



Métis Nation



September 2017

Métis Nation Position Advanced at Meeting with Energy and Mines Ministers



On August 13-14, 2017, President Chartier discussed Métis Nation priorities with Canada's Minister of Natural Resources and provincial counterparts at the annual Energy and Mines Ministers Conference in St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

The role of Indigenous peoples in the environmental and

regulatory regime governing major projects figured prominently in the annual conference of Energy and Mines Ministers that was held from August 13-15, 2017 in the seaside town of St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

Métis Nation President Chartier and representatives from the

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) met privately with Canada's Minister of Natural Resources Jim Carr on August 13 to review work on a number of key issues. The first is the federal government's initiative to overhaul the environmental assessment and regulatory processes for resource

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development projects that regain public trust, protect the environment, introduce modern safeguards, advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, ensure good projects go ahead, and resources get to market.

They also reviewed the work of the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (IAMC) that will review and monitor the environmental, safety and socio-economic issues related to the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, the existing pipeline, and marine shipping related to the project. Minister Carr recently approved the Terms of Reference and the establishment of the IAMC and a Secretariat to support it. \$64.7 million over five years in new government funding will support the work of the IAMC and capacity of Indigenous groups potentially impacted by the Trans Mountain Expansion Project to participate in it.

Minister Carr and the Indigenous representatives also had an opportunity to look at the role of Indigenous peoples in the development of the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan for presentation at the 2018 Energy and Mines Ministers'



Conference (EMMC). The goal of the Plan would be to re-establish Canada as the leading mining nation—laying the foundation for lasting Canadian mining success at home and around the world. It would serve as a shared vision, rooted in concrete actions, that draws upon Canada's numerous strengths and collaboration among governments, Indigenous peoples, industry and civil society.

On August 14, President Chartier along with AFN and ITK met with Minister Carr and his provincial and territorial counterparts to set out their respective natural resource priorities. President Chartier outlined judicial and political developments that have assisted

in clarifying and confirming Métis Nation rights and shaping a new legal environment surrounding major projects that hopefully will facilitate the full participation of the Métis Nation in major projects impacting its communities. He reminded the ministers that in the long run, respect for Métis Nation rights and accommodation of Métis communities through collaboration agreements should be viewed not as a barrier to development but as a win-win for Métis people and industry as greater Métis Nation participation in projects will reduce uncertainty which is bad for capital investment and will generate opportunities for Métis communities, workers and businesses.





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Indigenous Languages Addressed at the Annual Meeting of FPTCH

On August 22, 2017, President Chartier attended a meeting on Indigenous languages with the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Culture and Heritage (CH) which was held in Orford, Quebec.

The meeting was co-hosted by Heritage Minister Melanie Joly and Quebec Minister Luc Fortin, who is responsible for culture and languages.

In December 2016, in a speech to the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly, Prime Minister Trudeau stated that the Government will enact an Indigenous Language Act, co-developed with Indigenous Peoples, with the goal of ensuring the preservation, protection and

revitalization of First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages in Canada.

President Chartier addressed the issue of revitalization, revival, preservation, protection, maintenance and promotion of the Métis language. AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde and ITK President Natan Obed also addressed their concerns.

At the round table discussion on the state of Indigenous languages in Canada, some of the FPT governments shared their best practices on how to protect and



l-r: MNC President Clément Chartier, ITK President Natan Obed, Heritage Minister Melanie Joly and AFN NC Perry Bellegarde

promote Indigenous languages. All FPT governments agreed to cooperate on a pan-Canadian approach to support Indigenous languages.

Minister Joly announced to launch the table on Indigenous languages this fall. A series of official meetings will be held prior to the launching.

Preceding this multi-lateral meeting, Minister Joly and the three National Indigenous leaders met and agreed to move forward on a distinction based process with AFN, ITK and Métis Nation leading up to the adoption of the Indigenous Languages Act by Parliament next year.





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Message from the President

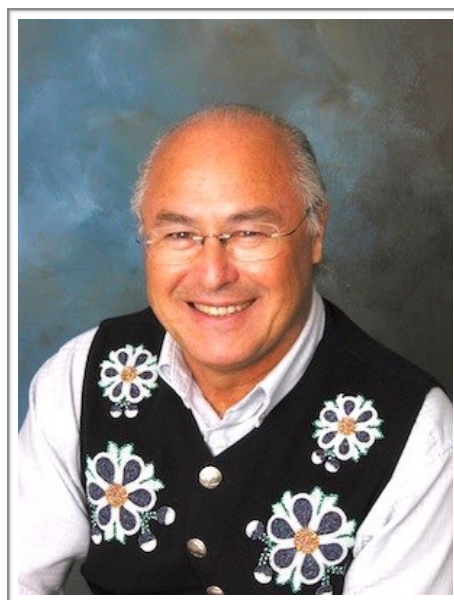
The August 22, 2017 joint press release by the government of Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is helpful in bringing into sharp focus the need to revisit the emergence, evolution and integrity of the Métis Nation and its historic homeland boundaries.

With the issuance of the press release, the government of Ontario and the MNO declared the recognition of six new distinctive Métis communities that they believe meet the criteria established by the Supreme Court of Canada in the 2003 *Powley* case. In *Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada found that there is a Métis community in Sault Ste Marie and environs, which they added may be part of a larger Métis community, such as the Great Lakes Métis.

The joint declaration on August 22 is a result of joint research carried out between the government of Ontario and the

MNO. Whether the courts would confirm their findings is not known. What is known is that five of the six newly identified Métis communities recognized by the government of Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario do not fall within the historic homeland of the Métis Nation.


Since the inception of our representative body (Métis National Council) for the Métis Nation in March 1983, we have made it clear that the Métis Nation homeland encompasses “the prairie provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta), northeastern British Columbia, part the Northwest Territories, northwestern Ontario, and a portion of the northern United States”. We have never strayed from this. The only community identified by the MNO and Province that falls within that territory is “The Rainy River/Lake of the Woods Historic Métis Community” in the



northwestern Ontario portion of the Métis Nation homeland.

Prior to the admission of the MNO into the Métis National Council in 1994/95, the MNC only represented the Métis in that part of Ontario contiguous to Manitoba. The expansion of the Ontario representation to take in the entire province did not change the fact that the only people meeting the

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National Definition citizenship criteria set by the MNC are those Métis from northwestern Ontario or Métis Nation citizens from western Canada who have moved to Ontario, including the cities of Ottawa and Toronto.

With the declaration of newly recognized Métis communities by the province of Ontario and the MNO, the leadership and governments of the Métis Nation will need to have a

serious look at how this will be addressed or dealt with by the Métis Nation. Clearly, at the end of the day, it is in the best interests and survival of the Métis Nation, and the integrity of its geographic homeland and related citizenship that this new development be dealt with in an expeditious manner. This can be achieved through an enforcement of our existing citizenship registration requirements, the adoption of a Métis Nation Constitution and

acceptance process and the establishment of a national citizenship registry.

NOTE: For further reading on this topic refer to the Presidents Message in the February 2013 issue of the Presidents Newsletter.
www.metisnation.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| • Métis Nation Health Committee Meeting | Sep 7-8 | Vancouver, BC |
| • Manitoba Metis Federation AGA | Sep 23-24 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Métis Nation of British Columbia AGM | Sep 23-24 | Dawson Creek, BC |
| • Women of the Métis Nation's AGA | Sep 29-Oct 1 | Saskatoon, SK |
| • Louis Riel Day | Nov 16 | |





September 2017

Métis Nation of Ontario holds 24th Annual General Assembly

The MNO held its 24th AGA in Kenora from August 19-21st, with a larger than usual number of delegates in attendance. The weekend began on August 18th with the traditional ceremonial short canoe ride with MNO leadership and invited dignitaries. President Chartier and Minister Bennett were among the paddlers.

This was followed by several speeches and music. A short time later, the MNO youth voyageurs ended their long journey from Ottawa to Kenora as they landed their canoes at the beach, which witnessed further speeches, congratulatory



salutations, music and dance to honour their accomplishments.

Over the next three days the MNO assembly dealt with business matters following the

o p e n i n g ceremony and speeches by President Chartier, Ontario Indigenous Affairs Minister Zimmer and Member of Parliament,

Bob Nault, and an opening Address by Acting-President, France Picotte. Minister Bennett gave her speech the previous evening.

On the third day of the assembly, the government of Ontario and the MNO issued a press release declaring six (6) new Métis communities in various parts of Ontario based on joint research between the two parties. One of the newly declared Métis communities happens to fall within the traditional Métis Nation homeland.



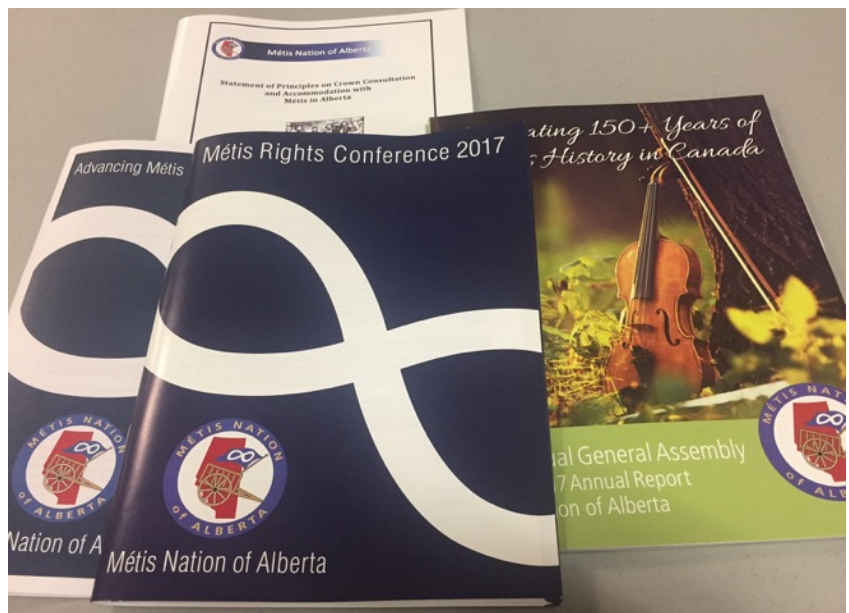


September 2017

MNA holds its 89th AGA

The MNA held its AGA in Peace River on August 12-13th with close to 400 delegates in attendance. This was preceded by a Métis Rights Conference on August 11th with featured speaker, Tom Isaac.

Due to a federal-provincial and Indigenous leaders meeting in St. Andrews, New Brunswick on the 14-15th and a meeting with Minister Carr and the three National Indigenous leaders on August 13th, President Chartier was only able to spend from 9:00 am to 11:00 a.m. at the assembly.





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A Voyage of Reconciliation

On August 9th President Chartier greeted a number of canoeist who are travelling on a voyage of reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and the churches, in particular the Roman Catholic Church.

Two of the voyageurs are Lise Langridge from Alberta and Winston McKay from Saskatchewan. President Chartier was invited by Lise and Winston to come and help them celebrate their journey as they arrived at Camp Naategamaa (Kateri Tekakwitha Ministry), Fitzroy Harbour outside of Ottawa. Their journey began in Midland, Ontario and will end in Montreal.



l-r: Winston McKay, Lise Langridge, Clément Chartier

In particular, Lise and Winston requested several Métis Nation flags which they could fly from their canoe as they land in Montreal. At the site that day, there was a large number of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants who were out to greet the paddlers and to conduct spiritual ceremonies and acts of reconciliation.





September 2017

St. George's Hill Métis Days

On August 4th, President Chartier attended the 3rd annual Métis Days at St. George's Hill in northwest Saskatchewan. At the opening ceremony, President Chartier gave an update on recent developments between the Métis Nation and Canada, as well as an update on the current hunting and fishing rights cases being tried in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan.

Also addressed was the Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range and the need for the federal government



to deal with the traditional resource users from this part of northwest Saskatchewan, as well as discuss access to their traditional harvesting territories within the range.

President Chartier and Jim Durocher of Ile a la Crosse, the Chair of the Ile a la Crosse Boarding School Committee provided an update on the status of the discussions between the committee and the federal government. There was a general consensus expressed by the former students in attendance at the opening that there is a need to come to a quicker resolution of this matter as some of them have been attending the general meetings at Ile a la Crosse on this matter since early 2006 and want something done soon.





September 2017

Fort McKay Métis Days

President Chartier attended the Fort McKay Métis Days celebration on August 25 and 26th. While the weather did not cooperate on Friday the opening ceremony was well attended with remarks made by Presidents Quintal (Community), Diane Scoville (Region One) and Chartier (Métis Nation).

The Fort McKay Métis Community also recognized and thanked their previous leaders and current Elders for their contributions to the community. This was followed by cultural activities. The next day saw a warm sunny day and the celebration was active and fun-filled.



President Ron Quintal, Fort McKay Métis Community





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Métis Elders Gather in Winnipeg

On August 30 and 31st, Métis Elders from throughout Manitoba gathered at Grant's Mill in Winnipeg as an initiative of the Manitoba Métis government. The purpose of the gathering was to get the views, advice and counsel of the Elders on self-government, Métis rights, culture and the Michif language.

At the opening of the gathering, President Chartier was provided the opportunity to greet the Elders as well as provide a broad overview of the importance of the gathering and the great contributions and leadership which the Elders and leaders of the Manitoba Métis community have provided to the Métis Nation as a whole.

President Chartrand in a well-balanced address to the Elders



l-r: President Chartier (MNC), President Chartrand (MMF),
President McCallum (MN-S)

spoke of the important role which the Elders have played within the Métis government in Manitoba and the continued contributions that they can and will make. President Chartrand spoke to the developments over the past two decades which witnessed the revival and engagement of Métis youth in keeping Métis culture alive through music and dance and in particular the MMF's positive move of purchasing hundreds of fiddles which has now produced thousands of young fiddler players. He also reminded and thanked the Elders for the instrumental role they played a decade ago in developing the Métis laws of the hunt which has since been accepted by the

province as Métis law as opposed to the province continuing to enforce provincial game laws.

After the opening greetings the Elders broke into several groups and began the task of capturing their knowledge, wisdom and advice, assisted by youth and MMF staff. It was not all work however. There were traditional Métis meals and visits to historic Métis sites in the city, such as Riel House.

Newly elected Métis Nation – Saskatchewan President, Glen McCallum and Vice-President Gerald Morin were also invited guests who took part in the gathering.





September 2017

Four Generations of Métis in Saskatchewan



l-r: Alyssa Westby (mother), Lela Arnold (great grandmother), Brooklynn Gianoli Westby (baby), Charlene Westby (grandmother)



2017: Promoting Métis Nation Families





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