



Métis Nation



August 2018

Métis Nation and Canada Sign \$500 million Housing Agreement



On July 19, 2018, the Métis Nation General Assembly concluded with signing of Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord with Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett.

The Government of Canada and the Métis Nation have been working together to identify and

advance shared priorities as identified in the Canada-Métis Nation Accord including affordable and social housing. The Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord is the second sub-accord under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord

Through the sub-accord on housing, the design, delivery, and

administration of housing services will be administered by the Governing Members of the Métis Nation. It will be funded by a \$500 million investment from Budget 2018 over 10 years.

Minster Bennett stated: “The Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord is an important step towards a renewed relationship

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with the Métis Nation – one based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. I look forward to continued dialogue in supporting the interests and aspirations of the Métis Nation and those of all Canadians.”

Métis Nation President Chartier added: “The Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord marks another important step on the path to forging a real nation-to-nation relationship with the federal government and addressing the pressing needs of our people for housing. It confirms the great value and effectiveness of the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism that the

Prime Minister established with the Métis Nation and is achieving real change for our people.”

Following the signing of the sub-Accord, Minister Bennett and President Chartier led a discussion on the federal government’s Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework under development that is intended to include a collection of legislative and policy instruments that will ensure that the recognition and implementation of Indigenous rights is the basis for all relations between the Government of Canada and Indigenous Peoples. The Framework could also

include new measures to support the rebuilding of Indigenous nations and collectives, and advance Indigenous self-determination.

The Framework is meant to accelerate the work already begun to renew the nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples which in the case of the Métis Nation are the section 35 tables with the Governing Members.





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Métis Nation Zeros in on Year 2 Priorities under Canada-Métis Nation Accord



General Assembly of the Métis Nation was held in Saskatoon from July 18-20, 2018 with focus on joint work with Trudeau government on rights and policies.

The State of the Nation address by President Chartier charted the historic advances of the Métis Nation during the year followed by a video presentation capturing the highlights of the work under the

Canada-Métis Nation Accord (see video presentation).

Ministers of the Métis Nation reported on the work being undertaken on year 2 priorities of education, economic development, new fiscal relations, health, veterans and Sixties Scoop. Governing Member Presidents then provided updates on negotiations at Section 35 rights tables.

Close by, Métis Nation youth gathered at an important conference to discuss how to best support Métis youth in building strong, meaningful connections to their peers, communities and culture. Métis Youth representatives will also provide input and advice on building a youth policy for the Métis Nation and for Canada.





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President Chartier Speaks at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



On July 9, 2018, President Chartier attended the United Nations CBD meeting at the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal, QC.

Canada is a Party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and hosts its Secretariat in Montreal, QC. The CBD is holding an important

international biodiversity meeting from 9 to 13 July 2018. One of the key topics for discussion during the meetings will be the future of the CBD's working group on issues related to Indigenous peoples and local communities.

At an opening reception on July 9th, President Chartier was invited to address the

participants. It represents a unique opportunity to raise awareness amongst country representatives and other participants on the importance of the contribution of Indigenous peoples and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.





August 2018

Batoche Days a Huge Success



The Batoche Days held July 20-22, 2018 was well attended and generated a lot of praise from participants and spectators. The weather, while a bit windy at times, was nevertheless a contributing

factor to the enjoyment of those in attendance.

The activities were varied and had something to offer everyone, while as usual, it was the fiddle music and dance

competitions which drew the most spectators. The music was lively, the dancers enthusiastic and the crowds deeply appreciative.

The voyageur games and the

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fastball tournament also attracted a lot of attention, as did the chariot races.

On Sunday, following the Sunday service, the march to the mass-gravesite was well attended, and the solemn

ceremony at the cemetery was a fitting tribute to the fallen warriors of the 1885 Battle of Batoche.





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Manitoba Métis Government Cabinet Announced



President Chartier attended the first official meeting of the new Cabinet held July 14-15, 2018 following the May 31, 2018 election. While the Cabinet meeting dealt with a large number of subject matters, the main focus of attention was the anticipated announcement of the new Cabinet on the second day of the meeting.

While a number of sitting ministers retained their portfolios, several were moved to new and more challenging ministries. All Ministers and Associate Ministers were pleased with the continuation of their tasks or for the new challenges facing them.

On the first day of the meeting President Chartier addressed the

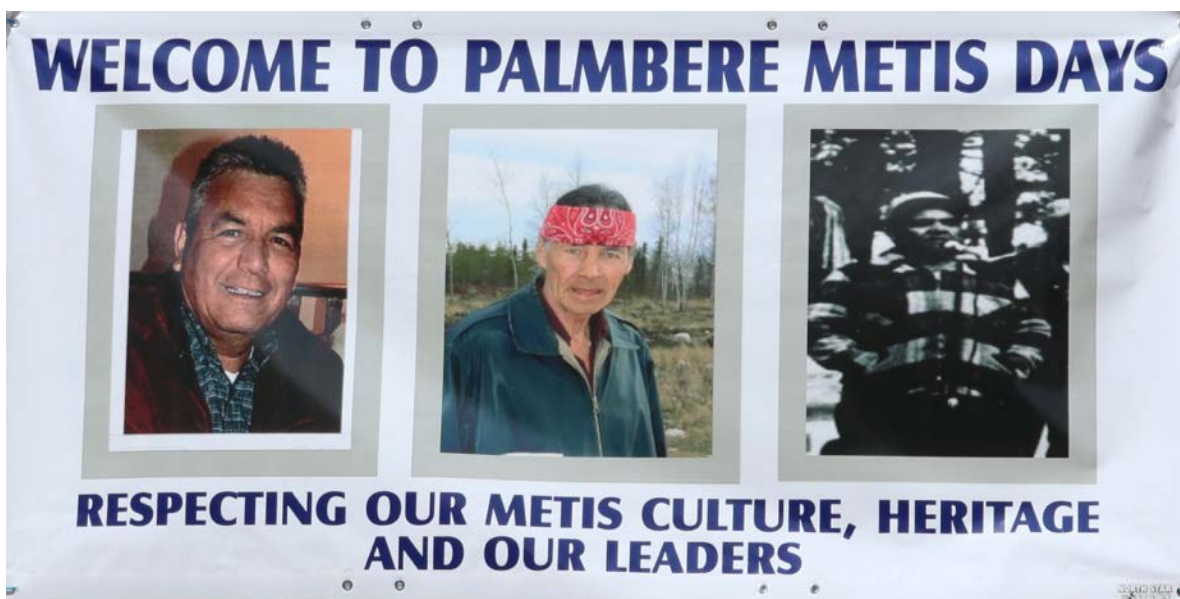
Cabinet outlining the importance of the next two years in reaching our 2020 objectives, including the relocation of the Métis Nation government to Winnipeg (the former Red River Settlement), as well as pursuing the second major installment for the Métis Nation governments in Budget 2019 building on the success of Budget 2018.





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Palmbere Days Gathering Honours Past Leaders



On July 27th, the Palmbere Days Gathering set for July 27-29th, during its afternoon meeting of regional Métis leaders and citizens, paid tribute to three of the past leaders from the MNS Clearwater-Clear Lake Métis Region who were instrumental in moving the Métis rights agenda forward.

Senator Louis Morin from Turnor Lake, Armand Murray from La Loche and Philip Chartier from Buffalo Narrows

were the recipients of the Region's recognition for their service to the community and nation during their time on this earth. While they have since passed, their legacy is still being felt in the communities they worked so hard for. Family members were in attendance to accept the honours on their behalf.

The meeting itself heard from MNS President Glen McCallum and Métis Nation President

Clément (Clem) Chartier who both spoke about the importance of recognizing the contributions of our past leaders, while also working collectively to continue the pursuit of our rights, including a right to a land-base and self-government. President McCallum spoke about the importance of the Framework Agreement on s.35 rights reconciliation signed the previous week at Batoche, and re-affirmed his commitment to work with the northwest

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Saskatchewan leadership and communities in pursuit of an out of court settlement of the northwest land claim filed in 1994.

Lawyer Emilie Lehaie from Vancouver was also present on behalf of Tom Isaac and provided an update on both the Framework Agreement and the Ile a la Crosse boarding school discussions with the federal government.





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Message from the President

The Batoche Days held during July 20-23, 2018 showcased the importance of Métis Nation culture and spirit, from the opening ceremony to the closing of the event on Sunday afternoon, including the annual march to the mass-gravesite at the historic Métis cemetery at the Batoche National Historic Site owned by Canada.

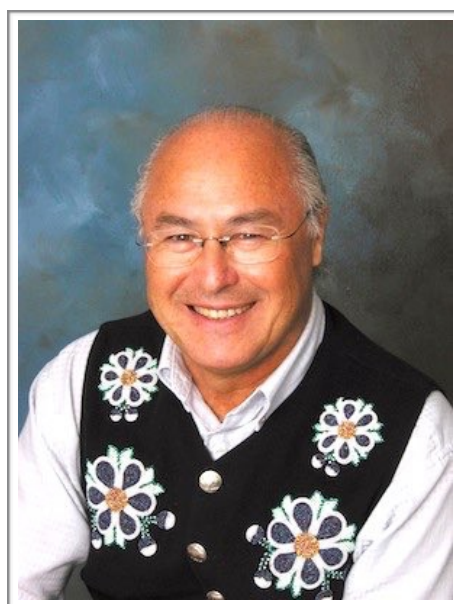
The atmosphere was pleasant, the smiles abundant, as our people gathered in large number for what was promising to be a great event, which it was. New to this year's Batoche Days was the return of the fastball games, played on two new diamonds. Yes, Batoche Days offered a lot to the differing interests of our people, from fiddle music and dance, to voyageur games, to wagon races, to fastball, to great food, and to simply sharing stories around the campfire.

What of course is significant in all of this is the evident growth of our peoples' hopes for a better future witnessed through the developing relationship with the federal Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the many breakthroughs we have made over the past 2½ years. This includes the partnership relationships on a

number of fronts, from drafting legislation jointly on Indigenous languages, to the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism between the Métis Nation and Canada, to the s. 35 rights reconciliation tables with our Governing Members, to this year's federal budget which, for the first time in the Métis Nation's history, allocated a substantial amount of fiscal resources in areas such as housing and early learning and child care for the Métis Nation which will enable our Governing Members to provide these much needed services to our citizens.

The persistence of our leaders, from the community, regional, provincial and national levels over the many past decades in pursuing our objectives and holding steadfast to our identity as a people and nation with a distinct geographic homeland in western Canada has made these breakthroughs possible. At the core of all of this, is our heritage and culture which we have never abandoned and which we carry out in our daily lives and in our celebrations.

What struck me the most profoundly this year was the great turnout of citizens and leaders for the march to the mass-gravesite to



honour those warriors, leaders and citizens who sacrificed so much for our nation and people during the 1885 Resistance, including the ultimate sacrifice, their lives.

Without a strong sense of identity, a strong and vibrant culture and a common dedication to secure our rightful place within Canada and protect and promote our homeland and nation, we would not have been able to accomplish what we now have today, and what we will ultimately secure in the coming years.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

- First Inter-American Indigenous Peoples Week Aug 6-10 Washington, DC
- Métis Nation of Alberta Annual General Assembly Aug 11-12 Lac La Biche, AB
- Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly Aug 17-19 Peterborough, ON
- Métis Nation Policy Session on Health Aug 20-22 Ottawa, ON
- Métis Nation Policy Session on Child and Family Services Aug 22-23 Ottawa, ON
- Métis Nation of British Columbia Annual General Meeting Sept 14-16 Richmond, BC
- Manitoba Metis Federation Annual General Assembly Sept 21-23 Winnipeg, MB



2018: Rights of the Métis Nation Child





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