



Métis Nation



April 2018

Federal Ministers and Métis Nation Leaders Move Ahead under Canada-Métis Nation Accord



On March 19, 2018, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, along with key federal Ministers responsible for priorities identified in the Canada-Métis

Nation Accord, met with the leadership of the Métis Nation in Ottawa for the second ministerial meeting held under the permanent bilateral process. Announced by the Prime Minister in December 2016, this

process establishes regular meetings between the Crown and the Métis Nation to co-develop policy on shared priorities and monitor our progress going forward.

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The meeting provided an opportunity for Ministers and Métis Nation Presidents to discuss the implementation of the investments in Budget 2018 which will advance key Métis Nation priorities set out in the Canada-Métis Nation Accord. Ministers and Métis Nation leaders also actioned further work on accords to implement Budget commitments in relation to housing, early learning and child care and Indigenous skills employment and training.

All parties participated in meaningful discussions and agreed to undertake joint work and policy co-development on Métis health, education, child and family services, economic development and the new fiscal relationship, all of which are priority areas set out for the second year of the Accord.

Minister of

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Honourable Carolyn Bennett said: "Today's important discussions as part of the Permanent Bilateral Arrangement with the Métis National Council truly represent significant progress on our relationship based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership. I am looking forward this upcoming year to continue this joint work with the Métis Nation to make further progress on the Accord and to implement the historic Budget 2018

investments for the Métis nation."

President Chartier stated, "We are making steady progress with the Prime Minister and his Ministers on issues of critical importance to the well-being of Métis Nation citizens. Today's meeting and the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism, of which it is a part, work to ensure that results are achieved."





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Message from the President

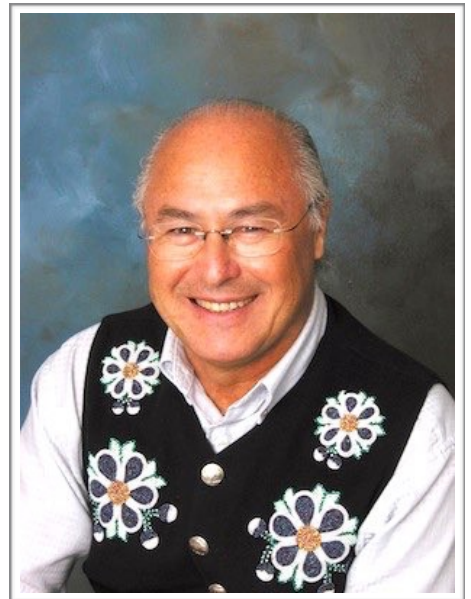
One thing we, our parents and grandparents knew for a certainty. Education was the key to our future success, as the traditional practices of making a living were being fast outpaced by technology.

As with other federal programs for Indigenous peoples, our people were excluded from federal post secondary education financial support. While this has created great challenges, many of us were still able to secure a university education. While some persons like me were fortunate enough to have been at the right place at the right time, in Saskatchewan in the 1970s when that province mirrored for Métis and Non-Status Indians what the federal government was providing to Status Indians, many Métis both before that and since then, have had to find their own means to pursue their education and their dreams.

With the Mulroney government in the mid-1980s establishing the Pathways to Success program, which today exists as the ISET program, many of our young people were able to have their last year of a university degree covered. Further, through agreement with the federal government, once our training and employment institutions reached their yearly target, the remaining

funds could be used to establish endowments with post-secondary institutions who match Métis dollars. These endowments used the interest to provide bursaries to qualified Métis students. While not available to all who needed such help, and while being rather small in amount, it was nevertheless a help to those who were recipients.

In the recent federal budget, the Métis Nation was successful in negotiating an initial amount of \$10 million for fiscal year 2018-19, with the hope of seeing this increased for the coming years. Further, the federal government is currently doing a Post-Secondary Education review which will include the needs of Métis students and Métis education institutes. Speaking at our Métis Nation Education Conference on March 21, 2018, the Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services, stated that the Government of Canada remains committed to continue working in partnership with the Métis Nation to find the best approaches that will support and enable Métis Nation students to pursue their dreams, succeed and be full participants in the new global economy.



Her officials also laid out a plan for consultations and policy development work in the upcoming months that should lead to action in Budget 2019. It looks likely that we should be able to develop a Métis Nation-specific component of the post-secondary review similar to what we achieved in the areas of housing and early learning and child care. So I am looking forward to working with the Minister and the government on this matter in order to tap and realize the full potential of our people.





April 2018

Canada and Métis Nation Launch Work on Métis Child Welfare



A Summit on Métis Child and Family Services concluded on March 28, 2018 in Winnipeg, MB, with Métis Nation leaders and Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott committed to action on over-representation of Métis children

and youth in child welfare systems across Métis homeland.

A three day Summit on Métis Child and Family Services concluded in Winnipeg today with Métis Nation leaders and Indigenous Services Minister

Jane Philpott committed to action on the over-representation of Métis children and youth in the child welfare systems of the five westernmost provinces.

The Summit brought together

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practitioners, social workers, elders, youth and leaders of the Métis Nation to discuss the social and economic situation of families whose children find themselves in the care of provincial child and family services systems. It builds on the successful January emergency meeting on Indigenous child welfare called by Minister Philpott and the National Framework on the Wellbeing of the Métis Child adopted by the MNC General Assembly in 2013.

On March 27, Minister Philpott led a panel discussion with Métis youth who experienced the traumatic effects of being removed from their families and placed in foster care. She also committed \$ 1 million in funding to the



l-r: MNS President Glen McCallum, WMN President Melanie Omeniho, MMF President David Chatrand, MNA President Audrey Poitras, MNO President Margret Froh, MNBC President Clara Morin Dal Col, Minister of Indigenous Service Jane Philpott, MNC President Clément Chartier

Métis National Council and Governing Members to support consultation efforts towards culturally appropriate child welfare reform. It is the intention of the Métis Nation to

use these consultations to explore solutions that will be community-directed, and focused on prevention and will lead to much needed investments in Budget 2019.





April 2018

Maori Delegation Joins Métis Nation Summit



Katie Murray, second from left, presents a gift to President Chartier, on behalf of the Maori delegation

A Maori family delegation which has been working with the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in Winnipeg was invited by the Métis Nation to return to Winnipeg and join us in our Summit on Child and Family Services. This family comprised of Katie Murray, Eva Trebilcock,

Merv Rawiri, and Rima Witanga was a big hit with at the Summit as they not only brought a wealth of knowledge and experience in traditional Indigenous knowledge and dealing with child and family issues having developed an Indigenous-led model to

support group decision making which returns children in care to their families and communities, the delegation also presented gifts and performed Maori cultural activities, including the Haka.





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Conference Pursues Education Priorities Under Canada-Métis Nation Accord

The Métis Nation Education Conference in Ottawa from March 20-21, 2018, showcased the commitment of the Métis Nation to life-long learning. The conference enabled Métis Nation governments and educators together with federal representatives to look at the challenges facing Métis students across the five provinces, to share best practices on how to enhance their educational experience and performance, and to examine ways to reduce the education deficit faced by many of our people.

The conference built on the progress achieved in the federal Budget 2018 which announced an investment of \$10 million in 2018-19 to support existing Métis Nation endowments for post-secondary education. It featured presentations by the Governing Members and their



educational institutes- Louis Riel Institute in Manitoba, Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatchewan and Rupertsland Institute in Alberta - on how they are addressing the education deficit across the lifelong learning spectrum. This includes early childhood development, K-12 schooling, post secondary education

including university, colleges, and technical & apprenticeship training, and ongoing education and skills development to ensure that Métis people can access learning supports to compete in the Canadian labour market.

Senior federal officials provided updates on two major federal

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initiatives, a new national early learning and child care framework and a post-secondary education review, which will have distinct Métis Nation components. Speaking on March 21, the Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services, noted that the Métis Nation is an active part of the comprehensive review of all federal Post-Secondary programs for Indigenous students and the conference was an opportunity to better understand the needs of students, set priorities and approaches to quality education and develop policy that meets the unique needs of the Métis Nation.

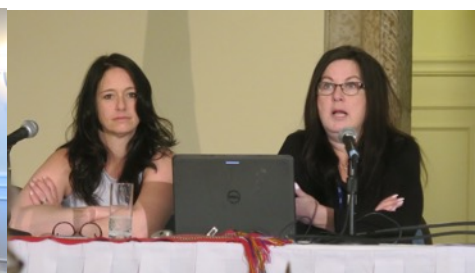
“It is a true privilege to take part in today’s conference towards quality education”, said the Minister. “The Government of



Canada remains committed to continue working in partnership with the Métis Nation to find the best approaches that will support and enable Métis Nation students to pursue their dreams, succeed and be full participants in the new global economy.”

According to President Chartier: “The Métis Nation

Education Conference was an important starting point for our work on education with the federal government. Education is the key to opening opportunity for our people. Minister Philpott recognizes this too and we look forward to working with her on tapping the full potential of the Métis Nation.”





April 2018

President Chartier speaks at National Indigenous Education Conference

On March 22nd President Chartier attended the morning session of a national education conference in Ottawa organized by The National Centre for Collaboration (NCCIE) headed by the First Nations University of Canada and its President, Mark Dockstator. This initiative is less than two years old and is dealing with First Nations education, although President Dockstator in conversation with President Chartier expressed interest in having the Métis Nation's educational institutes join the initiative.

The philosophy of the NCCIE is to include, as the very first step of a national project, community perspectives on Indigenous education. The emphasis on "community first" is a recognition of community voice, presence and imagery that forms the foundation for Indigenous education in Canada. A fundamental component of the NCCIE approach to Indigenous education is to engage Elders, youth and Indigenous



communities and organizations on a national level.

In keeping with this philosophy and approach, the theme of the conference was "Indigenous Education" and was well attended by educators from across Canada. While President Chartier was only able to stay for the opening speeches, he did have a chance to speak with the Hon. Dr. Bennett who addressed the conference before him and stayed long enough to hear his speech.

President Chartier emphasized the distinctions-based approach to education and self-determination generally and spoke to the progress made with budget 2018 in terms of the financial assistance made available to Métis Nation post-secondary students and the hope that finally the Métis Nation will be included in the current review of post-secondary education by the federal government.





April 2018

Indigenous Language and Culture Conference

On March 6th President Chartier addressed the Strengthening and Revitalizing Indigenous Language and Culture Conference organized by the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute based in Winnipeg. Present at the conference were Indigenous language speakers from various parts of Canada, including Métis Nation citizens from St. Laurent and St. Eustace, Manitoba.

The conference was part of a project funded by the federal government as part of its initiative to adopt an Indigenous Languages Act, which it is co-developing with the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis Nation.

In his address, President Chartier re-enforced how important it is for all Indigenous nations in Canada to make every effort possible to preserve, revitalize and practice their respective languages. While speaking to the Métis Nation as a western Canada based people geographically, President Chartier made it clear that citizens of the Métis Nation,

besides speaking their own language, Michif, also spoke Cree, Dene and Saulteau; and that all of these languages were very important to the Métis Nation.



President Chartier also re-affirmed how important it is that the distinctions-based approach, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation is critical to forward movement and the right of self-determination, but that we should also work

collectively within that context to ensure that our voices are heard. One good example he pointed out, was the collaboration on co-developing the Indigenous Languages Act with Minister Joly.





April 2018

President Chartier Visits Queen's University

On Friday, March 16th, President Chartier spent the day at Kingston attending several meetings organized by the Queens University Native Students Association. This was the final day of their Indigenous Awareness Week, the theme of which was "Exploring Indigenous Identities".



especially about who are the Métis.

The day ended with a wine and cheese reception, coupled with a tour of two-spirited artist Kent Monkman's art currently on display at Queens.

The morning started off with an informal townhall with Indigenous student leaders at the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre, a two story house on campus. The students, all of whom were First Nations were quite interested in hearing about the history of the Métis Nation, acknowledging that the term "Métis" in eastern Canada was creating confusion.

the early 1980s worked in Regina on the staff of the Newbreed Magazine.

From there, President Chartier proceeded to another part of campus where he delivered a 30 minute keynote speech on the Métis Nation, followed by a 30 minute townhall with the participants who did not lack for questions or comments,





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Métis Rights Panel meets in Fort McMurray

On March 8-9, 2018 the MRP met in Fort McMurray, Alberta to a larger than usual audience. This was the first time that the MRP has met outside of the larger urban cities and attracted a lot of interest from Local and Regional Métis leaders and citizens.

Also present at the meeting were Presidents Audrey Poitras (MNA) and Margaret Froh (MNO) replacing their regular representatives. As we were meeting in Fort Mac, the Fort Chipewyan Local was provided time on the agenda to inform the Panel about their issues surrounding the Bennett Dam in British Columbia which has been wreaking havoc in the delta upon which Fort Chipewyan is located (at Lake Athabasca).

A full discussion was also held with respect to the s.35 rights Frameworks which have been signed by the MMF, MNA and MNO and the pending ones with MNBC and the MNS. It was clear that these frameworks



were key in moving the Métis Nation forward in connection to lands and resources and self-government. It was also made clear that the only claims process(es) available to the Métis Nation and its governments outside of the courts, were these Framework Agreements as we have been excluded from the federal claims processes.

On the second day, a full and substantial discussion took place in connection to the December 2017 General Assembly resolution dealing with the Métis Nation homeland and the newly announced new regional Métis communities announced in August 2017 by the government of Ontario and the MNO.





April 2018

President Chartier Attends Métis Nation Governing Assembly



On March 23rd President Chartier attended the Métis Nation British Columbia's sitting of the MNGA. In a forty minute address President Chartier re-affirmed the history and existence of the Métis Nation and its homeland in Western Canada. President Chartier also summarized the political battles in the 1980s to get a voice at the constitutional table and the re-organizing of

the national representation of the Métis Nation in the form of the Métis National Council, now the national government of the Métis Nation.

President Chartier also spoke highly of the progress being made by the Métis Nation leadership and its ministers, including President Clara Morin dal Col, Minister of Health, as well as Minister of Culture,

Heritage and Families. "With the dedicated and hard work of the leadership over the past two decades and the willingness of the Trudeau government, the Métis Nation through the various processes now in place were able to, for the first time in our history, receive Métis Nation-specific allocations of a substantive nature in budget 2018" stated President Chartier.





April 2018

President Chartier meets with Canadian Universities Education Committee



On March 29th President Chartier met with the Education Committee made up of Presidents and Principals of Canadian Universities. Committee Chair, Peter Stoicheff, President of the University of Saskatchewan welcomed President Chartier a former student of the School of Law at the U of S.

Also sitting on the Committee are two First Nations Educators, First Nations University of Canada President, Mark

Dockstator and Nipissing University President, Mike Degagne.

President Chartier provided a broad overview of the Métis Nation and some of the success had with budget 2018, the endowments previously established between Métis Nation governments and several post-secondary institutes and the high hopes that the Métis Nation leadership holds out with respect to the current federal government review of

their post-secondary education services to Indigenous peoples.

This was followed by a power point presentation by Wenda Watteyne which provided greater detail about what the Métis Nation is undertaking with respect to post-secondary education, as well as the whole continuum of education beginning with pre-school, to K-12, to post-secondary education.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

- National Michif Conference April 4-5 Saskatoon, SK
- Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Symposium (TBD)
- Canada-Métis Nation table on clean growth and climate change April 10-11 Ottawa, ON
- Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas April 11-12 Lima, Peru
- Summit of the Americas (OAS) April 13-14 Lima, Peru
- United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues April 16-27 New York, NY
- Michif Language Committee meeting May 11-12 Winnipeg, MB
- Climate Change Conference April 30 – May 10 Bonn, Germany



2018: Rights of the Métis Nation Child





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