Métis Citizens.

### **New Arctic Region And Northern Low Impact Shipping Corridors**

In 2018, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced the development of a new Arctic Region. This new Arctic Region will be a stand-alone region, managed independently and encompassing approximately 50 per cent of Canada's coastline. The intention is to improve program and service delivery in the north and ensure Indigenous Communities are directly involved in decisions impacting their resources and environment.

The Northern Low Impact Shipping Corridors initiative, established by Canada's Ocean's Protection Plan, was created due to the increased use of northern seas for shipping due to climate change and seasonal ice changes. As the Arctic shipping season remains open for longer on average, and new ocean shipping corridors are opening due to global climate change, new opportunities and risks are arising for the Manitoba Métis Community on the Hudson Bay coast.

On February 29, 2020, the MMF held a community meeting in Thompson, MB. MMF staff provided a presentation to inform participants of current and changing conditions in the north

and proposed changes for the new Arctic Region. The MMF submitted a high-level report to Canada summarizing the thoughts, comments, recommendations, and concerns Métis Citizens shared at the meeting. Through these files, the MMF was able to build capacity within the Métis Government. The Manitoba Métis Community can expect another round of engagement sessions in winter 2021.

For questions concerning the Fisheries portfolio, you may contact Jenny Ruml, Fish and Fish Habitat Specialist, by phone at (204) 586-8474 or by email at [jenny.ruml@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:jenny.ruml@mmf.mb.ca).

And for questions concerning the Northern Low Impact Shipping Corridors and New Arctic Region files within the Fisheries portfolio, you may contact Riley Bartel, Conservation and Lands Coordinator, by phone at (204) 586-8474 or by email at [riley.bartel@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:riley.bartel@mmf.mb.ca).







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# Health & Wellness

## Minister Frances Chartrand



The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Health and Wellness Department (HWD) was established in 2005 to develop and use knowledge that is culture-based and holistic. The HWD's objective is to "close the gap" of health status for Métis families and communities. Over the past year, the department has experienced a lot of growth and has greatly expanded the work it does.

The HWD has played an active role in the Central COVID-19 Response Team as it continues to steer our Nation safely through the pandemic. The HWD staff and team participated in COVID-19 activities such as establishing the testing phone line, vaccination clinic, and Mental Health Wellness phone line to assist Citizens with any mental health issues during pandemic isolation and to ensure that Citizens' needs were met.

### **Métis-Specific Research/Programs**

The HWD is leading research projects to build Métis health-specific knowledge to support the development of programs and services to meet the needs of Métis Citizens.

### **Validating What We Already Know: Measuring Métis Health Status in Manitoba**

#### **Métis Regional Health Survey**

We know that many Citizens have a poorer health status compared to the general Canadian population. To find out more about health status, chronic disease, access to healthcare services, and preventative programming, the HWD initiated the development of the first Métis-specific regional health survey to build a comprehensive understanding of Métis health status and health patterns. This will be achieved using a two-pronged approach involving the planning and development of the Métis Regional Health Survey, which has been designed to provide detailed information about the general health and well-being of the Manitoba Métis population, and Point-of-Care Tests (POCT) to identify the clinical markers of diabetes and other chronic illnesses among the population. Results of the Regional Health Survey will be shared back with Citizens at AGA 2022.



## **Understanding the Opioid Crisis in Manitoba Métis: Evidence to Support Interventions (Opioid Study)**

Many families and communities have been touched by the opioid crisis. This project is a first look at the use of opioids by Métis. The HWD is continuing to determine rates of opioid prescriptions for Métis in the province and in each MMF Region. It has examined the rates of hospital admission, medical visits, and emergency department visits associated with opioid use; it has examined mortality, suicide attempts, and deaths by suicide associated with opioid use. In this final year the HWD will identify whether opioid use has a differential impact on Métis when compared with all other Manitobans. The department staff will be visiting each Region to bring results back and to gain Citizens' observations to those results and gather input to address this issue.

## **Participating In Other Métis-Specific Research**

In addition to the research projects the HWD leads, it is involved in projects with researchers from outside the MMF who share its interest in building a Métis-specific knowledge base.

## **Participatory Risk Communication: Indigenous Youth-Generated Health Messages**

Youth play an important role as future leaders and Knowledge Holders. Using culture camps, the HWD is working with Youth aged 18 – 30 to build relationships with Youth and Elders using a variety of land and water-based activities. Over the past months, it has been unable to hold face-to-face camps. Instead of that activity, Youth were invited to submit videos about the impact of COVID-19 on their lives. The HWD anticipates the camps will resume in winter 2022.

## **Scaling Up – the Oral Health Study**

We know good oral health is essential to a child's success in school and their ability to speak and even to chew food properly. This project involves working with caregivers of young Métis children to understand ideas about oral health and to develop some tools that would be helpful for them to use to prevent tooth decay, and to use in ELCC programs. It also provides oral screening on pre-school children in some Manitoba communities.

## **Programs**

Informed by their research, the HWD provides programming to improve the health and wellness of Métis Citizens.

### **Prescription Drug Program**

Since 2017 when your Métis Government developed its first Métis Health Benefits Prescription Drug Program, eligible Métis seniors and Elders have had access to essential prescription drug coverage. To be eligible, individuals must be Métis Citizens, over the age of 65, and have an income of \$25,000 or less. As of April of this year, Citizens over 55 years of age became eligible to apply to the program.

The success of the program is a result of the collaboration of the MMF Health & Wellness Department, the Métis Community Liaison Department (MCLD), and MEDOCare Pharmacy.

### **Métis Senior Vision Care Initiative**

Vision is an important part of maintaining independence for Citizens; the Métis Senior Vision Care Initiative offers vision care services including managing healthy eye care, eye examinations, and prescription eyeglasses, all of which make this possible. Prior to COVID-19, Prairie Eye Care provided mobile vision care services throughout the regions. Once public health restrictions have been lifted, clinics will begin to be offered again.

Eligibility requirements for this program are the same as those for the Prescription Drug Program. However, there is value added for all Citizens regardless of age or income. Any Citizen can benefit from a negotiated rate of \$150 per set of prescription glasses, including bifocals or progressive lenses, by presenting their Citizenship card at the time of purchase.

## **Projects**

### **Improving the Cancer Journey for Métis Citizens**

We know that cancer has impacted every family and community in the Homeland. The MMF has committed itself to achieving the long-term goal of involving Métis culture into the cancer care system in ways that provide Métis Citizens using the system a level of comfort. To make this



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Since 2017 when your Métis Government developed its first Métis Health Benefits Prescription Drug Program, eligible Métis seniors and Elders have had access to essential prescription drug coverage.

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happen, the Health & Wellness Department is building a Métis Cancer Strategy. The HWD wants to help inform cancer care practices in a way that allows Citizens to receive holistic care. Over the past year, the department has been reviewing programs, policies, and resources for education on cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment, and end-of-life care, and conducting interviews with health care workers in the cancer continuum and Indigenous health services. In the upcoming year, it will hold focus groups with Métis Citizens to help identify gaps in regions and to identify changes, supports, and resources you would like to see.

### **Tobacco Strategy**

The Health & Wellness Department is developing a Manitoba Métis-Specific Tobacco Reduction Strategy. The primary goal is to reduce tobacco and vaping usage among Métis Citizens to improve health and quality of life. Over the past year, the HWD conducted a scan of tobacco reduction best practices and existing programs in Manitoba to best support strategy development. Early in 2021, staff consulted with tobacco reduction professionals across the province, and later this year they will visit various communities to gather Métis voices and experiences.

### **Climate Change and Health**

The MMF is dedicated to environmental stewardship and ensuring the sustainability of Métis traditional livelihoods in a changing climate. Working in partnership, Energy & Infrastructure and the HWD are seeking to develop and implement an action plan focused on environmental resiliency and emergency management. Citizens will have the opportunity to further contribute to the Action Plan in upcoming workshops.

### **Partnerships**

Over the past year, HWD staff have continued to build working partnerships to enhance Métis health and wellness, which include:

- MCLD and MEDO Care Pharmacy, to assist in both the Prescription Drug Program and the Senior Eyeglass Program,
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC),
- Canadian Institute on Health Research (CIHR),
- University of Manitoba (UM), and
- The Children's Health Research Institute (CHRIM), Diabetes Canada, Dynacare Laboratories, and a pharmaceutical company called Boehringer Ingelheim.

In addition, the HWD works closely at a strategic level with the Canadian Partnerships against Cancer (CPAC) and CancerCare Manitoba to address Métis-specific preventative issues. It also interacts closely with the seven MMF Regions, and the Infinity Women Secretariat to connect with Métis Citizens at the local level about their health and wellness issues.

Health & Wellness staff took part in the Provincial Youth Forum held this year. Not only were they able to interact with several youth as they described the projects they are involved with, but they were able to create an opportunity for two Métis students who were also involved. They worked with the department over the summer and are intending to stay engaged with the Federation in the future.

In conclusion, the Health & Wellness Department will continue to work with their families and communities, partners, and funders as they continue to build the department and enhance social programming and services for Métis Citizens across the province. The HWD will also continue to foster meaningful relationships and partnerships across the departments and with the health care system, to ensure the health care needs of the Métis are identified and that programs and services are developed to meet them. Over the next year, the department anticipates continued growth with a group of committed, experienced staff working together to create knowledge and improve programs and services for Citizens.



# Homeschooling

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Minister Joan Ledoux

Associate Minister David Beaudin



The MMF invested a large amount of money to ensure our Métis students will be successful this year and families will be safe during COVID-19. The Homeschool Support Program (HSP) started at the beginning of September and allowed us to offer an alternative to the public school system. Even though we are following the Manitoba Curriculum and have hired certified teachers, this alternative format allows us to integrate more Métis content. This program fosters Métis identity and teaches about Métis history and culture.



One director and five teachers were initially hired in September 2020 to provide education-based activities to support Métis families who were homeschooling, remote-learning, or independent study option learning. Once the teachers were appointed, tutors were hired to support Senior Years (High School) and Independent Study students. The Homeschool Support Program discovered that some early years children also needed support, and has expanded tutorship to early and middle years upon request. The HSP employs six tutors (one engineer, one early childhood educator, and four certified educators; three are French bilingual).

To support Youth in education, the HSP has extended support to the Winnipeg School Division Build from Within Program, by employing four Youth who graduated with Grade 12 Diplomas and completed the University of

Winnipeg Educational Assistant Program in 2021. Those Youth transitioned to the U of W Faculty of Education in September 2021. Additionally, the HSP employs one Faculty of Education student (Kinesiology major) and one retired education assistant (all but one is Métis or First Nations). These individuals work on an as-needed basis but and have developed a mentoring relationship with their assigned teacher (two are French bilingual).

## Deliverables

One-on-one core subject-related instruction with children. Quantity of instruction is determined by the parent as per their schedule and needs. To capture a more traditional setting, the HSP provides group activities throughout the week. The children have access to a community of teachers (aunties and uncles) and provides them opportunities to interact and socialize with other children in the program. The group activities include Music, Visual Arts, Drama, Book Club, Numeracy Games, Literacy Games, and Technology.

The HSP has implemented “Friday Explorations” which are bi-weekly virtual field trips with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Manitoba Museum, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Spy Museum, and Manitoba Parks. The explorations are multi-aged, cross-curricular learning outcomes linked to the Manitoba Education curriculum.



To support Youth in education, the HSP has extended support to the Winnipeg School Division Build from Within Program, by employing four Youth who graduated with Grade 12 Diplomas and completed the University of Winnipeg Educational Assistant Program in 2021.

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To support French language learners, the HSP has four bilingual educators who support conversation and academic studies in French. In the spring, the HSP began developing a Michif language program designed specifically for children through song and play-based activities. The language program will be implemented in the fall as part of regular programming.

### **Specific Needs Support**

Early identification and treatment of speech/language delays or disorders can improve a child's overall ability to be successful and a confident communicator as well as support the development of reading and writing skills. An experienced, registered speech language pathologist has been recruited to work one-on-one with children to determine strategies that parents can administer to support the communication, reading, and writing development of their child.

### **Financial Support**

The HSP supports financial needs by reimbursing families up to \$350.00 per child for educational resources such as books, art supplies, craft supplies, paper, printer ink, etc. It provides a Laptop Lending Library to offset the costs of purchasing a computer. Families are reimbursed for the cost of monthly internet charges. It also supports the cost of courses for Independent Study Options, Manitoba Education.

### **Community-Based Programs**

**Manitoba Theatre for Young People** – The HSP, in partnership with Manitoba Theatre for Young People, provides opportunities to explore the performing arts. Through an eight-week program designed with Métis culture and traditions at the forefront, our aim is to inspire each child's empathy, confidence, and sense of community, all within a fun and welcoming environment.

**Career Trek – Wonder of Work program** – “Kids can't imagine a future for themselves doing something they've never experienced.” The goal of the Wonder of Work program is to give children educational and career experiences. Wonder of Work helps kids aged 10 and 11 to explore career options and learn about themselves and their goals. They explore their likes, dislikes, and potential. The program gets children and parents from different communities and backgrounds working together. They help participants get ready for high school, and whichever path follows.

**Toddler Time (Ages 0 – 5)** – Building community begins at birth, and beyond finding playmates, this play group expands social circles by putting HSP families in touch with other parents who understand and appreciate having a toddler during these unprecedented times of the pandemic. Parents and toddlers meet each Wednesday morning to sing songs (Michif/French/Cree/Ojibwe/English) and participate

in story time from Métis or Indigenous-authored picture books. The teachers in this program have physical education backgrounds and design the outdoor and physical activities for the children to develop gross motor skills. Additionally, the HSP provides resources for parents that support developmental needs to prepare for future learning.

### **MMF's First Virtual Mini AGA**

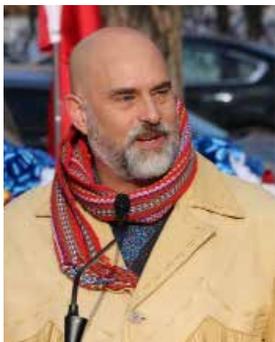
The HSP successfully hosted the MMF's first Virtual Mini AGA. This two-day event took place over spring break using Zoom, and after the MMF AGA. The HSP presented a theme of land stewardship for the event. Participants were provided with eco-friendly materials to participate in all the activities. The Manitoba Museum provided two virtual lessons relating to the Universe and Community. The HSP provided a segment of “Meet Up with Mason” (from his cabin) to share about animals and habitats (Michif was incorporated into the activity).





# Housing & Property Management

## Minister Will Goodon



### Message from the Minister

“As the Minister of Housing and Property Management, I am very pleased to provide you with an update on the work our Housing Department has been doing over the last year. I am honoured and incredibly proud to serve as your Minister of Housing & Property Management. I would like to thank President Chartrand for his support, foresight, and leadership on many of these projects that are making real change in the lives of Métis Citizens and their families. We will build on our past successes by continuing to make strategic investments that improve the lives of our Citizens and address their housing needs.”

– Minister Will Goodon

An Introduction to Métis Nation Housing Housing has been an important pillar of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) as a foundation for self-government for over 50 years, since 1967. In the early years of the MMF, service provision was limited to small programs delivered on behalf of other levels of government. Today, with a renewed and strengthened nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with Canada, the Housing & Property Management Department has become one of the crown jewels of the Manitoba Métis Government through new strategic investments and commitments.

The MMF, as the government of the Manitoba Métis Community, has a responsibility to assist with the housing needs and respond to the priorities of the Citizens. To support Métis Citizens in finding an affordable home today, the MMF is offering new targeted initiatives to provide the “head start” that was promised in 1870; initiatives such as the First Time Home Purchase Program, the Home Enhancement Loan Program (MMF-HELP), new affordable

housing projects, a Métis-specific strategy to address homelessness, and two incredible projects under the Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative.

### Building an Efficient Housing and Construction Division

The signing of the Canada – Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord in 2018 has allowed the MMF Housing Department to grow substantially over the past few years. What started out as a small team of 3 staff, the MMF Housing Department has since grown into a robust team of 20 staff with experience in all aspects of Housing: research and policy development, commercial development, planning, construction, and affordable housing.

The continued growth of the MMF Housing Department means that the Department now has the capacity to manage the construction of its own commercial developments. These developments, such as the planned Métis Early Learning and Child Care Centre in Swan River (in pre-development), the two Centres currently under construction in St. Eustache and Dauphin (with expected completion in fall 2021), and the recently completed Centre in Duck Bay will bring much-needed services to the Métis Citizens they serve. The Department is also continuing to strengthen the presence of the MMF in your community with the ongoing construction of a regional office for the Northwest Métis Council (with expected completion in spring 2022) and a local office space in Flin Flon and Russell (with expected completion in fall 2021 for both).

## Building and Maintaining Affordable Housing for Métis Citizens

The MMF Housing Department has developed and continues to provide property management services for close to 40 affordable housing units across Manitoba. Throughout the province, the MMF has been working hard to provide affordable housing to Métis Citizens in their communities. There are many affordable housing projects currently under construction with occupancy expected this year.

Portage la Prairie: two exciting developments in Portage la Prairie are expected to house their first residents in late summer 2021: four (4) 55+ Seniors units in two duplexes and three (3) family accommodations consisting of two 3-bedroom units and one 2-bedroom unit in a triplex.

Selkirk: Five 3-bedroom family units are expected to be completed in late summer 2021

St. Boniface (Winnipeg): Five 2-bedroom and one 4-bedroom units are expected to be completed in late fall 2021

St. Ambroise: Two 2-bedroom Seniors units in a duplex development should be completed in winter 2021

Binscarth: Four 2-bedroom Seniors units through two duplex developments should also be completed in winter 2021

Adapting to meet the needs of Métis Citizens where they live, investments have also been made in turnkey stand-alone homes in communities such as Cormorant and Lundar.

The MMF Housing & Property Management Department will continue to plan future builds in communities across Manitoba to meet the housing needs of Métis Citizens and families.

## The MMF First Time Home Purchase Program (FTHPP)

The MMF First Time Home Purchase Program (FTHPP) has already proven to be an incredibly effective program helping hundreds of Métis Citizens become first-time homeowners since its launch in early 2019. Administered through the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC), the FTHPP is a needs-based support program that assists Métis Citizens with the down-payment and closing costs associated with purchasing a home, turning the dream of homeownership into a reality.

The FTHPP has been one of the most impactful programs the Manitoba Métis Government has offered. Not only has the program assisted over 500 Métis citizens become first-time homeowners, it has also created more than 225 jobs throughout Manitoba. Since the program started just two years ago, Métis homebuyers have leveraged over \$100,000,000 in mortgages and provided over \$25,000,000 through other economic impacts – both significant contributions to the growth of Manitoba's economy.



Those interested in the First Time Home Purchase Program are encouraged to visit [www.lrcc.mb.ca](http://www.lrcc.mb.ca) or contact the LRCC main office by phone at 204-589-0772 or toll free at 1-800-387-6004, or by email at [info@lrcc.mb.ca](mailto:info@lrcc.mb.ca).

### **The MMF Home Enhancement Loan Program (MMF-HELP)**

For many years, the Manitoba Government through Manitoba Housing, provided a home repair funding program that was quite popular and very effective in assisting lower income Manitobans in affording the required repairs and upgrades to their homes. The discontinuation of several repair and emergency repair programs by the Manitoba Government in 2019 left many Métis Citizens (and Manitobans) in the dark without any assistance or access to these essential programs.

Recognizing the need for a program to address the housing repair needs of Métis Citizens, the Housing Department launched the MMF - Home Enhancement Loan Program (MMF-HELP) to assist Métis homeowners make the critical repairs to their home so that it can be sustainable and safe for years to come.

Designed as a program for low- to moderate-income households, the MMF-HELP provides a one-time forgivable loan of up to \$18,000 total to provide for emergency home repairs and renovations to help improve, adapt, and maintain the homes of Métis Citizens and their families.

What began as a one-year pilot program in 2019 has become one of the most successful housing programs offered by the Métis Government. MMF-HELP has now been extended through a multi-year funding agreement, meaning this program will be available to households who need it for years to come.

Since the program began, almost 300 Métis Citizens throughout every region of the province have been approved for funding through MMF-HELP, with repairs and renovations totalling almost \$4,000,000. Not only has this program provided the funding required for these necessary repairs and renovations, but they have also provided for good, well-paying jobs for Métis contractors who complete the work.

Those who are interested in learning more or accessing MMF-HELP are encouraged to contact the MMF Housing Department at 204-586-8474 or toll free at 1-800-665-8474 to request more information or to receive an application. Citizens can also access an application and the program guidelines at [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca) under the Housing & Property Management section.

### **Addressing Métis Homelessness - The Reaching Home Initiative**

The Government of Canada has entered into a five-year agreement with the MMF for the provision of homelessness services for Métis Citizens across Manitoba. Addressing



homelessness is a task far too great for just one organization; it requires a community and partnerships to resolve it. In recognition of this, the MMF has been actively participating in ongoing engagement with stakeholders and existing service providers to develop and provide a culturally appropriate Métis-specific approach.

The rapid housing project planned for Winnipeg will provide the safe and secure housing necessary to protect vulnerable and/or homeless Métis Citizens in emergency situations and over short-term transitional timeframes. Once developed, the twenty-four (24) unit project provides for micro-suite accommodations with security and support services available on-site (HUB model), such as: intake and assessment, a drop-in safe space, computer access, a job readiness program, mental health and addictions support, meal programs, paid training opportunities, and more.

Using an evidence-based practice based on research and community engagement, the Department will continue to develop and implement the Reaching Home Program, and seeks to expand delivery to all MMF Regions, MMIWG, Youth Aging Out of Care, Women Fleeing Domestic Violence, and those exiting incarceration.

### **Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative**

The Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative was launched in 2019 to support Indigenous-led housing ideas. From the 324 applications received, the Initiative's Indigenous Steering Committee selected twenty-four (24) projects to proceed to the planning and development stage, including two (2) projects submitted by the Manitoba Métis Federation. These are:

**Michif Manor:** To be developed in Winnipeg, Michif Manor is a housing concept similar to the Ronald McDonald Charity Houses that would provide temporary housing for Métis families requiring accommodations while their loved one receives medical treatment. Located at 790 Notre Dame Avenue, Michif Manor will be strategically located to provide immediate access to the Health Sciences Centre (HSC), the Children's Hospital of Winnipeg, the HSC Women's Hospital, Canadian Blood Services, and the Manitoba Clinic. This central location also provides for easy access to the airport, numerous grocery stores, restaurants, a bakery, and a pharmacy.

**Infinity House of Hope – Mazoun:** Focused on prevention, this proposed project is targeted to address the unjust status quo for Métis youth aging out of Child and Family Services care. Studies show that youth aging out of care are more likely to become unemployed, homeless, and/or incarcerated than their peers, and Métis youth are at an even higher risk than their non-Indigenous peers.

As Métis youth age out of CFS care, we recognize that some young adults require a little bit of extra support and skills-training to be successful outside of care. This project will provide Métis youth aged 16 – 21 with those culturally-specific services, supports, and skills-training while also providing for a safe and secure place to live. This will be the first Métis-specific housing and support program of its kind in Canada.

### **Commercial Property Management**

In 2014, the Housing Department grew, with the addition of Property Management into the portfolio, under the responsibility of Minister Will Goodon. For the commercial properties, a new division within the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) was created to lead this important portfolio in partnership with the Housing Department for our Métis Government-owned properties. The Property Management division maintains its due diligence by confirming all revenues and expenses are collected and recorded, ensuring that all buildings meet provincial and municipal regulations, and that all repairs and financial obligations are estimated, performed, and paid in a timely manner. There are currently seven (7) clients and property management services provided to ten (10) properties across Manitoba and one (1) property in Ontario. The annual revenue for the properties totalled more than \$3,000,000 annually with a total combined estimated market value of all properties totaling almost \$32,000,000.



### **150 Henry Avenue – Winnipeg**

Owned by MEDO Developments Ltd., 150 Henry Avenue continues to serve as the home office for the Manitoba Métis Federation, where many direct services and programs are offered to Citizens. In addition to service provision, 150 Henry Avenue serves as the government house for the Manitoba Métis Government. It is here that your MMF Cabinet gathers and governs the Métis Nation's Manitoba Métis Community. In partnership with Canada, the MMF will be participating in the "Low Carbon Economy Challenge" – a program for building retrofits to reduce Green House Gas Emissions by 30% by 2030. This partnership will include retrofits to the building's envelope, exterior windows, HVAC systems, and the addition of solar panels. Construction is anticipated to start in the fall of 2021.



**335 Main Street - Winnipeg**

Owned by the Manitoba Métis Federation, the former Bank of Montreal building at the historic Portage & Main intersection is soon to become the home of the Métis Nation Heritage Centre. This one-of-a-kind heritage centre will educate the public on the history, language, culture, methods of governance, and the legacy of the Métis Nation before, during, and after Confederation.



**2000 Portage Avenue - Winnipeg**

Owned by WMA Landholdings Inc., the Michif Child and Family Services Authority continues to provide the essential supports needed to strengthen and support the health and well-being of Métis families. Substantial investments have been made into the HVAC systems and the roof of 2000 Portage Avenue.



**MEDO Square - Winnipeg**

Owned by MEDO Developments Ltd., MEDO Square is a 65,000-square-foot Industrial/office complex and is home to prominent tenants within Manitoba including: the Métis Child and Family Services Authority, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Park Avenue Vending and Manitobah Mukluks. MEDO Developments Limited is actively coordinating with the Winnipeg Transit Service Development Division to ensure their Master Transit Plan aligns with their plans for MEDO Square into the future.



**406/408-412 McGregor Avenue - Winnipeg**

Owned by the Winnipeg Métis Association, McGregor Avenue is home to the Michif Child and Family Services Authority and to the Winnipeg Métis Association's Métis Club, which is a community meeting place for various cultural and regional activities. Recent renovations to the property include new flooring, walls, and ceiling for the Métis Club.



### **29 Royal Road – Portage La Prairie**

Owned by the LRCC's Métis N4 Investment Inc., 29 Royal Road is leased to Métis Child and Family Services to provide essential services to Métis families around the Portage La Prairie region. Essential upgrades to the building include new water heaters, insulation, an AC system, new exterior siding, and a reinforced staircase. The front exterior brick will receive a new paint job in the summer of 2021.



### **456 Fischer Avenue – The Pas**

Owned by the Manitoba Métis Federation, 456 Fischer Avenue is leased to Métis Child and Family Services to provide essential services to Métis families around the The Pas Region and is also home to the MMF The Pas Regional office. 456 Fischer Avenue will undergo improvements to its roof and drainage systems in the spring/summer of 2021.

### **2 – 340 Maclaren Street – Ottawa, Ontario**

340 Maclaren continues to operate as the home office for the Métis National Council (MNC). Located in the nation's capital, the building serves as the location where the Governing Members of the MNC meet and govern the Métis Nation at a national level. The building is owned by both the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (50%) and the Métis Economic Development Organization (50%). Routine maintenance of mechanical and building systems continues.

### **44 Copper Road – Thompson**

44 Copper Road is owned by the Manitoba Métis Federation. Construction of a 3,600-square-foot facility which will accommodate KAO Daycare as a long-term tenant was completed in July of 2021 and is expected to be ready for occupancy in August 2021.

### **95-101 Sutherland – Winnipeg**

MEDO Developments Ltd. currently owns the parking lot and green space located adjacent to MEDO Square. Routine maintenance continues to meet the commercial needs of tenants.

### **49 Austin Street – Winnipeg**

5785066 Manitoba owns and operates the parking lot located at 49 Austin Street in Winnipeg, with a capacity of 185 vehicles. Recent upgrades were completed to replace all electrical outlets with energy-saving plugs.





# Human Resources

## MMF Portfolio

### Minister Anita Campbell



The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) recognizes that our Mission and Vision to serve the Manitoba Métis Community and its Citizens through advancing their cultural, social, economic, and political wellbeing is realized through the hard work and dedication of staff. The purpose of the MMF Department of Human Resources (HR) is to design programs and policy aimed to attract and retain top talent candidates who will contribute to the development, implementation, and administration of programs and services designed to empower and improve the lives of our Métis Citizens.

#### Our Services

Human Resources is a core business function with a focus on human capital management addressing compensation and benefits, recruitment and onboarding of employees, performance management, employee relations, training, organizational design and development, and workplace culture.

#### Our Department

The Manitoba Metis Federation is focused on providing strategic Human Resources Services and Initiatives to staff and Management. The Department is structured with a focus on two specific areas; Recruitment and Employee Relations.

Our Recruitment portfolio is responsible for the development and execution of the recruitment program and strategies with a focus on sourcing, attracting, interviewing, hiring, and onboarding of employees within the Manitoba Metis Federation.

The Recruitment portfolio is comprised of one (1) Talent Acquisition Manager and one (1) Talent Acquisition Specialist. The recruitment portfolio is a service that is in high demand and is forecasted to grow within the next two years. Our Employee Relations Portfolio is responsible for the planning, development, implementation

and promotion of activities and programs that enhance overall employee engagement, communication, and relations while overseeing the compliance of MMF employment policies and practices with relevant employment regulations.

The Employee Relations portfolio is comprised of one (1) Employee Relations Manager and two (2) Employee Relations Specialists.

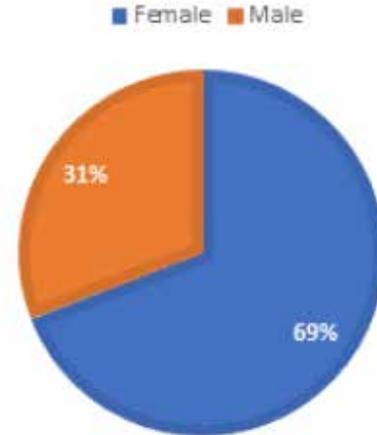
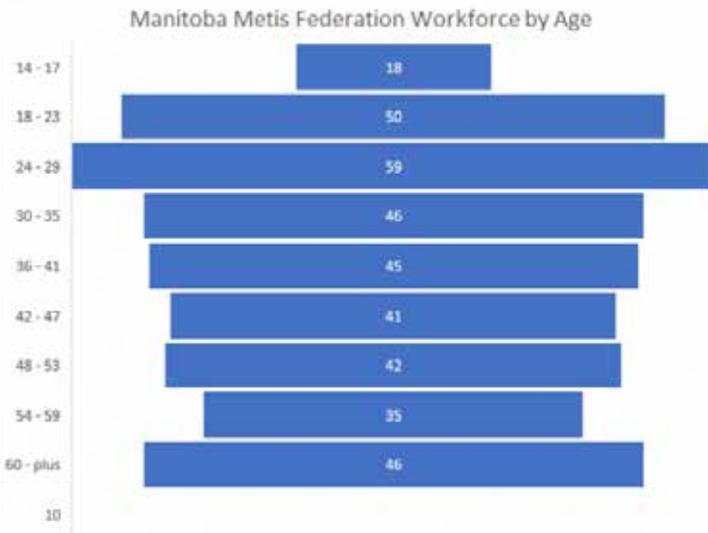
The Director of Human Resources is responsible for the strategic planning, program implementation and overall practices of the human resources department. Our Human Resources Administrative Assistant provides support to all employees within the HR department and is integral in the organization of HR data and duties.

#### Our Workforce

The Manitoba Metis Federation is quickly expanding in all areas of service and program delivery. From the commencement of the 2021 fiscal year the Manitoba Metis Federation has advertised approximately 65 positions and hired 130 new people within the Metis Government. Currently there are 40 active positions posted to be filled. If you are interested in submitting your resume or have any questions about current career opportunities within the Manitoba Metis Federation, please email [jobs@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:jobs@mmf.mb.ca) or visit [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca) for a full list of current opportunities.

The MMF is comprised of approximately 382 employees for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. Please note, that these numbers reflect only those employees specific to the MMF based on the data we were able to quantify and does not reflect employees of the Regional Offices or Affiliates, which would bring our total Métis Government workforce to upwards of over 1000 employees throughout the Manitoba Métis Community.

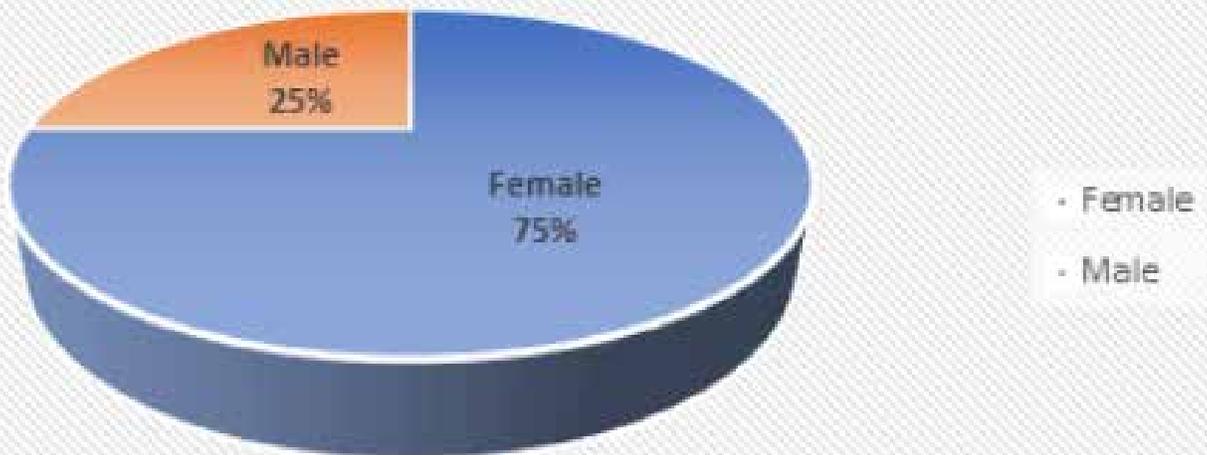
## BREAKDOWN OF MMF WORKFORCE BY IDENTIFIED GENDER



The above graph shows the breakdown of the Manitoba Metis Federation's workforce by age and highlights that the Manitoba Metis Federation employs individuals across all age categories. The Manitoba Metis Federation respects and values the education, knowledge, experience, and contributions each employee provides no matter their age.

Of the approximate 382 employees of the Manitoba Métis Federation 264 identify as female and 118 identify as male. The breakdown of workforce by gender chart reflects a workforce that is predominantly female.

## Breakdown of Leadership by Gender



Further Analysis of Gender within the workforce has determined that most leadership roles are filled predominantly by people who self-identify as Female. The data presented are those of Manitoba Metis Federation employees and do not include Regional or Affiliate numbers, nor that of our Manitoba Metis Federation Cabinet.

### Department Accomplishments and Goals

The Department of Human Resources is currently building a comprehensive Disability Management Program to

streamline processes to provide supports and maintain connections with employees while on leave.

In addition, Employee Engagement Assessments are currently underway to receive valuable employee feedback that will be used to develop programming and policy with a specific focus on meaningful program implementation. This data will be used as a benchmark in the upcoming years to assess the growth and impact of implemented programming and policy.

The Department of HR has identified a variety of programs and projects that need to be developed to realize the vision of the departmental five-year strategic plan. Below is a list of immediate short-term goals the Department of Human Resources is diligently working on:

*Recruitment:* Recruitment is one of the top priorities. As the Métis Government grows it is imperative to have the right people on board to support the mission and vision of the Manitoba Métis Federation. Currently the Department is focused on building up a candidate pool of qualified individuals who are interested in working with the Métis Government so that when positions become available there are qualified candidates to draw from. If you are interested in submitting your resume or have any questions about current career opportunities within the Manitoba Métis Federation, please email [jobs@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:jobs@mmf.mb.ca) or visit [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca) for a full list of current opportunities.

*Metrics:* The focus is to develop systems to track key data of our workforce to develop metrics to better inform departments and leadership as to the current structure of our workforce, identify pressure points that need to be addressed, and to develop programming specific to identified needs.

*Policy:* Currently reviewing all employment policies with the intent to update policies and practices to reflect current needs of Departments and employees. All employment policies will be revised with a focus on gender neutrality to support the commitment our Métis Government has for inclusivity of all people.

*Human Resources Information System:* Currently in the final stages of approving a Human Resources Information Systems to implement and create efficiencies across multiple departments, track and automate data to build reports, and to act as an intranet for employees so everyone is aware of important dates or events.

The Department of HR offers their thanks and appreciation to the Citizens, MMF Leadership and employees of the Manitoba Métis Federation. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the development of policy, process, and programming is underway.





# Information Technology

## Minister Anita Campbell



### Introduction

The MMF Department of Information Technology (MMFIT) is privileged to serve the whole Manitoba Métis Citizens and as such, we were able to witness and participate in many incredible, diverse, and various responses to the pandemic.

MMFIT came together in the spring of 2020 in a way it has never done before. Everyone was focused, ready, and eager to help the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, however they needed to. Programs and remote work that had been slowly evolving had to mature overnight. Every aspect of program delivery and support for our Citizens had to be redesigned.

The department was ready, able, and willing to provide research-ready data services to support rapid expansion in COVID-19 responses, such as work from home deployment, daily online videos and, zoom meetings. Our security, desktop computing, support and, administrative systems were all reworked to support remote work, PPE distribution, security & safety attestations, and a host of changes that evolved as fast as developed solutions could.

For the coming year, they must rethink how better IT can service Citizens and continue to build and expand partnerships, as they are often stakeholders in delivery success. COVID-19 put this idea of “transformation” in a radically new context making it more urgent than ever.

### Our Goals

- Expand support services for remote workers with: Self-service smartphone registration; best practices, new tools, and hardware to speed deployments on site;
- Promote recovery with new abilities and reporting tools;

- Consolidate IT space and staff requirements;
- Expand internally to reduce budget demands;
- System consolidations and decommissioning to reduce operational costs;
- Pursue and collaborate on reporting for the CCRT COVID Committee;
- Expand our research and development services including data repositories and national data consortia and;
- Adapt to new demands as the pandemic evolves.

### Enhance learning & support

Educational tools will be revamped to support more hybrid remote and onsite learning, updated systems for improved automation and reporting capabilities. They will continue to maintain the centrally supported curriculum database. This is to track learner and program performance and have developed plans to support mutual engagement and expectations within MMF program delivery partnerships with MMFIT.

### Create and enhance technology solutions & services

Pilot projects will continue with Microsoft and begin institutional deployment. Support will evolve for the core phone system and expansion of features. An expansion of cloud conversions for mid-tier applications will be a focus to assist us in developing a road map for future capacity.

For years, MMFIT has maintained the MMF Website and is finally preparing to hand off MMF Website control to the MMF Communications

Department. Upgrades will be ensured to all major websites development for other projects to support new server requirements in FY22.

Security compliance will be enforced on Macs and PCs across the MMF and ensure applications are deployed consistently across both platforms. To this end, we will define and pilot initial Linux desktop services for internal research. Lastly, we plan to roll out new services to manage digital signage in lobbies, exhibits, and meeting rooms.

### **Support Computer Science, Innovation & Research**

They will expand existing computational power with an expanded data catalog and new GPU enabled hardware, and plan to pilot cloud-based services that require advanced and extreme computational resources for video editing, streaming, AI and machine learning, research, archives, preservation, converged networking, and audio/visual productions.

Utilizing Tensorflow GPU services with an expanded data catalog and new GPU enabled hardware, MMFIT aims to pilot cloud-based elastic load balancing and hosting on Amazon Web Services. For custom solutions we will develop Linux desktops and open-source options. We will be launching unified storage management tools across converged networks for all MMF Properties. As well, the research and data center support for Computer Science Research and Decentralized Applications will expand.

An important step in successfully delivering programs will include assisting partners in deploying new storage and major upgrades to systems. With large infrastructure investments being made across the MMF, MMFIT will be able to provide access to quality systems and improved security and update antiquated systems to eliminate end of life risks.

Internally, there will be improvements for documentation, repository content and self-management for users, 2 Factor Authentication, as well as developing boilerplate for grants regarding MMF government IT and archival services.

### **Protect institutional infrastructure & data**

MMFIT continued to upgrade core identity and access management systems to enhance:

- onboarding/offboarding procedures;
- account provisioning;
- emergency contact coverage;
- self-service portals;

- system and application timeouts and;
- collaboration with vendors, affiliates, departments and partners.

There will also be an implementation of device security posturing to isolate untrusted devices on the MMF network and introduce user and device certificates to reduce the reliance on passwords.

Expansion into the detection and elimination of outdated, unsupported, or un-managed software will reduce our governmental risk profile. The introduction of automation to speed up response to security alerts will be piloted.

With the implementation to architects, policy makers, regulatory bodies and vendors, MMFIT will assist in delivering an improved access experience regardless of location. As well as the plan to expand detection and protection capabilities of Internet of Things devices on the MMF network and implement email reputation improvement to reduce impersonations and improve secure communications.

We regularly conduct maturity assessments against industry standards with MNP and regulations to ensure continued compliance and will continue to pursue industry leading standards on projects where we can. As well as improve remote access services for common server management protocols like SSH and SFTP.

### **Summary**

Like everyone at MMF, in FY21, MMFIT is committed to doing more. At the peak of the crisis, we proved to ourselves it could be done. With shared purpose, personal engagement, and clear objectives we can move mountains. In broad strokes, our goals are the same. We will replace and upgrade systems. We will provide faster, more efficient services. We will continue our migration to the cloud; grow our repository of archival data; migrate to next generation of analytics; add new tools for research, science, and education; simplify administration and; respond to whatever new regulations, technologies, or crisis that comes our way.

Capturing this sense of mission will newly inform – and transform – everything we do so that every interaction, every upgrade, every email will help us help Citizens.

Contact us at: [support@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:support@mmf.mb.ca)





# Metis Community Liaison Department

## Minister Andrew Carrier



The Métis Community Liaison Department (MCLD) provides support in a culturally appropriate manner for the well-being of Métis Elders, families and Citizens of Manitoba. The MCLD promotes healthy lifestyles, Métis pride, and self-determination. The MCLD assists Métis individuals, families, and Elders access services and resources in their communities, both locally and regionally. Currently, the MCLD has liaison workers in six of the seven regions.

The Métis Community Liaison Department's objective is to provide assistance in the following areas, including, but not limited to:

### **Elder Supports**

#### **Métis Prescription Drug Program (PDP)**

The Prescription Drug Program (PDP) is a Manitoba Métis Federation initiative that pays for Pharmacare eligible prescription drugs. MCLD staff assist our Métis seniors by facilitating intake and collecting supporting documentation. To qualify for this program, clients are to be 65 years of age or older, hold active Métis Citizenship, and have an annual income of \$25,000 or less. This program is in partnership with the MMF Health & Wellness Department and MEDOCare Pharmacy.

#### **Senior Eyeglass Program & Vision Care Initiative**

The Senior Eyeglass Program and Vision Care Initiative helps aid those Métis seniors that require assistance in managing their eye care. This program includes regular eye examinations and prescription eyeglasses. MCLD has continued its partnership with Dr. Nana Owusu and Dr. Renee Phipps, owners of Prairie Eye Care in the City of Winnipeg. Prairie Eye Care has three locations throughout Winnipeg to serve clients with eye exams and eyeglasses

and it is through this partnership that the MCLD has been able to provide services to all Métis Citizens regardless of where they live. Please get in touch with your Regional MCLD worker for further details.

### **Parenting Programs**

#### **Little Métis Sing with Me**

Little Métis Sing with Me is a parent-child literacy program promoting Métis culture, language, and heritage. Programming has been offered in partnership with several different organizations and community groups. The MCLD's Winnipeg staff facilitated the program at Hastings School, Tye Tykes, Lord Selkirk School, and River Elm School. Due to the onset of COVID-19, in-person programming was suspended due to the restrictions, however virtual programming could be accommodated.

#### **Little Moccasins**

Little Moccasins is a Healthy Baby Program, supported by Healthy Child Manitoba, now known as Department of Families, Government of Manitoba. Little Moccasins is a weekly program facilitated by the MCLD, a public health nurse, and a dietitian from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. This program is designed for both pre- and post-natal parents of children up to one year of age from all cultures. Parents have the opportunity to learn and enhance their knowledge on multiple parent-related topics. This program gives parents access to public health, should they require assistance. Healthy snacks are prepared each week from the Healthy Baby Cookbook for participants to enjoy.

Little Moccasins ran every Thursday alternating between the Windsor Park United Church and Access St. Boniface. Programming was

suspended at Windsor Park United Church due to flooding in November of 2019, although programming continued through Access St. Boniface. Due to the onset of COVID-19, in-person programming was temporarily suspended and the preparation for virtual programming began.

On July 9, 2020, the MCLD began offering virtual programming via Zoom with a program running every Thursday afternoon. The department conducted a total of 24 virtual sessions from July to December, 2020. Please check the MMF's social media platforms for details.

### **Triple P Positive Parenting Program (Northwest Region)**

The Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) is an approach to parenting aimed at promoting child development and managing child behaviour in a constructive and non-hurtful manner. The Northwest Métis Council partnered with Mountain View School Division to offer a Triple P group program. Due to COVID-19, this program did not run in 2020.

### **Circle of Security (Northwest Region)**

This eight-week, attachment-based parenting program offers the opportunity to self-reflect and think about parenting in a different way. Due to COVID-19, this program did not run in 2020.

### **Nobody's Perfect (Northwest Region)**

This is a program for parents with children from birth to five years of age. Nobody's Perfect promotes positive parenting and increases parents' understanding of children's health, safety, and behaviour. Due to COVID-19, this program did not run in 2020.

## **Community Initiatives**

### **MMF Bereavement Fund**

The MMF Bereavement fund helps our Métis families in need of financial support with expenses involved with the loss of a loved one. Financial resources are replenished through fundraising efforts of the MMF. The MCLD assists the family by facilitating intake and collecting supporting documentation to ensure the family receives the \$200 donation.

### **Medical Assistance**

This initiative is not an established program, however the need is quite apparent. The MCLD carefully reviews all requests and assesses them on a case-by-case basis. Although the MCLD is not able to provide assistance in every case, the department does its best to provide Citizens with partial supports or referrals to assist their medical needs. Citizens from across Manitoba have approached the MCLD in each of the seven Regions seeking supports of various

forms. Some examples of supports requested and provided include, but are not limited to, medical equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, canes, bathroom bars, shower/tub seats), financial aid for travel to medical appointments (fuel, meals, accommodations), as well as assistance with the purchase of medication.

### **Repatriation – Lost Moccasin Campaign**

The MCLD strives to facilitate the repatriation of Métis adults who were placed for adoption in childhood and wish to reunite with their families of origin, as resources allow. Throughout the years, the Lost Moccasin campaign has been hindered by a lack of financial commitment from the federal and provincial governments. The campaign remains an objective of the department. It is imperative that both levels of government recognize the need for cross-cultural adoptees to re-engage with their families.

### **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program**

This program provides free income tax prep services for Elders, families, and individuals who meet eligibility criteria. The MCLD offers income tax clinics and accepts walk-ins. If for any reason we are unable to provide this service, we will refer clients to Community Financial Counselling Services who will also provide this service free of charge.

### **Christmas Celebrations**

It is an unfortunate reality that many of our Métis children and families go without food during the Christmas season. MCLD staff work diligently with various support programs, churches and the Christmas Cheer Board providing referrals, advocacy, and support to ensure our Métis children and families are accessing these much-needed resources.

We would like to thank the MMF Caucus, MMF affiliates, sponsors, vendors, partnering organizations, and the MMF Citizenship for their continued support and donations.

Due to the pandemic, celebrations were suspended, but the MMF, with the help of the MCLD provided our Citizens with Christmas hampers that included the makings for a Christmas dinner and Christmas goodies for our Citizens to enjoy.

### **Client Supports & Advocacy**

The MCLD provides resources and advocacy to Métis Citizens in a variety of areas including, but not limited to:

- Child & Family Services (CFS)
- Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI)
- Worker's Compensation Board (WCB)

- Employment & Income Assistance (EIA)
- Employment Insurance (EI)
- Old Age Pension (OAS) & Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Income Tax Benefits & Credits
- Residential Tenancies Board (RTB)
- Northern Patient Transportation (NPT)
- Manitoba Health
- Cancer Care

### COVID-19 Initiatives and Preparedness

Due to the onset of COVID-19 in March of 2020, there was a major shift in the MCLD's focus. The department began preparing our Citizens for what was to become mandatory restrictions, which included the province-wide lockdown. The MCLD reached out to all our eElders and most vulnerable Citizens, provided them with Wellness Checks, taught them the proper handwashing protocols, and guided them with how the MMF was there to support them during this uncertain time. We did our best to assist them with their questions about COVID-19 and offer mental health resources. The MCLD staff contacted our Citizens often throughout the year and performed regular Wellness Checks and continued to help raise awareness of the pandemic.

### MMF Covid Hamper Program

In the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, MCLD Winnipeg partnered with Cantor's Quality Meats and Groceries, Downtown Family Foods, and Active Courier to begin preparing and delivering hampers to Métis Citizens in the Winnipeg area. Regional MCLD staff throughout the province worked alongside their VPs to form partnerships and help with the execution of each Region's hamper program. On March 26, 2020, the MMF Hamper program began delivering the first hampers. The program ran throughout the year with five rounds of hampers being delivered. The MCLD assisted with the preparation and delivery of over 8,300 hampers province-wide.

The MMF included Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in each hamper. This consisted of masks, hand sanitizers, and gloves.

### MMF Memorial Service Financial Support Program

The purpose of this Memorial Service Financial Support Program (the "Program") is to assist a deceased Citizen's family with costs associated with the planning of a funeral or memorial service for their loved one. The MMF Program will provide financial assistance of up to \$5,000 to eligible Métis Citizens to cover basic costs associated with funeral home expenses. The MCLD is the central point of contact for the Program and operates as the hub for the intake and facilitation with the funeral homes and families of the deceased Citizen.





# Metis Employment and Training / Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET)

Minister John Fleury

Associate Minister Joan Ledoux



## Overview

The Manitoba Métis Federation's Metis Employment & Training Department (MET) operates through funds provided by the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Agreement with Canada.

The Indigenous Skills and Employment Training links employment and training programming to current and future labour market demands and ensures that Canada's Indigenous people can fully participate in employment and economic opportunities.

The MMF ISET Agreement is a 10-year agreement providing enhanced funding and increased flexibility to create and deliver Métis-specific employment and training programs and services.

The MMF, through the MET department, has successfully provided employment and training programs and services for over 20 years. It is through these programs that MET assisted thousands of Métis to gain the skills, training, and education needed to successfully compete in Manitoba and Canada's labour market.

The MMF is proud to partner with Canada on the ISET Program and has been extremely successful in achieving goals, building

partnerships, and meeting the employment and training needs of our people, our communities and our employer partners.

## Client Services

MET provides a wide range of services to clients seeking employment and training. These services include needs assessment and career planning, employment counselling, job search assistance & supports, access to information and resources, financial sponsorship, skills training, programs to enhance employability, and direct referrals to employer partners.

## Partnerships

Innovative partnerships are a major focus for both the MMF and MET. Partnerships are developed with private industry, government, non-profit and community organizations, training and educational institutions, as well as our own internal MMF departments and affiliates. These innovative and unique partnerships enable us to be responsive to economic and labour market needs, combine resources and common goals, and establish links to meaningful sustainable employment by creating unique employment and training opportunities for our clients and our communities.



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The MMF, through the MET department, has successfully provided employment and training programs and services for over 20 years.

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## COVID Supports & Programming

### Student Supports

Annually, MET supports hundreds of students to attend employment, training, and education programs all across the province. With the COVID-19 pandemic, there was concern about our students and the impact of the pandemic on their learning, so enhanced services were quickly developed and implemented in order to support them.

Supports included:

- Enhancing travel supports for our students attending school away from their home communities so they could return home to their families,
- Providing emergency student support payments,
- Extending training allowance supports for graduating students until they were able to bridge over to the federal emergency student benefit program,

- Creating a new monthly communication and technology allowance to ensure our students were able to continue to engage and participate in learning remotely.
- Developing and implementing a new Client Laptop Loan Program to provide laptops to clients in need so they had the technology needed for remote learning.

All current project-based training programs being delivered at the time of COVID-19 transitioned to remote learning and training continued.

### Enhanced Summer Student Programming

The MMF, through our Helping People Exit COVID (HOPE) Strategy, helped to stimulate and support the Manitoba economy during the pandemic by creating hundreds of summer employment opportunities for our Métis students in our communities across the province.

Through the Summer Student Employment Program, MET partnered with employers across the province to create and support summer jobs for students to earn money and gain real-work experience.



We also expanded our Community Summer Employment Program, working with our Regional Offices to identify communities and implement community work projects, creating more summer jobs for students. These jobs were focused on improving the community and jobs were provided at a local level.

A total of 416 summer employment positions were supported in 2020-2021 with a financial commitment of \$2.8 million.

### Student Benefits Program

MET developed and implemented a new Student Benefits Program in January 2021. The MET Student Benefits Program is the first of its kind, providing MET-sponsored students and their families with support for health care, dental care, and vision care while they are attending training. This program is an excellent example of a wrap-around support for ISET programming, providing supports to sponsored students who would not otherwise have coverage.

### 2020-2021 Results Achieved

Despite COVID-19, Metis Employment & Training once again surpassed its annual Results Targets.

- 2,057 Clients served
- 1,415 Clients supported in Funded Interventions
- 704 Clients employed
- 517 Clients returned to school to pursue further education or training

Funded training interventions include: single-seat sponsorships, project-based training initiatives, wage subsidies, summer employment, and youth programming.

For more information about MET programs and services, employer partnership opportunities and our current recruitment activities, please visit us online at [mmfemployment.ca](http://mmfemployment.ca) or call us at 204-586-8474.





# Metis Justice Institute

## Minister Julyda Lagimodiere



Welcome to The Manitoba Métis Federation's 53rd Annual General Assembly. The Métis Justice Institute (MJl) is pleased to provide you with an update of our department's activities over the last fiscal year.

The MJl present mandate includes a focus on the second year of a five-year strategic plan for the Department. Staff have continued to identify key areas to support our Métis Citizens.

The Métis Justice Institute Department has continued to focus on the delivery of court diversion programs through the Métis and Thompson Community Justice Programs. MJl staff have continued to develop, implement, and deliver justice support programming that includes Domestic Violence, Anger Management, and the Life Skills Program. MJl has continued to assist individuals reintegrating from correctional facilities through the Justice Support Program. The Department has continued to develop community safety planning projects for our most vulnerable Métis Citizens.

Our relationship with the RCMP continues to focus on community-based policing and the inclusion of the Manitoba Métis Government priorities within policing both provincially and federally.

Our relationship with the provincial government continued over the fiscal year and discussions have focused on Manitoba Métis Government inclusion within the Provincial Police Act Review and Indigenous Court worker Program.

In addition, the MJl has also focused on the Manitoba Métis Government's response to emerging changes to service delivery due to the COVID-19 Pandemic for Métis Citizens.

### The Métis Justice Institute

The Métis Justice Institute (MJl) of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) was established in July 2003 and is assigned

the mandate of focusing responsibility and authority for justice issues within the MMF.

The mandate of the MJl is to develop and maintain a full range of justice services and programs that meet the expectations of the Métis Nation in Manitoba. The MJl, guided by the MMF Minister of Justice establishes working relationships and partnerships to provide support and advocacy to Métis Citizens in need of justice support. MJl focuses on the following objectives:

1. Reduce the number of Métis people involved in the Criminal Justice System,
2. Prevent and reduce crime to enhance the safety and well-being of Métis individuals and the Manitoba Métis Community,
3. Strengthen Métis families and the Métis Community to promote a strong Métis Nation,
4. Provide support at the grassroots level where justice measures are developed and delivered by individuals who have a direct interest in the Métis Community, and
5. Ensure that justice measures are culturally relevant and incorporate Métis values, traditions, and culture.

### Current Initiatives

Since the inception of the MJl in 2003, the MJl has continued to lobby Manitoba and Canada to work towards the development of Métis-specific Justice Programs and Services. The MJl has utilized information obtained through Métis Community Consultations to focus efforts to develop Métis Community-based Justice Programming that will support Métis Citizens involved in the Criminal Justice System.

Current Initiatives for the Métis Justice Institute include:

### **Métis Community Justice Program (Mcjp) & Thompson Community Justice Program (Tcjp)**

The Métis Community Justice Program (MCJP) and Thompson Community Justice Program (TCJP) are Court Diversion Programs that enhances the capacity of the Métis Community to deliver culturally appropriate justice alternatives that support the diversion of Métis people from the mainstream justice system to a community-based alternative.

The Programs provide culturally relevant supports, alternatives, advocacy, and resources to individuals who are referred to us from the Provincial Court to deal with justice involvement through a Restorative Justice Process. Our process focuses on building relationships within the community to repair the harm done by those individuals diverted to the program at a community level. The Programs currently operate within the MMF Northwest, The Pas, Interlake, and Thompson Regions.

Over this reporting period, the MJJ has received 128 case diversions (115 Adult Files and 13 Youth Files) from Manitoba Prosecutions and the RCMP for 42 communities located within the MMF Regions. The Combined Number of Charges have involved 187 charges from twenty-nine different Criminal Code Offences. Some individual files involve multiple offences.

Court Diversion clients are required to complete Sanctions and Measures based on the individual circumstances of their offenses. Specifically, Clients may be required to write Letter(s) of Apology / an Essay(s), and / or participate in other MJJ-delivered Programming, Community Service, Restitution, Assessments for Alcohol or Mental Health, etc.

This program focuses on clients participating in activities that are community-determined to assist the client to deal with underlying issues that contributed to their involvement with the criminal justice system.

The MJJ has continued to lobby Manitoba and Canada for additional funds to support the expansion of the court diversion programs to include the remaining MMF Regions not currently serviced with staff. This effort remains an ongoing priority for the department to ensure all Métis Citizens have an opportunity to have access to an alternative to the formal court process if deemed eligible by Manitoba Prosecutions.

### **Justice Support Program (Jsp)**

The Justice Support Program (JSP) was developed by the MMF to focus on the delivery of an efficient and effective reintegration process for Métis Citizens.

The program serves Métis Citizens who have been remanded, released from provincial or federal correctional facilities, or who have received community dispositions.

The JSP assists individuals to overcome barriers and address basic needs such as income, clothing, housing, health, family, etc. The program focuses on developing life skills and promoting job skills, and ultimately supports individuals to become employment or education ready.

## **Justice Programming**

### **Domestic Violence Programming**

The MJJ has continued to deliver the Métis Justice Domestic Violence Program for individuals that require Programming as a part of their Sanctions for Court Diversion. Within Six MMF Regions, programming has been utilized as a component for the MMF's Diversion Programs to assist individuals who require Domestic Violence Programming a component of their court involvement.

A total of 49 Individuals involved in Court Diversion have participated and completed programming within the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Referrals for the Program are received through our MJJ Home Office in Winnipeg.

### **Anger Management Programming**

The MJJ has continued to deliver the Métis Justice Anger Management Program for individuals that require programming as a part of their Sanctions for Court Diversion. Within Six MMF Regions, programming has been utilized as a component for the MMF's Diversion Programs to assist individuals who require Anger Management Programming as a component of their court involvement for both youth and adults.

A total of 31 Individuals involved in Court Diversion have participated and completed programming within the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Referrals for the Program are received through our MJJ Home Office in Winnipeg.

## **Justice Program Development**

### **Life Skills Programming**

New to programming for The Métis Justice Institute is the Métis Justice Life Skills Program. The new program will assist MJJ Clients involved in our Justice Support and Court Diversion Programs. The program aims to empower participants to gain skills and resources to affect positive change in their own lives. The program will focus on the

enhancement and building of individual personal and social skills regarding health and wellness, conflict resolution and communication, time management, gaining employment, managing money, housing, and transportation. Referrals for the program are received through our MJI Home Office in Winnipeg.

### **Métis Community Safety Sessions**

In our continued efforts to enhance the safety and well-being of Métis Citizens and our communities, the MJI has continued to seek out funding opportunities to develop programming that focuses on a variety of community safety issues identified from Métis Citizens. Provincial priorities for information sessions will include:

- Elder Abuse
- Frauds and Scams
- Internet Safety
- Safe Banking Practices
- Fire Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Personal Safety
- Planning for Your Future
- Safe Driving Practices
- Medication Safety,
- Safe Mobility Practices, and
- Substance/Gambling Abuse.

### **Métis Community Inquiries**

The MJI continues to receive inquiries from Métis Citizens in terms of support, advocacy, and information regarding resources to help with specific justice issues.

The MJI does not provide legal services or provide money to pay for services but assists with resource information and paperwork completion to help deal with legal issues.

The MJI has Region-specific listings to assist with resources available in the areas of legal aid referrals, record suspension (formally “pardons”) information, policing issues, advocacy, addictions, housing, transportation, employment and training, Manitoba Public Insurance, Identification, individual support with probation orders, food, and individual support.

### **Policing**

The MJI has continued to enhance a working relationship with the RCMP “D” Division Indigenous Policing Services regarding enhancing and improving policing relationships with Métis Citizens within Manitoba.

Through a developed partnership with the RCMP Métis Community Liaison Officer, the MJI has encouraged the development of a policing policy for the inclusion of the Manitoba Métis Government within the RCMP Annual Performance Plan Process. The MMF is seeking a requirement that all Detachment Annual Performance Plan Processes include Manitoba Métis Government representation. This will help to ensure that policing needs and concerns of Métis Nation in Manitoba are included and prioritized within RCMP Detachments across Manitoba.

### **Ongoing Future Activities**

As directed by The MMF Minister of Justice, Julyda Lagimodiere, the MJI continued efforts this fiscal year to review available funding for each of our MJI Strategic Sectors. These Sectors guide the work undertaken for the department and are dependent on available funding. In addition to the above noted, the following will be our department’s focus for next fiscal year:

The MJI Strategic Sectors are as follows:

1. Youth Justice – This Sector will focus departmental deliverables with a Youth perspective as a vulnerable population with complex needs. This Sector will require a multi-departmental approach to ensure Métis Youth have access to services and programs.
2. Courts – This Sector will focus on departmental deliverables to develop and implement A Métis-specific approach to Courts to ensure Métis Citizens have access to programs and services that meet our unique needs as Indigenous people. This will include the Indigenous Court Worker Program.
3. Victims – This Sector will focus departmental deliverables to include a Métis Community Safety perspective for intervention, prevention, and aftercare. This will include work specific to Missing in Murdered Métis Citizens and their families.
4. Policing – This Sector will focus on the inclusion of the Manitoba Métis Government in legislation regarding police, service delivery, and culturally appropriate inclusion of the MMF in the delivery of Indigenous Police Services.

These Sectors will provide the strategic direction to The Métis Justice Institute for the future development of Métis Justice for Métis Citizens within Manitoba.

## **Conclusion**

The MMF Minister of Justice and Métis Justice Institute staff are committed to continue work over the next year on the above-noted Initiatives and to further develop justice programs and services needed within the Manitoba Métis Community to assist Métis Citizens involved within the Criminal Justice System.

The MJI is committed over the next fiscal year to look for innovative ways to support our Citizens. Specifically, the department is changing and enhancing service delivery to provide additional avenues for Métis Citizens to access programs across Manitoba by way of utilizing technology for online and telephone program delivery. By developing new service delivery methods, the MJI will be able to ensure easy access to programming for Métis Citizens across the province.

Future Department activities will include the development of Community Safety Programming, undertaking Research to assist with future planning for programs and services and the continuation of programs already available through the Department.

If you would like further information on any of the initiatives through the MJI, please feel free to contact our office at:

### **Métis Justice Institute**

150 Henry Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3B 0J7  
(204) 586-8474  
(800) 665-8474





# Metis Rights & Constitution

## Minister Judy Mayer



These are exciting times as the department continues forward with providing responsible and accountable governance to Métis Citizens. Last Annual General Assembly (AGA), Local leaders were provided with a package of proposed amendments to the Constitution that will be voted on at this AGA.

### Identity

The Red River Métis are in the middle of a turning point. Across eastern Canada, Métis identity is being misappropriated and stolen from us. What is happening right now is Métis identity theft at an unprecedented level.

People in Eastern Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes are attempting to use the MMF's recent legal and political successes to assert their own rights and receive benefits. Many of these people may have legitimate claims to being Indigenous, but simply put – they are not us and we are not them. It took The Red River Métis decades in the courts and nearly 150 years of struggle to get the recognition.

It is known that the Métis Nation was born in the Red River. The Métis flag was first unfurled here. The beautiful prairie flower beadwork has its roots here, as does Michif. It can only be found here. The Red River Métis formed a unique identity here in the Red River and those in Mattawa and Toronto cannot say the same.

Despite this distinct history and culture, the Presidents of Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation- Saskatchewan, and Métis Nation British Columbia are willing to be accomplices and support the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and sell out the Métis Nation. Now that the Métis National Council has become a pan-aboriginal organization by allowing MNO to remain a

governing member, the MMF once again stands alone as the last defender of the Nation.

Though this has been a disheartening struggle, one that was forced upon the MMF by the other governing members, this is an important opportunity to shape history, build a new vision, and stand for the Métis Nation. At the 2019 AGA, our Citizens provided us with the direction to withdraw ourselves from the Métis National Council (MNC) should the MNO be allowed to remain a member with full rights of the MNC. It is with this guidance that the MMF was forced to withdraw from the MNC and assert itself as the sole national voice for the true Métis Nation.

This is a responsibility that is not taken lightly. Moving forward, your Métis Government will continue to remain dedicated to defending the Métis Nation and standing strong for what we truly believe in. Regardless of where Red River Métis Citizens reside, if they are one of us then we are here to stand strong and protect their rights as well as political, social, and economic interests.

### Locals

Traditionally, the Métis Nation has heavily emphasized grassroots participation and using the wisdom of our Citizens to guide our elected representatives as we move forward on major issues. Strong, active Locals are critical to fulfilling this vision and as such, three resolutions are being brought forward to better equip our Locals with the constitutional tools to strengthen your Métis Government.

One of these proposed amendments is to give Locals the ability to separate the secretary and treasurer positions.

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MMF Citizens have emphasized that splitting this position into two is critical for large Locals, as the responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer have increased, and they require more support. This amendment will prove beneficial as the Locals continue to expand in terms of both Citizens and activities in their community.

In another resolution, your Métis Government is also looking to formalize the definition of an “Active Local” to set the universal standard for what the MMF defines as an Active Local.

These two resolutions constitute further steps in enhancing our democracy. Over the coming years there will be consultations with Local leaders and Citizens of the MMF on what is needed to further strengthen our democratic foundations as your Métis Government.

### **Elections**

Democracy is a fundamental value of the Métis Nation. Since the days of the buffalo hunt, Métis have held elections where our Community comes together and selects the Captain of each buffalo hunt. The MMF has remained a protector of the democratic rights of our Citizens. Whether it be participating in the federal, provincial, municipal, or Métis Government elections, we want to encourage all to fulfill their role and participate in the democratic process.

With your Métis Government preparing for an election in 2022, several resolutions were prepared to make necessary tweaks to current MMF Elections By-Laws. These small changes are things that have been actively practiced in the past, but never formally made part of our Constitution. Please see below a list of elections-related resolutions that are being brought forward this year:

- Defining "Polling Station"
- Defining "Deputy Returning Officer"
- Drafting a preliminary List of Electors
- Appointing a Regional Returning Officer
- Appointing a Chief Electoral Officer
- Calling of an Election
- Compiling a List of Electors
- Not allowing Additions to Voters List the Day of Election
- Specifying that Only Electors are Entitled to Vote
- Establishing a Duty to Appoint Election Officials
- Implementing the Qualification of Candidates

### **Inclusivity**

As your Métis Government continues to grow and evolve, it must also stay current with the times. With this in mind, two resolutions were proposed to support making the Constitution Gender Neutral and allow for Citizens to identify as gender neutral on their Métis Government documents.

During the events of 1869-70, Louis Riel and the Provisional Government submitted the Bill of Rights as the foundation of the negotiations that eventually led to the Manitoba Act. It is because of our Ancestors' efforts that the French language is constitutionally protected in the province the Red River Métis created.

In the spirit of getting back to Métis roots, an AGA resolution was introduced to have our French language version of the MMF name.

As the government of the Red River Métis, the MMF not only recognizes, but emphasizes the importance of ensuring the ability of Citizens to participate in the exercising of their rights in a manner that is inclusive and welcoming.

## **Governance**

As the responsible Minister, Minister Judy Mayer is the chair of the Governance Committee that includes the participation of her fellow Ministers, Leah LaPlante and Julyda Lagimodiere. They provide hands-on direction to staff and advice to President Chartrand and the Cabinet on key governance matters.

President Chartrand took the lead on the Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement. This was signed by Canada's Crown Indigenous Relations Minister, Carolyn Bennett, on July 6, 2021. With the signing of this document, the MMF is recognized as the existing government of the Red River Métis, also known as the Manitoba Métis – the origin and home of the Métis Nation. Along with this immediate recognition, it is also agreed that the MMF represents the Red River Métis regardless of where they now call home.

We are entering a new era as the MMF asserts itself as the national voice and protector of the Red River Métis. This national responsibility is taken very seriously, as well as the commitment to continuing to evolve and adapt our institutions of governance to the everchanging political and legal landscape that is unfolding around us.

This is a historic turning point of our nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationship with the federal government. Our negotiators are working with Canada to protect this agreement in a Modern-Day Treaty as well as the working to settle the historic Land Claim.

## **Summary**

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Minister Judy Mayer at the Pas Office. Included is a copy of the Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement and a backgrounder to help highlight critical parts of the agreement. These truly are exciting and historic times for the MMF, and Minister Mayer would like to thank her fellow Governance Committee members, Ministers LaPlante and Lagimodiere, for their hard work and dedication to moving this portfolio forward. The constitution is a document that is meant to evolve alongside the ever-changing political and legal landscape.

Minister Mayer would also like to extend her sincerest gratitude to all the Citizens who participate in our governance system, from Local executives to all who participate in our consultations, Regional meetings, and AGA, and expresses her conviction that the dedication of our grassroots is exactly what our Ancestors envisioned all those years ago.



# Michif Language

## Minister Andrew Carrier



The 2020-21 year was a productive one for the Michif Portfolio despite COVID-19 restrictions. Fortunately, the funder, Heritage Canada, allowed for extensions and amendments to projects that included gatherings, trainings, or person-to-person interviews. Disbursed funds were allowed to be used “to cover reasonable eligible expenses incurred up to the total amount approved.” The following projects took place over the year:

### **The Michif Revitalization Proposal – \$250,000**

(2019-2021) was approved by the Indigenous Languages Component, the Department of Canadian Heritage, for \$250,000. The proposal was submitted by the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) as a governing member. Once it was approved, the due date was extended to March 31, 2021. The Louis Riel Institute (LRI) carried out the project for the MMF Michif Portfolio. To set the foundation for further revitalization work in Michif and other Métis Languages, this project focussed on the development of a language assessment survey, starting a strategic plan for Michif in the province, training stakeholders in proven Language Revitalization methods, proper documenting and archiving of language samples, and investing in video and audio equipment to get out to communities to start documenting our Elders.

To carry out the activities with community input, a working circle was created including the LRI, Prairies to Woodlands Language Revitalization Circle, and contractors, to carry out the work. An advisory group was then set up, called the Michif Community Circle, with 30 participants including youth, learners, teachers, Speakers, technicians, Elders, professionals, and one delegate from each MMF Region. The COVID-19 restrictions meant moving all community meetings and trainings to Zoom, and moving funds from travel to equipment, professional fees and honorariums. With the extension, and the hard work of the staff, contractors and Community Circle,

most of the original deliverables were reached including developing a Communications strategy and Facebook page. To include other Métis Languages, the working group’s name going forward will be the Métis Languages Collaborative.

The challenges the LRI faced in carrying out this project for the MMF Michif Portfolio included redesigning the project to work under COVID-19 restrictions and working without the funding being advanced. The LRI carried out the activities, which included paying community members, speakers, technicians, trainers, language professionals, and Elders, for their services.

### **Michif Documenting and Indexing**

**Project – \$295,000 (2020-21)** The LRI directly applied to Heritage Canada Indigenous Languages Component for an additional Michif project for the 2020/21 fiscal year, requesting approximately \$320,000. This project was designed to continue with the foundational work started in the Michif Revitalization project, including training documenters, indexers, transcribers, archiving staff, and beginning the work to document, index, transcribe, and digitize language samples. The LRI and Prairies to Woodlands have worked closely as part of the Métis Languages Collaboration, to hire or contract professionals as required for the training. Both existing and new language samples will be shared with users through a language sharing platform called Mukurtu. This project also required some redesigning and an extension due to continued pandemic restrictions. As of March 2021, the project was extended to September 30, 2021. An important piece of this project was to develop capacity for all the work required to revitalize Indigenous languages. Interested learners and speakers are being trained in some of the technical aspects. These are jobs that will become more plentiful and full-time positions will be available now that long term language revitalization funding is in

our near future. The Michif Portfolio will provide meaningful work in the Métis community in the years to come.

**Metis National Council Funds – \$250,000 (2020-21)**

was a third source of funding for Michif this year. It was earmarked for the LRI's assistance on the Michif Symposium, honorariums for guest presenters from the Manitoba Métis community, as well as other Michif revitalization work deemed a priority by the LRI. Language Revitalization best practices recommend documenting language samples as the number-one priority when a language is as endangered as Heritage (or Southern) Michif. As a result, a portion of the funds were used to acquire additional video, auditory, and editing equipment for use in documenting the dwindling fluent Michif speakers in the province. The LRI committed another portion of the funds to transcribing tapes from a Belcourt Michif radio show done in the 1980s with a fluent Michif interviewer and fluent speakers. Verna Demontigny, one of the few Michif Speakers left able to handle such a task has taken this on.

A second project deemed to be a priority was to train Verna Demontigny and her husband Harvey Pelletier to use Go-Pro equipment to document everyday conversations in everyday activities at home. Verna and Harvey are one of the only couples remaining who both speak Michif. They have been hired full time by Prairies to Woodlands to assist with these projects and more. Prairies to Woodlands has been contracted through the LRI to oversee the projects due to their knowledge, experience, and training in language revitalization and documentation. The work on the last two items had to be pushed into the next fiscal year.

Other Métis languages projects happening in Manitoba with members of the Métis Languages Collaborative:

**Master Apprenticeship Program (MAP)** – Prairies to Woodlands continued to run MAP with pandemic-safe adjustments to keep pairs as family members only or meeting by Zoom. MAP is known as the most effective program to create speakers due to the immersion nature of it.

**Updated Chippawa Cree Online Dictionary (Heritage Michif)**

– Prairies to Woodlands has also continued their work on updating, expanding, and digitizing the classic dictionary, which was out of print, with linguist Olivia Sammons, and Speaker Verna Demontigny and other Elders doing auditory work for the dictionary. This will be an excellent learning resource when it is done later in 2021.

**Michif 1 & 2 University of Manitoba credit courses** – The courses were offered again this year with enough demand to create Michif 2. The free community sessions were available on Saturdays. All learning moved to Zoom this year with instructor Heather Souter. The U of M is considering a level 3 course. These students are excellent candidates to become part of future MAP programs and become our future teachers and speakers.





# Natural Resources

Minister Leah LaPlante

Associate Minister Shawn Nault



The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Natural Resources portfolio, housed within the MMF's Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management department, is centered around the Métis Laws of the Harvest and the constitutionally protected section 35 rights. As the Minister Responsible for Natural Resources, Leah LaPlante is dedicated and passionate about protecting Métis harvesters, and has ensured that the Manitoba Métis Community's concerns and interests are brought forward to help conserve and manage the lands, waters, and resources of Manitoba. The MMF would like to thank Minister LaPlante and Associate Minister Shawn Nault for their unwavering dedication to this portfolio, and for their work to ensure that natural resources issues are handled with the attention they deserve. A few developments within the portfolio through 2020-2021 include the following:

## Harvesting

Delegates to the 2018 MMF Annual General Assembly (AGA) voted unanimously in favour of a Resolution to defend Métis harvesting rights in Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) bordering the Recognized Métis Harvesting Area (RMHA), including: 1) the Grass River Region (GHAs 5, 7, and 7A); and, 2) the Manigotagan Region (GHA 26 and the portion of GHA 17A outside of the Pimitotah Traditional Land Use Planning Area/ Bloodvein Registered Trapline). Despite the MMF's best efforts, the Manitoba government continues to ignore both Canada's Constitution protecting Métis harvesting rights as well as the provincial Crown's commitments in the 2012 MMF-Manitoba Harvesting Agreement. In September 2019, delegates to the MMF AGA voted unanimously for the MMF to consider providing legal support to Métis harvesters who exercise their constitutionally protected rights in the areas outside of the RMHA, including GHAs 2A, 4, 21, 21A, and the Upper and Lower Nelson River systems and Churchill Region.

The provincial government continues to charge Métis harvesters who exercise their constitutionally protected right to harvest. A Métis harvester must follow the laws of public safety, must adhere to Métis Laws of the Harvest: Revised 3rd Edition, and must hold a validated MMF Harvester Card with the current year's Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) sticker. Following these requirements, in the case of a wrongful harvesting charge, harvesters may contact the MMF's Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management Department. Once contacted, the MMF will gather harvesting charge information and will determine the necessary steps required to decide whether support and legal assistance can be provided. The MMF reminds all harvesters that they are taking a risk while harvesting in RMHA Expansion Areas [i.e., GHAs in which the 2018 MMF AGA voted unanimously to defend Métis harvesting rights (GHAs 5, 7, 7A, 17A, 26)] as well as areas outside of the RMHA.

Due to recurring issues with Métis harvesters hunting on private property with verbal permission only, a permission slip must now be used to obtain written permission from private landowners. The permission slip will reduce the chance of harvesters being faced with a situation if the landowner decides to revoke permission after the fact. Be aware that verbal permission is no longer acceptable and that it is the responsibility of the harvester to understand where they are harvesting. Written permission from private landowners supports the Métis rights to harvest on private property when approached by a Conservation Officer. Permission slips are available at the MMF Home Office, Regional Offices, and on the MMF website at [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca).

Métis harvesters must validate their Métis Harvester Card yearly by purchasing the current year's CTF sticker on or after April 1. In addition, harvesters are required to complete the mandatory MMF Harvesting Survey prior

to receiving the new season's CTF sticker and big-game tags. The survey is important to help manage resources, monitor harvesting activity, and increase conservation efforts throughout the province. The MMF developed and launched an online version of the survey in March 2021 that will decrease human input error and improve the overall harvesting reporting system. The online survey is available for valid Métis harvesters on the MMF website at [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca).

### **Night Hunting**

Following consultations with the Manitoba Métis Community regarding night hunting, the MMF submitted a report to the provincial government and passed two Resolutions at the 2017 AGA. First, a complete prohibition on dangerous spotlighting throughout Manitoba, and second, prohibition of night hunting within Agro Manitoba from dusk to dawn, with continued night hunting and stationary spotlighting in Non-Agro Manitoba when away from settlements and local populations. On February 9, 2018, the MMF Cabinet passed the MMF Night Hunting and Night Lighting Agro-Zone Boundary Resolution, providing policy specifying the Métis night hunting law in Manitoba, including definitions, maps, and map notes. All information regarding night hunting can be found on the MMF website at [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca).

### **Parks Canada**

The MMF and Parks Canada have worked to expand Parks Canada's Indigenous Open-Door Program by providing free entry for Citizens of the Manitoba Métis Community into Parks Canada-administered national historic sites and national parks throughout the Manitoba Métis Nation, including the Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site, the Riel House National Historic Site, and Riding Mountain National Park. Manitoba Métis Citizens in possession of their MMF Citizenship Card and/or Métis Harvester Card are provided free entry. Parks Canada's Indigenous Open-Doors Program provides free entry; however, other fees for attractions and services, including tours, workshops, and special programming, or any other fees associated with the site do still apply and must be paid at the visitor centre.

### **Caribou**

The MMF has taken part in the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC) since its beginnings in 2018. The NBCKC brings together a number of participants with knowledge relating to and experience working with boreal caribou, including federal and provincial governments, academic institutions, industry, non-governmental organizations, and Indigenous governments and representatives. The NBCKC has developed working groups in which the MMF has been actively involved, including the Indigenous Knowledge Circle, the Monitoring Working Group, the Habitat Restoration Working Group, and the Chronic Wasting Disease Knowledge Network. The NBCKC provided

the opportunity to learn about caribou conservation projects across the country, to explore partnerships, and ensure that the voice, concerns, and views of the Manitoba Métis Community are included in caribou conservation work.

The MMF holds a yearly Caribou Workshop in northern Manitoba to collect valuable information from the Manitoba Métis Community pertaining to caribou. The MMF has determined during these meetings that there is a concern for diminishing caribou populations across the province as well as a need for support for immediate conservation efforts to ensure species survival. In the winter of 2020, the MMF began work on Project Caribou, a caribou monitoring and research project using motion-activated monitoring cameras installed throughout critical caribou wintering habitat in northern Manitoba. Moving forward, the MMF will continue working with the NBCKC to ensure that the Manitoba Métis Community is well represented and plans to continue work on Project Caribou as a step towards protecting caribou in Manitoba.

### **Moose**

In 2011, the provincial government implemented moose harvesting closures in the Duck Mountain and Porcupine Mountains (i.e., GHAs 13, 13A, 18, 18A, 18B, and 18C) without meaningful or adequate consultation with the Manitoba Métis Community. The MMF, in response to conservation concerns highlighted by the Manitoba Métis Community, initiated a voluntary closure of moose harvesting in the above-noted GHAs as an exercise of stewardship and self-government rights. The Manitoba Métis Community has not been meaningfully consulted or engaged regarding moose management decisions, including ongoing conservation closures or any proposed changes since the closures were put in place.

In October 2020, using a conservation-minded approach, the MMF announced the reopening of GHAs 13 and 13A – Porcupine Mountains – and GHAs 18, 18A, 18B, and 18C – Duck Mountain – for the harvest of bull moose (i.e., no cows, calves, or yearlings) on a limited basis for Manitoba Métis harvesters through the Moose Conservation Harvesting Initiative. The Moose Conservation Harvesting Initiative consisted of Conservation Moose Tags, Captains of the Hunt, and Conservation Moose Harvesting Parties. A live draw took place with one Conservation Moose Tag being issued to each successfully drawn Captain of the Hunt on behalf of all Métis harvesters of their Conservation Moose Harvesting Party. Each Conservation Moose Tag was GHA-specific, with a total of 16 tags being issued for Duck Mountain and 10 tags for the Porcupine Mountains.

Moving forward, the Department will be researching the permitting required for the MMF to complete its own moose surveys to obtain science-based evidence for future harvesting initiatives. A long-term goal of the Métis Government is to establish an Elders Harvesting Committee

that can be consulted on resource management issues such as moose conservation.

## Forestry

Forestry projects have a common theme of proposed timber harvesting, access development, access control, forest renewal activities, and road development and decommissioning – which directly affect Métis harvesting rights.

The MMF Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management Department is currently involved in the Crown consultation process in relation to the following forestry plans:

1. 5-Year Central Region Forestry Plan
2. Duck Mountain Provincial Park Forest Operating Plan
3. Jack Pine Budworm Salvage Harvest
4. Louisiana Pacific 20-Year Forest Management Plan
5. Louisiana Pacific and Mountain Quota Holders Association 2020-2022 Operating Plan
6. Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation 2021-2023 Operating Plan

As these Forestry Management Plans may impact the rights, claims, and interests of the Manitoba Métis, Crown consultation must take place to ensure that impacts are minimized and opportunities for accommodation and mitigation are fully explored.

The MMF is also pursuing Métis traditional economies such as sustainable forestry operations. Restoring traditional economies provides an opportunity to conserve natural ecosystems and supply Métis Citizens and harvesters with on-the-land job opportunities. The MMF will continue to explore sustainable forestry opportunities to ensure the Métis Government participates in forest management.

## Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

In January 2020, the MMF finalized two multi-year contribution agreements with Environment & Climate Change Canada that provides the MMF with multi-year funding to work towards creating two Indigenous Protected & Conserved Areas (IPCAs). The first IPCA is located in the The Pas and Northwest Regions within the Kettle Hills Blueberry Patch. The second IPCA is in the Thompson Region, from Caribou River Provincial Park to Wapusk National Park.

The purpose of the IPCAs is to conserve and protect Canada's wildlife and habitat along with ensuring Métis Citizens are engaged in conservation. The MMF has conducted a literature review and held interviews with other Indigenous

Nations to identify avenues to formally protect the IPCAs. Specific to the Kettle Hills Blueberry Patch IPCA, the MMF conducted a Constraints and Opportunities Analysis to help further identify the small, medium, and large constraints in this area as well as identify opportunities for co-management. Additionally, the Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management Department presented on the IPCA initiative during The Pas' Regional Meeting and a Thompson Region IPCA Community Workshop, which provided an opportunity for Métis Citizens to ask questions, complete a survey, and comment on a Métis-specific IPCA governance model.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management department created online surveys for Métis Citizens to remain engaged in the IPCA projects. In January 2021, an IPCA survey contest was released on the MMF website for Métis Citizens to voice opinions, perspectives, and enthusiasm in the creation of IPCAs. Through this survey, the MMF was able to gain Métis-specific insight regarding protected areas, governance, and management structures.

For questions concerning the Natural Resources portfolio, you may contact Connor Staub, Resource Management Coordinator, by phone at (204) 586-8474 or by email at [connor.staub@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:connor.staub@mmf.mb.ca).

And for questions concerning the Forestry and IPCA files within the Natural Resources portfolio, you may contact Riley Bartel, Conservation and Lands Coordinator, by phone at (204) 586-8474 or by email at [riley.bartel@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:riley.bartel@mmf.mb.ca).





# Provincial Education

Minister Joan Ledoux

Associate Minister David Beaudin



The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), Provincial Education continued with its reorganization of the Department affirming its commitment to restructure the department to facilitate the creation of a province-wide strategy on education. The goal was to ensure that support was provided to Métis students at all levels of education beginning with K-12 right through to post-secondary education.

## Post-Secondary Education

The Manitoba Métis Nation and the Government of Canada signed the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, through which the MMF is investing \$90 million over the next ten years in support of Métis post-secondary education in Manitoba. They are striving to close the post-secondary education (PSE) attainment gaps between Métis students and the non-Indigenous Canadians through multi-level delivery of a wide range of supports. This plan, will contribute to the success of students and contribute to the broader strategic outcomes of self-government and self-determination. This multi-layered approach of providing supports aid in the delivery of programs, strengthening education, social and economic outcomes and contribute to life-long learning for Métis students.

The Post-Secondary Education Support Program Working Group Committee continued to provide oversight and had the responsibility to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the department.

## Post-Secondary Education Financial Support System (PSESP)

The Provincial Education launched the third PSESP online application in July, 2021. A PSESP Selection Review Sub-Committee and Appeals Sub-Committee have been put in place for application approvals. In 2019/2020 we were pleased to report that 671 students completed their applications online. Within three days

of launching approximately 300 students had completed their application online. It is anticipated that the final number for 2020/2021 will be greater than the previous year. Students who are approved for funding must complete the Metis 101 online course before funds are released.

## Partnerships and MOUs with Post-Secondary Institutions

The MMF and the University of Winnipeg (U of W) signed a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January 2018. In 2019-2020, the U of W prepared a research report on Early Development Instrument (EDI) and Métis education, which showed that, while Manitoba generally fairs poorer than the rest of Canada with respect to EDI scores, Métis children continue to fare worse than other children in the province, with over one-third of Métis children developmentally vulnerable. This translates into a lower educational outcome for Métis students. Further research is being done focussing on increasing tutoring resources and the department plans to develop educational centres in each region to provide increasing supports for Métis students.

Another level of support is at the university level. The MMF has partnered with the University of Manitoba (U of M) to have a Métis Inclusion Coordinator on campus to ensure Métis students have access to Métis-specific programming, resources and events being held on campus. As well, the MMF Provincial Education continues to work on partnerships with post-secondary institutions to develop academic supports to ensure Metis students' success in their academic studies. MOUs and partnerships with other post-secondary institutions are currently also being pursued.



Senior Director  
Rachel Charette

<b>2020-2021 Post-Secondary Education Support Program</b>	
2020/2021 PESP Intake Update (\$5000)	March 31, 2021
Total Eligibility Forms Initiated:	1,391
Total Eligibility Forms Not submitted	323
Total Applications Completed and Awarded:	873
Total Applications Submitted for Payment:	873

### **Financial Aid and Awards**

On behalf of the MMF Provincial Education Department, the LRI, in partnership with post-secondary institutions, administered the Louis Riel Bursary (LRB) endowment. The LRB Endowment Fund is currently at \$25 million. Other bursaries provided by the MMF are; the Mary Guilbeault Métis Bursary, the Vickar Community Chevrolet Métis Student Award, the Audreen Hourie Indigenous Governance Graduate Fellowship and the Senator Gerry and Margaret St. Germain Bursary. Table 2 found at the end of the report shows the LRB endowment statistics for

7. support from the provincial government for programs that support Métis student success.

In February 2020, the MMF Provincial Education Department conducted a consultation conference called, "Creating Our Own Future." The focus of the conference was on the needs of the students and plans for moving forward for the K-12 education. Over 80 professional educators attended the conference to learn more about Métis education. Topics of discussion included the state of education, current issues, best practices, curriculum, Métis identity, how we engage students, and post-secondary preparation. Recommendations were developed, including a comprehensive consultation with the Regions. The consultations continue via virtual technology despite the interruption of COVID-19 related set-backs.

### **K-12 Education**

In June 2019, the MMF Provincial Education Department made a submission to Manitoba's Commission on K-12 Education. Recommendations to improve the education of Métis students in K-12 and to promote the awareness of Métis people, culture, and history in Manitoba for all students. Recommendations included:

### **Blueprint for Indigenous Education Steering Committee**

The Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint was signed in December 2015. The steering committee is composed of representatives from all ten of Manitoba's post-secondary institutions (University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Brandon University, University College of the North, Assiniboine Community College, Red River College, Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology, Université de St. Boniface, and Canadian Mennonite University), as well as the Manitoba School Boards Association, Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools, the Manitoba Metis Federation Provincial Education, Manitoba Inuit Association and the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre. The Blueprint is an initiative that commits to making excellence in Indigenous post-secondary education a priority.

1. to use the MMF/U of W research on educational outcomes to guide interventions for Métis students.
2. cease the pan-Indigenous approach to education and focus on approaches that are more distinction-based for Métis students.
3. mandatory professional development for Manitoba teachers on Métis perspectives
4. mandatory Métis content in the curriculum from K-12.
5. consultations between the provincial government and the MMF
6. accountability from the provincial government with regard to the Aboriginal Academic Achievement Grant that they receive from the federal government.

### **Frontier School Division**

In September 2020, the MMF Provincial Education Department reached out to Reg Klassen, Chief Superintendent of the Frontier School Division (FSD) to discuss ways to improve educational outcomes for Métis students. Meetings and other forms of communication

were undertaken between September through December 2020. The relationship between FSD and the Department has been and remains positive, with discussions on a variety of topics related to supporting Métis students in K-12. During the meetings, Provincial Education staff reiterated the department's vision for Métis education: Improving outcomes for K-12 students; providing financial and academic supports to post-secondary students; and the creation of Educational Hubs in each of the seven regions to ensure a presence in each Region and to respond to local strengths and needs.





# Riel House

## Minister Andrew Carrier



The Louis Riel Institute (LRI) at Riel House National Historic Site (NHS) had an interesting and unique summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions. The pandemic allowed for improvements such as painting and repairs to take place during this time at Riel House National Historic Site.

Five students were hired for summer 2020 who were trained and managed by Shirley Delorme Russell, Instructor of Métis History and Culture. The staff had two weeks of training and planning at the Louis Riel Institute. They were hardworking and extremely adaptable as COVID-19 restrictions and regulations changed within the city, the province, and the country which affected the opening of Riel House NHS. Despite the public only being allowed on the grounds, and not in the house, the interpreters found creative ways for visitors to enjoy Riel House. Interpreters facilitated enjoyable

experiences from doorways while visitors looked in or peeked through open windows.

Additionally, a “Riel House on the Move” program was created where staff were able to attend one daycare to deliver the program before the house opened. Again, due to COVID-19 restrictions, there were no special events at Riel House this year. The Soiree Jeudi/ Thursday Jam, the Métis Harvest Corn Roast, Canada Day and any related Manitoba 150 events were all cancelled.

### Visitor Statistics

Total Visitors to Riel House NHS in 2020 = 388 visitors

Off site visits to daycares = 120 children

Total participants = 508

Date	Adults	Seniors	Students	Children
May 2020	Due to COVID we were not open- we had 0 school groups			
June 2020	Due to COVID we were not open- we had 0 school groups			
July 2020	We opened to the public July 18 <sup>th</sup>			
July 18-31 2020	38	2	4	20
Aug 1-26 2020	174	51	33	66
	212	53	37	86



**LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE**  
Knowledge • Culture • Heritage



# Sports & Youth

## Minister Richard Genaille



This past year has been challenging with COVID-19; however, the Sports & Youth Portfolio has adapted the delivery of its Youth programming, incorporating technology methods to host many Youth activities and events remotely. Our Youth made engagement a priority and focused on creating a sense of togetherness throughout the pandemic, developing virtual Youth engagement strategies.

### Youth Advisory Committees

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Regional Youth Advisory Committees as well as our Provincial Youth Advisory Committee met regularly to strategize Youth engagement, as well as to discuss and plan Youth programming initiatives. Committee members also attended a variety of Métis events, providing insight on the Youth perspective.

Through a year like no other, the Committee members persevered to bring forth strategies to ensure that Youth were engaged, stayed home, and stayed safe.

### Sports and Recreation Camps

The Sports & Youth Portfolio strives to ensure that sports and recreational camps are delivered throughout the province to provide engaging opportunities to keep our Métis Youth active.

We are working to enhance and expand our Youth camp activities and provide activities throughout the year. To date we have provided the following types of Youth Camps:

- Leadership
- Land-Based
- Sports – Hockey, Softball, Golf
- Tim Horton Camp

### Individual Youth Sports, Culture, and Recreation Sponsorship

Through this program, Youth ages 17 and under can apply for and access individual sponsorship to an annual maximum of \$350 to participate in sports, culture, and recreation activities. The program promotes healthy living and wellness, and supported 403 Métis Youth during the year.

### Programs and Services

The MMF's Youth programming focuses on creating programs and services that will enhance the knowledge, skills, and experiences of our Métis Youth. As the MMF shifted to online services, many of the Sports & Youth programs and activities were delivered virtually, including computer skills training, Hunter Safety courses, jigging, fiddling, beading, yoga and job search workshops, as well as various contests, video game tournaments, and events, including Zoom with Santa.

We collaborate with our Youth Committees to engage our Métis Youth and to create, implement, and promote Youth initiatives at both a provincial and regional level.

For more information about MMF Youth programs and services, please visit us online at [mmfmetisyouth@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:mmfmetisyouth@mmf.mb.ca), call us at 204-586-8474, or connect with your MMF Regional Office.



**Affiliates**





# Louis Riel Capital Corporation

## LRCC Board of Directors

Chair Leah LaPlante

Vice Chair Jack Park



### The Louis Riel Capital Corporation:

**Twenty-ninth year Anniversary: The Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) will celebrate 29 years of providing capital and business services to Métis entrepreneurs in Manitoba in October 2021. The formation of the LRCC was an initiative of the Manitoba Métis Federation's Tripartite Self-Government department.**

The LRCC continues to deploy valuable loan and grant (equity) funding to support and foster the Manitoba Métis business community and Métis Citizens seeking to start up or buy an existing business. On average, the LRCC provides both loan and/or grant capital totaling more than \$3.5 million to 80 +/- new business projects each year.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Programs:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has provided significant challenges to our many Métis business clients as they struggle to keep their businesses afloat. The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), our Manitoba Métis Government, and the LRCC along with the assistance of the Métis Economic Development Fund (MEDF) have been supporting Métis businesses by providing them with a significant amount of capital to pay their operational expenses and continue to support their families. The capital provided by the MMF through the LRCC has been in the form of a non-repayable grant to help keep our Métis businesses' doors open or position them to reopen in the near future when provincial restrictions are lifted.

The MMF was the first among all levels of government to respond to its Citizens and business community with financial support

being delivered as early as March 23, 2020, and continuing through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The LRCC and the MEDF through the initiative of the MMF committed in the early months of the pandemic to provide up to \$10,000 in non-repayable funds to all Métis businesses on a needs basis to bridge the gap from when COVID-19 restrictions were initiated to when federal government program funding started to flow. This early response injected \$663,000 into 195 small businesses and entrepreneurs' bank accounts, allowing them to sustain their operations and their families until other program funding kicked in.

Early and throughout the Pandemic, the MMF, your Manitoba Métis Government, continued to negotiate with Canada for millions of dollars in additional COVID-19 stimulus funding to support Métis Citizens and businesses. Through these negotiations, the LRCC administered the Métis Emergency Business Loan (MEBL) and the MMF COVID-19 Business Support Programs.

The MEBL program was a Métis-specific version of the Canada Emergency Business Account designed to help cover non-deferrable operating costs. The program launched June 2020 and made available up to \$40,000 in funding split into a grant of up to \$10,000 and an interest-free loan of up to \$30,000 with no payments for 12 months. The program was further enhanced in January 2021 with an additional \$20,000 made available as a grant of up to \$10,000 and an interest-free loan of \$10,000 with no payments for 12 months. This program provided over \$8 million in support to Métis businesses affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### Secretary/ Treasurer

James Bruce

### Director

Anita Campbell

### Director

Gerald Baron

### CEO

Paul Paradis



The MMF COVID-19 Business Support Program (MMF CBSP) was launched in November 2020 with \$5.5 million in funding provided by the federal government and the MMF. This program initially provided up to \$10,000 as a non-repayable grant to Métis businesses that continued to be affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. By March 31st, 2021, the MMF CBSP had committed over \$4.2 million in funding to over 450 Métis businesses, including Artisan/Crafters, Musician, Fishers, Ranchers & Farmers.

Details of any current COVID support programs being delivered through the LRCC on behalf of the MMF are available on the LRCC website, [www.lrcc.mb.ca](http://www.lrcc.mb.ca) or email: [info@lrcc.mb.ca](mailto:info@lrcc.mb.ca) and one of our staff will contact you.

### **The LRCC Loan Program:**

The LRCC is one of the Economic Development arms of the Manitoba Métis Federation providing loans, grants (non-repayable equity contributions) to Métis Businesses and Entrepreneurs in Manitoba. We inherently take on more risk than Banks and Credit Unions when providing loan capital to our Métis Businesses. As a result, many of our clients have access to loan and grant capital when otherwise they would not have the ability to access the capital they need to start up, purchase, or expand their business.

The LRCC's loan program can provide our Métis business clients with as little as \$5,000 or up to a maximum of \$250,000. Loans can be amortized to a maximum of 10 years based on the life expectancy of the assets being financed or the security available to secure the loan. Loan interest rates are fixed for the entire term and can be as low as 5.00%. The actual interest rate that a client will pay is based on the risk assessed by the adjudication team and/or the strength of the security being provided. For example, to receive the minimum rate, the loan would need to be substantially secured by tangible assets such as mortgage security. Our interest rates are very competitive and, in most cases, better than the fixed rates offered by other financial institutions.

Please visit our website: [www.lrcc.mb.ca](http://www.lrcc.mb.ca) for more information on how to access our programs and services.

### **The LRCC Business Equity Contribution Fund (grant):**

The LRCC continues to deliver the Business Equity Contribution Fund (BECF) commonly known as the Business Grant Program. The intent of the business grant is to provide our Métis clients with the additional capital (equity) that the financial institutions (banks, credit unions, etc.) require in order to obtain a business loan.

The LRCC has been delivering the BECF since the spring of 2013 and to date we have paid out over \$9.9 million helping support the creation, expansion, or purchase of over 240 Métis-owned businesses. The BECF is adjudicated on a needs basis. The client must demonstrate that the grant is

needed in order to obtain a commercial loan from a financial institution. A further condition for a Métis client to obtain a grant is that they must contribute some of their own cash into the project. The minimum required client equity contribution is 10% of the total project cost. For example, if the client's total project cost or business acquisition is \$150,000, then the client would need to contribute a minimum of \$15,000 of their own cash in order to access the BECF.

We are pleased to report that the LRCC will continue administering the BECF grant/equity funding for the foreseeable future. These business grants are non-repayable and have assisted Métis people to start up, purchase, or expand their businesses. The maximum grant is \$99,999. In order to access the maximum grant, the project size would need to be in the range of \$300,000. The estimated average grant contribution would be \$50,000. The grant/equity program on average contributes 33% of the project's cost. When applying to the LRCC for a business grant or a loan, please allow sufficient time for our staff to work with you to complete the due diligence and adjudication process as it can take 4 – 6 weeks depending on the client's preparedness. We encourage all of our Métis Citizens to contact the LRCC to see how they might qualify to take advantage of this valuable program.

The full details of the LRCC loan and grant program including the application can be found on the LRCC website at [www.lrcc.mb.ca](http://www.lrcc.mb.ca).

### **MMF Entrepreneurship Initiative:**

The MMF Entrepreneurship Initiative was launched in October 2020 with a focus on providing financing and increased support for existing small businesses and new start-ups. The initiative provides financial and training supports to young entrepreneurs aged 18 – 29, small/home based businesses and small commercial fishers through three loan programs specific to the needs of the applicant.

Funding amounts and rates differ depending on the program being accessed with all programs providing a portion of the loan forgiven provided the business meets certain repayment conditions. Full program details can be found on the LRCC website at [www.lrcc.mb.ca](http://www.lrcc.mb.ca).

### **LRCC's Property Investments:**

The LRCC, through its asset holding company, 5785066 Manitoba Ltd., owns and manages the large parking lot in front of the MMF home office at 150 Henry Avenue, Winnipeg. This parking lot can accommodate up to 185 vehicles, and 100% of the stalls are leased monthly with signed parking agreements. Public paid parking is available overnight between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. and all day on weekends.

Our investment corporation also owns and manages a large 5' x 9' electronic message board sign at 505 Main Street in Dauphin, Manitoba. The sign offers economical marketing opportunities for business and community groups to promote themselves for a minimal fee. The message and graphics are displayed for 6 – 10 seconds, cycle every 60 – 90 seconds and are seen 720 times each day, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Approximately 10,000 vehicles pass the sign daily. The message or advertisement is guaranteed to reach a significant number of people. Our investment corporation will be entering into an agreement with the MMF's Northwest Region to donate this sign to the Region for the benefit of their Citizens.

**Louis Riel Capital Investments Inc.:**

Louis Riel Capital Investments Inc. (LRCII) is a separately incorporated company owned and operated by the LRCC. LRCII now provides small personal loans of up to \$25,000 to full-time employees of the MMF and the employees of their affiliates. These loans are designed to provide funds for personal use (maximum 48 months) to employees that are no longer in their probation period. The loan will become due and payable in full should the employee leave the employ of the MMF or the affiliate.

The interest rate is 19.5% for small loans of \$5,000 or less. For loans of \$5,001 and over the interest rate is competitive with bank personal loan rates starting as low as 6.75%. The rate applied to each loan is based on credit history and the value of any security pledged.

It's easy to apply and funds can usually be obtained within three business days. For employees and caucus members of the MMF and their affiliates looking to utilize this program, please contact the LRCC office at (204) 589-0772 or email: [info@lrcc.mb.ca](mailto:info@lrcc.mb.ca).

**First Time Home Purchase Program:**

A detailed report for the First Time Home Purchase Program can be found under Minister Goodon's portfolio report (Housing and Property Management).

**Property Management – 5785066 Manitoba Ltd., a Division of LRCC:**

The LRCC's property management company continues to manage seven commercial buildings on behalf of the MMF, MEDO Developments, and one Regional Office. A full property management report can be seen under Minister Goodon's portfolio report (Housing and Property Management).



Helping Métis Business Succeed  
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# Louis Riel Institute

Minister Joan Ledoux

Associate Minister David Beaudin



**Vision:** The Louis Riel Institute serves to empower the Métis Nation of Manitoba made up of skilled and proud Métis Citizens, families, and Communities.

**Mission:** The Louis Riel Institute promotes, builds capacity, and supports the heritage and history of the Métis in Manitoba through efficient, effective, culturally sensitive programs and activities.

**Mandate:** The Louis Riel Institute is the legislatively mandated authority responsible for Métis education and culture in Manitoba.



## COVID-19

LRI received institutional support from the Federal Government to support its delivery of services during the pandemic, which allowed for the purchase of technology items as well as pods to keep staff safe.

**General Manager**  
Sharon Parenteau

**Assistant General Manager**  
Janel Leiterman

## Louis Riel Institute Programs

**Adult Learning Centre (ALC)** – The ALC program is a non-traditional high school for adults, which offers unique course selections such as Métis Studies and Métis Art. The ALC is learner focused and the overall mandate is to create an academic environment that is safe, comfortable, and supportive. Technology is an important aspect of learning and is integrated into all the courses. To further support this, the ALC provides access to a fully equipped computer lab.

The 2019/2020 school year was another success for the ALC despite having to move to remote-learning for the last four months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the year-end statistics, the ALC had 151 credits completed during the year and 15 students graduated with their high school diplomas.

**Louis Riel Vocational College (LRVC)** – The LRVC offered several Diploma Programs and Certificates and continued to grow and offer more course options. This year, the LRVC offered eight Diploma programs: 3 Health Care Aide classes with 21 graduates, 3 Health Care Aide Challenge classes with 40 graduates and 2 Early Childhood Educator 2 classes with 10 students. The LRVC continues to develop its partnership with the Commonwealth College, with the first joint delivery of the ECE2 Program followed by a curricular swap of three additional programs.

The LRVC also offered Customized Job-Readiness Programs such as Prosperity Through Innovation for the Infinity Women Secretariat (40 Certificates), It's My Community Too for Métis Employment and Training (5 Certificates), Culinary Arts and Intro to Recreation Technician for the Sagkeeng First Nation (15 Certificates), as well as Life Skills for Mother Earth Recycling (8 Certificates). The LRVC also offered several valued-added courses, such as Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (4 classes with 57 certificates) and Thought Patterns (3 classes with 20 certificates) as well as several one- and two-day workshops.

The Mobile Literacy and Essential Skills (MLES) project continued to progress. Funded by the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES) and Employment and Skill Development Canada (ESDC), it developed its first ever Mobile Classroom. Using this Mobile Classroom, the LRVC travelled to Sagkeeng to provide the first cohort setting for the project. This included a successful job-readiness program for 35 participants, who moved from being on Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) to the workforce.

Due to the Provincial Code Red COVID-19 restrictions, the programming in the Mobile Learning and Essential Skills trailer was put on hold from March – August 2020 but resumed



**LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE**  
Knowledge • Culture • Heritage

when the restrictions allowed in the fall. From September to October, 11 students completed the MLES program in preparation for the Indigenous Focused Early Learning and Child Care Diploma program at the LRVC. The program was delivered in person for the duration of the four weeks as Manitoba went back into Code Red restrictions at the end of the month. The in-person course delivery has been put on hold until further notice.

To date, 67 students have completed the training in the mobile classroom (32 in Sagkeeng in 2019, 24 in Selkirk in 2020, 11 in Dauphin in 2020).

The MLES project continues to develop opportunities with communities for future training courses.

### **LRI Cultural Programming**

The Cultural Programming Department provides on-site presentations, workshops, training, and large events, at schools, organizations, and in the community. Due to COVID-19, the LRI quickly moved away from in-person and on-site programming towards creating videos and Zoom presentations.

**Red River Cart Adventures:** The LRI answered the call from the MMF to provide online educational shows for remote learning families during the first lockdown, called Red River Cart Adventures. The shows were written and produced by the LRI, and filmed by Kizick Video, until the November lockdown put a hold on filming in the building. All 90 aired shows can be found on the MMF YouTube page. The LRI has developed a list of titles, episodes, and links for ease of use by teachers and families.

The following shows have been developed under the umbrella of the RRCAs:

- Storytime: An Early Years show with stories, crafts, activities to do at home, research, Michif words of the day, songs, and rhymes. 69 shows written; 32 shows aired.
- Meet up with Mason: Geared to middle school children (tweens) with Métis guests who share their skills and knowledge. 69 written, 31 aired.
- Did You Know? A dynamic explanation of Métis history, geared to high school and up. 29 shows written; 27 shows aired.
- I'm Just Georgia, and Tips with Teens, have also been developed and written, but not filmed due to the lockdown.

### **Métis History Workshops:**

- Métis History and Governance – The LRI created both a video and live Zoom version of the Métis History and Governance training (Métis 101) for successful PSESP (post-secondary education support program) students. The live three-hour Zoom workshops allows for interaction between the instructor and the participants. From November 2020 to March 2021, three workshops were offered per month for a total of 15 three-hour training sessions. Going forward, starting April 2021, the LRI will provide four per month and then move up to seven per month by the fall of 2021 to meet the demand, adding four more Métis topics for returning students to choose from.
- Introduction to Métis History and Culture – This introductory version has been provided for many classrooms, organizations, and corporations over the years, and is tweaked to fit the timeframe and specific requests of the group. This year it has been provided onsite and by Zoom for several sites.

### **Cultural Craft workshops:**

- Sash and Finger Weaving Presentations – The LRI Métis Sash history and culture presentations for Zoom, with Power Point, as well as creating a small instructional video for beginner finger weaving. There have been five workshops offered in March.
- Beading Workshops – The Flower Beadwork Circle was forced to shut its doors due to COVID-19. In the spring, the LRI hosted weekly Zoom meetings for interested beaders. From September – November, volunteers hosted a Zoom meeting where a guest artist discusses their work and answered questions. The LRI has continued to provide beginner bead bags, shared links to online beading instruction by Jennine Krauchi, and created a How-to-Bead for Grade 4 students at Whyte Ridge School in the Pembina Trails SD, to go along with a Métis history and culture theme the school has created with the LRI.
- Other cultural workshops – The LRI has continued to provide workshops both live and by Zoom on jigging, loom beading, Métis women, and beadwork.

**LRI Resources:** The LRI publishes many books on Métis culture and history written for various age groups from pre-school to adult. The orders for books and educational kits have continued to increase. The LRI is looking at sending more titles out for printing in order to manage the demand. In addition, the lending kits, displays, and historic clothing have continued to go out for virtual events and filming of videos, such as Metis Minute. Six new dresses were added to the historic clothing collection in the 2020.

## **Michif Language Initiatives:**

- **Michif Language Revitalization:** The LRI has worked with a six-person Language Revitalization Working Circle and a 30-person Community Circle on Language revitalization education. A language assessment survey was created and piloted, steps towards the beginning of Michif digitizing and archiving was developed.
- **Michif Documentation and Indexing:** Through this project, LRI continued the work in archiving, a Manitoba-wide survey on languages, strategic language planning, and training technicians to do language documenting with Elders. All documentation is archived and added to the Language Management system, "Mukurtu", for sharing with the public.
- **Michif language Symposium** – The LRI assisted with organizing and presenting at the Métis National Council (MNC) Michif Language Symposium. The MNC provided Michif funding to the LRI which purchased equipment for documentation and archiving, for Communications work in developing a Michif language Facebook page, and further documenting and translating work.

Little Metis Family Fun Events have not been delivered this fiscal year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Little Metis Sing With Me – The LRI continues to offer Little Metis Sing With Me sessions by Zoom for families. LRI continues to develop programming.

## **Riel House National Historic Site Interpretation Program:**

Five staff and a Coordinator were hired for the 2020 spring/summer season at Riel House. LRI provided Riel House staff with training in Métis History and Culture and Riel House Interpreting. COVID-19 restrictions and regulations within the city, the province, and the federal government affected the opening of Riel House NHS and the activities which were allowed. In order to accommodate COVID 19 restrictions, LRI created interpreting from doorways while visitors looked in or peeked through open windows. They created new activities to keep visitors and staff safe. There were no special events at Riel House this year. The Thursday Night Soirée du jeudi Jam, the year-end corn roast, Canada Day, and any related Manitoba 150 events were all cancelled. As a result of the restrictions, visitation numbers were low, at just under 400 people.

**Legislative Assembly of Assiniboia (LAA)** – The LRI continues to promote the Grade 11 Interactive Learning Resource about the first government of Manitoba made up of Métis people and led by Louis Riel. The Métis brought Manitoba into Confederation, making this an important resource.

**Metis Historic Tours** – The LRI offers two historical bus tours, one to the Riel House National Historical Site and various sites in St. Boniface, and the other to St. Francois Xavier and the Seven Oaks Monument. Additional walking tours have been added to the Forks, Upper Fort Garry, and St Boniface. These have been popular with summer camps and other groups. This year, the LRI has bought a 25-person tour bus and continue expanding tour offerings once COVID-19 restrictions allow.

**Research, Archives, and Special Collections** – This year the research, archives, and special collections initiative continues to work closely with the LRI's department of Cultural Programming on the Michif language revitalization projects. Efforts have focused on supporting research activities for the Michif language revitalization initiative strategic planning; preservation planning for digital materials; and conducting an inventory and assessment of existing materials from the Michif Languages collections and new language materials documented from the Michif language revitalization project (approximately 125+ items). In alignment with the archival management system, this year's efforts will also focus on the development of the content management system "Mukurtu", an open access digital heritage platform that will host items from the LRI's Michif Languages Collections to support language learning.

**Provincial Education** – The LRI administered three funding streams available to Post-Secondary Métis students, the Post-Secondary Education Support Program (PSESP), the COVID-19 Emergency Student Assistant Program (ESAP) and the Louis Riel Bursary (LRB).

## **Post-Secondary Education Support Program (PSESP)**

Alongside the MMF, the LRI developed and administers the PSESP. The 2019/2020 intake was interrupted due to COVID-19, and it continued to affect post-secondary institutions and students well into the 2020/2021 fiscal and academic year. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, and its effects on post-secondary institutions and students well into the 2020/2021 fiscal and academic year, on July 27, 2020, the MMF launched the second intake of the PSESP. In contrast with the 2019/2020 intake, the 2020/2021 PSESP application has an annual intake and will not close until the end of the academic year. The 2020/2021 PSESP intake saw an increase in applicants and as of March 31, 2021, the PSESP awarded 847 Métis students \$5,000 for a total of \$4,235,000 in support funding. The LRI continues to administer the PSESP on behalf of the MMF until the intake closes at the end of the 2020/2021 academic year.

## Emergency Student Assistance Program (ESAP)

The COVID-19 Emergency Student Assistant Program (ESAP) launched in July 2020. On behalf of the MMF, the LRI administered the program through the PSESP platform. The purpose of the ESAP was to address additional financial needs of students caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of March 31, 2021, the MMF provided 558 Métis students with \$1,500 in ESAP support funding for a total of \$837,000, which was expensed through the program. The LRI continues to administer the ESAP until further direction is provided.

## Financial Aid & Awards

The MMF's endowment fund is now currently over \$25 million. The LRI, in partnership with post-secondary institutions, administers the endowment on behalf of the MMF. The LRI also provides direct information and assistance to individuals and groups looking for financial aid and award information on scholarships, bursaries, and other sources of funding for post-secondary education. The following chart shows the endowment statistics for the 2020/2021 year.

2020/2021 Endowments through Louis Riel Bursaries			
Post-Secondary Institute	# of Applicants	# of Awards	Total Award Value
Assiniboine Community College	8	8	\$40,000
Brandon University	59	56	\$155,000
Red River College	92	83	\$356,000
University College of the North	14	7	\$16,000
University of Manitoba	391	245	\$413,950
University of St. Boniface	51	43	\$96,000
University of Winnipeg	111	54	\$190,100
<b>Totals</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>\$1,267,050</b>





# Métis Child and Family Services

Minister Mona Buors

Associate Minister JoAnne Remillard



## A Message from our Métis Child and Family Services Minister

Our Métis Child and Family Services (CFS) System provides strength and support to our Nation's children, families, and communities.

This past year has been particularly challenging for the Authority and the agencies as they had to find new ways to deliver these necessary services during a global pandemic. The rules and restrictions were changing daily and not only did staff have to find innovative ways to continue to meet practice standards and ensure the safety of vulnerable children, youth, and families, they were also faced with the challenge of ensuring their own health and safety while serving others.

With the financial assistance of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), our system was able to ensure that children had all of the technology needs required to continue remote learning. Family visits that could no longer take place face to face were now being conducted virtually. Staff were on rotation at the offices to ensure the safety of co-workers while carrying on the very important work of serving families.

## Highlights of 2020-2021

Some of the highlights for the Métis CFS System this year have been the following:

- The Métis CFS System has launched the Michif Kashkihtaaw (MK) Information System, which is unique to the Métis CFS system.
- The MCFCS agency is partnering with the Housing Department from our Métis Government on Mazoun – Infinity Lodge of Hope. This resource will be able to house youth who are semi-independent as well as those who have exited our CFS system;

- The closing of a third-party placement resource required the agencies to work on transitioning foster homes to the Métis CFS system;
- Our agencies have applied for Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) for all children in care over the age of 10 years. Once the child reaches age of majority and exits the CFS system, they will be able to apply to access their RESP in order to apply for post-secondary education; and
- Our agencies have applied for Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs) for all youth who qualify for Community Living disability Services (CLdS) and are able to access these savings plans once they have reached the age of majority.
- The MCFCS participated in and facilitated Community Consultations with the Manitoba Metis Federation Engagement & Consultation Department.

## Moving Forward

As the Federal CFS Legislation – An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families comes into effect, the MMF and, the Métis Authority and agencies will continue to work together in developing Métis CFS laws, policies, and standards for delivering child welfare services in a way that honours our Métis Nation. The new federal Act is a significant step forward in the process of reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous peoples, including the Red River Métis. This is a component of Canada's plan to renew the relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples and make meaningful reform to the CFS system nationwide.

The Act affirms the rights of Indigenous peoples to look after their child and family services and sets out principles applicable to provide child and family services in relation to Indigenous children, such as the best interest of the child, cultural continuity, and substantive equality.

This Act affirms that the MMF, as an Indigenous Governing Body, has full jurisdiction and authority over our Red River Métis children and families. Using this Act, we can now move away from an apprehension-centred approach and move toward a proactive preventative-focused, culturally appropriate approach that keeps our families together and in touch with our unique Métis culture and heritage.

From our Community's experiences in the child welfare system, the Residential Schools and through to the Sixties Scoop, we have seen the failure and shocking treatment of our children, youth, and families from all levels of government. We have known for a long time that services provided to our Métis Citizens should respect and be tailored to our unique cultural experiences. This Act acknowledges our jurisdiction and authority to use these unique experiences to shape our laws and policies.

### **In conclusion**

As we write this report, we continue to adapt to working and providing excellent service in these pandemic times. We look forward to our continued work with other Métis Government departments and affiliates to develop full wraparound services for our children, youth, and families.

We would like to thank the Associate Minister, Boards, and staff at the Métis CFS Authority, Métis Child, Family & Community Services agency and Michif Child and Family Services agency for continuing the difficult work of delivering child and family services.

A complete list of programs offered by our Authority and agencies can be found on their websites: [www.metisauthority.com](http://www.metisauthority.com), [www.metiscfs.mb.ca](http://www.metiscfs.mb.ca), and [www.michifcfs.com](http://www.michifcfs.com).







# Metis Economic Development Fund

## Minister President David Chartrand



### MEDF Board

#### Chair

Bob Penwarden

#### Vice-Chair

Wayne Rivers

#### Director

Elizbeth Palfrey

#### Director

Crystal Adamson

#### Director

Stan Higgins

The Metis Economic Development Fund (MEDF) is celebrating its 9th year “Helping Metis

Business Succeed”. The MEDF is an affiliate of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) executing primarily its investment program as an economic arm of our Métis government.

The Fund’s activities are governed by providing equity for Métis entrepreneurs and businesses; promoting and encouraging trade and commerce; facilitating and promoting the Métis business community; and maintaining a liaison between the Métis business community and government agencies and representatives at municipal, provincial, and federal levels.

### The MEDF Program

The MEDF stimulates the economic development of Manitoba Métis businesses and entrepreneurs by providing equity and/or debt financing creating equity partnerships. The MEDF concentrates on businesses and entrepreneurs which are in growth, expansion, or acquisition phases. The Fund may also invest in start-up ventures when the viability of the business outweighs the increased investment risk.

### Investment Criteria

Corporations funded under this program must:

- Be owned and controlled by individuals who reside in Manitoba with Métis ancestry proven through genealogy.

- Have an experienced, well-balanced management team.
- Submit a comprehensive business plan outlining the product and service offering, with a well-defined market with growth potential and a clearly defined exit strategy.
- Be economically viable and able to provide a positive return on investment to the Métis entrepreneur, communities, and the Fund (non-profit businesses will not be considered).

### Nature of Financing

Financing is available up to \$500,000 with an anticipated holding period between 3 to 7 years (up to 10 years) and a maximum ownership of 35% of the fair value of the corporation. A variety of financing instruments could be utilized and tailored to meet the specific needs of each opportunity.

### COVID-19 Activities

Since March 20, 2020, where COVID-19 essentially impacted activities at the MEDF, the interactions between the Fund and clients have drastically changed mainly as a result of the governments forced closures and individual self-isolation. These changes forced the staff to seek alternative ways to provide its services at a distance utilizing technology to continue interactions virtually.



The MEDF stimulates the economic development of Manitoba Métis businesses and entrepreneurs by providing equity and/or debt financing creating equity partnerships. The MEDF concentrates on businesses and entrepreneurs which are in growth, expansion, or acquisition phases.

The MEDF will continue to support the MMF in the delivery of the MMF Covid-19 Business Support Program that provides non-repayable contributions to Manitoba Métis owned and controlled businesses. Contact us for more information.

The MEDF recorded our 1st investment exit of Security Glass returning the company to a 100% Manitoba Métis company as well as achieving a positive return on our investment – a tremendous success!

In addition, the MEDF recently completed an investment into a company called Praxis Profiles located in Winnipeg. The company designs, manufactures, and sells PVC extrusions for the window and door industry. The company owns the intellectual property (IP) of 3 main window systems designed for various climates in North America and primarily sells into Central-Western Canada.

### Helping Metis Business Succeed !

The following businesses are companies in which the MEDF has a current equity position.

Visit [www.medf.ca](http://www.medf.ca) and watch our investment videos!



**EnerPure** (<https://enerpure.tech/>) commercialized a small-scale waste oil micro-refinery that provides a profitable and sustainable solution for the processing of waste oil;



**Covert Logistics** ([www.covertlogistics.com](http://www.covertlogistics.com)) re-branded and re organized enhancing its competitive edge in the logistics industry;



**Voyageur Internet** ([www.voyageurinternet.ca](http://www.voyageurinternet.ca)) expanded its network infrastructure delivering high-speed internet to rural Manitobans;



**Nonsuch Brewing Co.** ([www.nonsuch.beer](http://www.nonsuch.beer)) opened a micro-brewery crafting beer in Winnipeg;



**Salisbury House Restaurants** ([www.salisburyhouse.ca](http://www.salisburyhouse.ca)) was a franchise purchase making it now a majority Manitoba Métis owned business.



**HUB Technology Solutions** ([www.hub.ca](http://www.hub.ca)) provides consulting, strategy, and design; support and management; project management through solutions in cyber security, networking, systems, and storage, communication, and Office 365.



**Transcona Roofing** ([www.transconaroofting.ca](http://www.transconaroofting.ca)) is an Install – New Construction company, reroofing & recovering of all roof systems and architectural sheet metal & wall systems.



**Praxis Profiles Inc.** ([www.partnerwithpraxis.com](http://www.partnerwithpraxis.com)) designs, manufactures, and sells PVC extrusions for the window and door industry. The company owns the intellectual property (IP) of 3 main window systems designed for various climates in North America and primarily sells into Central-Western Canada.

For more information, please visit our website and social media at:

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 Email: [info@medf.ca](mailto:info@medf.ca)  
 Phone: (204) 589-0772  
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