



Métis Nation



December 2018

General Assembly acts on Métis Nationalist Agenda



On November 29, 2018, a Special Sitting of the Métis Nation General Assembly concluded in a series of resolutions that will help drive the nation-to-nation relationship with Canada and strengthen the citizenship and governance of the Métis Nation. The General Assembly on

November 28-29 was preceded by a two day policy forum focused on the recognition of the Métis Nation in various self-government processes currently underway.

The policy forum helped to inform the deliberations of the

General Assembly. Professor Frank Tough of the University of Alberta presented a series of maps depicting the evolution and expansion of the Métis Nation as a distinct people and nation which supported a resolution adopted by the General Assembly confirming a

Continued on next page





December 2018

map of the homeland of the historic Métis Nation homeland (see Homeland Map resolution). Métis lawyer Celeste McKay provided an update on the



recognition of Indigenous rights in international laws.

The policy forum featured an important discussion of the challenge being faced by the Métis Nation with the rise and proliferation of groups in eastern Canada who are falsely claiming Métis rights, misappropriating the symbols of the Métis Nation, encouraging tax fraud and using their claims to Métis identity to attack legitimate rights holding Indigenous nations including the Mi'kmaq of Atlantic Canada and the Innu in Quebec. Professor Darryl Leroux of Saint Mary's University in Halifax briefed the policy forum on the evolution of these groups, some of which are rooted in the white rights, white nationalist movement.

Zabrina Whitman of the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative also addressed the forum and provided background to the MOU recently concluded by the MNC and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia which recognizes each other's Nationhood within their respective traditional and current territories and commits them to work collaboratively on the issue of individuals misrepresenting themselves as Métis in Nova Scotia. The General Assembly took up this issue with a resolution strongly supporting and ratifying the MOU and supporting similar collaborative arrangements with other Indigenous nations that share the Métis Nation's concern over identity theft and misrepresentation.

The policy forum included a number of sessions measuring the progress being made in negotiating self-government arrangements with Canada. Senior officials from the MNC, Governing Members and Canada briefed delegates on steps being taken to get to a government-to-government fiscal relationship between Métis governments and Canada. Former Ministerial Special Representative on Métis Reconciliation Tom Isaac

provided an overview of how far have we come in implementing recommendations of his MSR report and how far we have to go. He joined Métis lawyer Jason Madden and MMF Chief of Staff Al Benoit in a discussion of what has been achieved at the s. 35 rights tables with Canada, what remains to be done and what is the timeframe for concluding self-government agreements. President Chartier joined the group in a discussion of the federal government's proposed Indigenous Rights Framework and potential legislation. The Métis Nation supports this federal initiative in order to legally protect the section 35 rights resolution processes which presently are policy-based. The panel concluded that in the event of the First Nations and Inuit not supporting the initiative, the MNC should press Ottawa to go it alone with the Métis Nation.

At the Métis Nation General Assembly on December 12 - 13, 2017 a resolution was adopted mandating the President to undertake an examination of the integrity of the historic Métis Nation homeland and citizenship in light of the past, recent and continuing developments within the Métis

Continued on next page





December 2018

Nation of Ontario (MNO). President Chartier presented his report on November 28 to the Special Sitting of the General Assembly, noting that the MNO was admitted to the MNC in 1994 with a clear understanding that registration of its membership would be restricted to those Métis from the historic Métis Nation homeland i.e. Métis from the prairies who had moved to Ontario and those from Métis communities in that part of northwestern Ontario contiguous to Manitoba.

The President's report found that the MNO has failed to apply the citizenship criteria of the historic Métis Nation adopted by the General Assembly in 2002 (National Definition) and has consistently ignored and been in breach of MNC General Assembly resolutions on citizenship and grandfathering. Moreover, it has attempted to extend the boundaries of the historic Métis Nation homeland by a unilateral declaration of "new historic Métis communities" without the consent of MNC and its other Governing Members. President Chartier recommended the suspension of the MNO from the governance institutions of the Métis Nation,

including the General Assembly and the Board of Governors, until it complied with the citizenship requirements set out in the National Definition.

The General Assembly adopted the President's report and acted through resolution. Its resolution, while agreeing with the President's recommendation for the suspension of the MNO, stated its willingness to entertain a probation period before the suspension becomes effective. The General Assembly placed the MNO on probation for one year while it meets certain conditions failing which the General Assembly will revisit this matter at the conclusion of the probation period and decide on further action. It set the following conditions that must be met for the lifting of the probation decision:

- That all MNO members must meet the criteria for citizenship in the Métis Nation set out in the 2002 General Assembly citizenship resolution (National Definition) to be eligible for enrollment and are connected to the historic Métis Nation homeland as set out in the homeland map;
- That the MNO must abide by the 2004 Métis Nation directive providing that all members shall re-register under the 2002 criteria with no grandfathering-in of members;
- That a committee of the MNC Board of Governors shall be established to organize a registry review of all MNO members to ensure the above two conditions are met, as well as provide general oversight; and
- That a panel of registrars from the western Governing Members working under the direction of the above committee shall conduct the registry review of existing MNO members and will ensure that all future citizenship applications shall abide by the 2002 criteria.

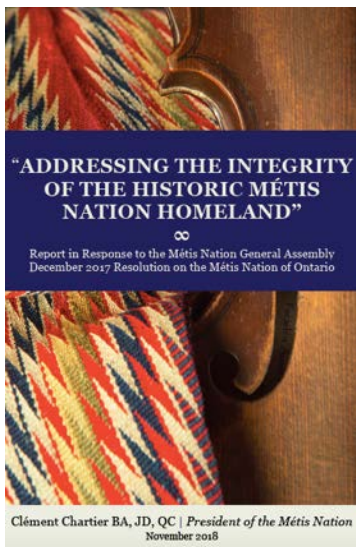
Continued on next page





December 2018

Download Documents



The President's report in Response to the Métis Nation General Assembly December 2017 Resolution on the Métis Nation of Ontario

<http://www.metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/MNO-Nov-2018-Report-Recommendations-appendices-final.pdf>

A Matter of National and Constitutional Import:

2016 Report of the Minister's Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis: Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision



A Progress Report from the Minister's Special Representative, Thomas Isaac, on Reconciliation with the Métis – How far have we come in implementing recommendations of the MSR report and how far do we have to go?

<http://www.metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/A-Matter-of-National-and-Constitutional-Import-Metis-National-Counsel-November-2018.pptx>

MOU between MNC and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia

<http://www.metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Memorandum-of-Understanding.pdf>





December 2018

Message from the President

Every people or nation has, or at least should have, a place to call home. The case of the Métis Nation, a distinct and newly emerged Indigenous people living primarily in what is now known as western Canada, is no different.

With the recent decision by the majority of the members of the Métis Nation's General Assembly to adopt a homeland map which gives a general sense of the traditional territory of the Métis Nation, a lot of controversy has been engendered. There are some who say the boundaries do not extend far enough into British Columbia and Ontario. There are others who say it extends too far into British Columbia and into the Northwest Territories.

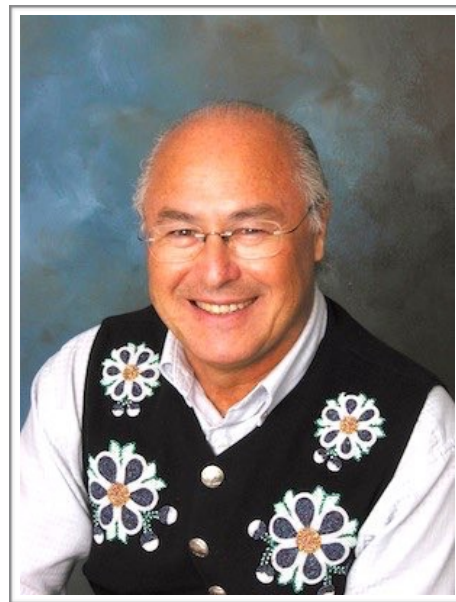
Others say it should reflect decisions by the courts, and in particular the Supreme Court of Canada's 2003 *Powley* decision wherein it asserted that Sault Ste Marie, Ontario and environs is a s.35 Métis rights-bearing community, and therefore the area should be accepted as part

of the historic Métis Nation homeland. Should the Métis Nation government accept this?

What about the Alberta Court of Appeal which found in the *Hirsehorn* case in 2013, that southern Alberta was not part of the Métis homeland prior to the date of effective control, which they placed at 1874, and in particular that prior to 1870 "southern Alberta was not, at that time, part of the traditional territory of the Métis". Does this mean that southern Alberta should not be included in the Métis Nation Homeland map? I am sure the Blackfoot Confederacy would support that position.

A further question is what year or timeframe should be adopted to demarcate the traditional territory of the Métis Nation homeland? Due to the highly mobile nature of the Métis, the date selected could have a significant impact on the geographic reach of the Métis Nation homeland.

While it may take more research to accurately demarcate



the boundaries of the Métis Nation, enough research, publications, studies and common sense have enabled the current decision to be made. Previous maps which show the economic history of the Métis Nation, cart trails and scrip commissions have been instructive, and have helped inform the foundation of the geographic extent of the Métis Nation's traditional territory.

It should also be kept in mind, that the legal concept of Aboriginal title recognized and

Continued on next page





December 2018

affirmed in s.35 has a different set of requirements for proving such rights than that contained in the Supreme Court of Canada's *Powley* criteria for establishing Aboriginal harvesting rights. The proof for establishing Aboriginal title to the lands and resources is more onerous than establishing harvesting rights.

This leads to the major question of whether the homeland map should only include that part of western Canada where Métis Aboriginal title can be established or in the past was recognized? That geographic area in the late 1800s and early 1900s was covered by the *Manitoba Act, 1870* land provision and the *Dominion Lands Act (1872-1879)* and the subsequent scrip commissions, and current

northwestern Ontario where the Métis adhered to Treaty 3 in 1875.

In determining as close as possible the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation based on a sound historical basis, the mobility of the citizens of the Métis Nation must be taken into account, and particularly the continued movement of the Métis following the 1870-73 reign of terror at the Red River (Manitoba), the further dispersal after the 1885 resistance and the forced movement caused by our displacement from our lands and resources and the need to find sources of employment to feed our families. This mobility is evident today in Western Canada where the Métis are still the people who move the most.

So, the days of our becoming refugees in our own homeland still has its effects.

In this connection, there are now large numbers of our citizens who have moved away from our homeland to surrounding areas and in particular to British Columbia, the NWT and Ontario. Clearly, there continues to be a need or requirement that these citizens continue to be included in the social, economic, cultural, legal and political life of the Métis Nation and its governments. This must and can be accommodated but does not change the historical existence of the Métis Nation and where our right of self-determination and s.35 rights are grounded.



2018: Rights of the Métis Nation Child





December 2018

Government of Canada, with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation leaders, announce co-developed legislation will be introduced on Indigenous child and family services in early 2019



On November 30, 2018, Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott, together with Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed, and Métis National Council President Clément Chartier, announced that the

Government of Canada will introduce co-developed federal legislation on Indigenous child and family services in early 2019.

Indigenous children represent 52.2% of children in foster care in private homes in Canada. The over-representation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation

children in the child welfare system is a humanitarian crisis. Indigenous children who have been in care face greater risks of adverse health outcomes, violence and incarceration.

Legislation is an important step toward more comprehensive reform. This announcement is

Continued on next page





December 2018

the culmination of intensive engagements throughout this year which focused on identifying ways to reduce the number of Indigenous children in care. Currently, Indigenous families are bound by rules and systems that are not reflective of their cultures and identities. The goal of the proposed legislation is to change that. It aims to support Indigenous families to raise their children within their homelands and nations as well as increase efforts to prevent child apprehension where possible and safe to do so.

This broad-based legislation will be inclusive of all Indigenous peoples while respecting a distinctions-based approach. The legislation would affirm inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights as well as affirm principles consistent with the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A pillar of the legislation will be the right to self-determination of Indigenous peoples to freely determine their laws, policies

and practices in relation to Indigenous child and family services.

Throughout 2018, Indigenous Services engaged with national, regional, and community organizations and governments representing First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation, as well as Treaty Nations, self-governing First Nations, provinces and territories, experts and people with lived experience, including Elders, Youth and Women. More than 65 engagement sessions with nearly 2,000 participants were held. The message to the government was that legislation could help to protect the best interests of the child.

Quotes:

“Moving forward with federal legislation on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation child and family services is a vital step toward ensuring Indigenous children are never again forcibly taken from their homes without their parents’ consent. Every possible measure should be taken to prevent Indigenous child apprehension and to reunite children with their families. New federal legislation is a powerful tool to support these efforts.”

The Honourable Jane Philpott,
P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indigenous Services

“This is a critical step in supporting the rights and well-being of Indigenous children. The status quo is not acceptable. This proposed legislation will reaffirm the rights of Indigenous children and put in place the much needed supports for communities to ensure that Indigenous children can grow up as proud First Nations, Métis and Inuit with a strong sense of secure personal cultural identity and better health, education and economic outcomes.”

The Honourable Carolyn
Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.
Minister of Crown-Indigenous
Relations

“First Nations are ready to reform child and family services in ways that respect our rights, cultures and family structures. First Nations have been held back for years by outdated laws, and we continue to experience the trauma and loss when children and families are broken apart. Legislation, co-developed with First Nations, is an important step toward addressing the need for reform

Continued on next page





December 2018

across the entire system. First Nations are ready to focus on prevention over apprehension, and apply First Nations laws, policies and cultural values that place children at the centre of our Nations.”

Perry Bellegarde
National Chief, Assembly of First Nations

“Inuit are committed to working constructively and on a distinctions basis towards the co-development of federal child and family welfare legislation to help meaningfully address social inequity in Inuit Nunangat, and across Canada, and ultimately decrease the overrepresentation of Inuit children in care.”

Natan Obed
President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

“This proposed legislation will provide a new chapter towards increased recognition that we, the Métis Nation, are best placed to nurture and to care for our children. This is an unprecedented initiative that will ensure the survival, dignity and well-being of our families, communities and nation for generations to come”.

Clément Chartier
President, Métis National Council

Quick facts:

Indigenous children represent 52.2% of children in foster care in private homes in Canada but account for only 7.7% of the overall child population.

The first five Calls to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission relate to child welfare.

Call to Action #4 calls “upon the federal government to enact Aboriginal child-welfare legislation that establishes national standards for Aboriginal child apprehension and custody cases and includes principles that:

Affirm the right of Aboriginal governments to establish and maintain their own child-welfare agencies.

Require all child-welfare agencies and courts to take the residential school legacy into account in their decision making.

Establish, as an important priority, a requirement that placements of Aboriginal children into temporary and

permanent care be culturally appropriate.”

In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled that Canada’s First Nations Child and Family Services Program was discriminatory and ordered Canada to immediately address the issue. The ruling prompted further discussion on the creation of federal legislation as a way to ensure better care for Indigenous children.

New federal legislation was also called for in an Interim Report by the National Advisory Committee on First Nations Child and Family Services, and in a resolution passed in May of 2018 by the Assembly of First Nations in support of the establishment of federal-enabling legislation for First Nations.

In January 2018, the federal government held a National Emergency Meeting on First Nation, Inuit, and Métis child and family services with representatives of the Indigenous peoples and nations, the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis National Council, Indigenous service organizations, experts and practitioners, elders,

Continued on next page





December 2018

grandmothers and youth with lived experience. At this meeting, the Government of

Canada announced its commitment to Six Points of Action that included the

potential for federal legislation, as called for in TRC Call to Action #4.

Related Documents:

Backgrounder: Legislation as a step towards reducing the number of Indigenous children in foster care

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2018/11/federal-legislation-as-an-important-step-toward-reducing-the-number-of-indigenous-children-in-foster-care.html>

Support for child and family services co-developed legislation

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1543584936789/1543585105080>



back: (l-r) Duane Morrissette and Wenda Watteyne

front: Natan Obed (President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami), The Honourable Jane Philpott (Minister of Indigenous Services), Clément Chartier (President, Métis National Council), and Perry Bellegarde (National Chief, Assembly of First Nations)





December 2018

President Chartier Attends Annual Gathering at Tinta, Peru



Since a delegation of Indian leaders from Peru visited his home village of Buffalo Narrows and surrounding villages of Ile a la Crosse and Turnor Lake, followed by taking in the 2011 Batoche Days weekend, President Chartier has been

engaging in political exchanges with them. The leaders, Hugo Tacuri and Pedro Huamani are with CONIAP, a national Indian organization in Peru. At Batoche, after a meeting with Métis National Council Board of Governors a Treaty between

CONIAP and the Métis Nation was signed pledging political cooperation.

Upon their return to Peru, the two leaders discussed what they experienced at Batoche with the thousands of Métis Nation

Continued on next page





December 2018



f o u r
directions,
the quatro
suyus, now
living in
Peru, Bolivia,
Ecuador,
Chile and
Argentina.
Each year the
gathering
gets larger
w i t h

address the delegates. This included Hugo Tacuri, President of CONIAP, ACIP VP, Brooklyn Rivera, Leader of YATAMA, Nicaragua, ACIP Secretary and Clem Chartier, President of the Métis Nation and ACIP President. A wide range of topics were discussed, including the dangers to be faced by Indian peoples and communities with the new election in Brazil.

citizens from across the homeland gathered there for the weekend celebration and commemoration. They decided to hold a gathering of their people on November 4th in Tinta where on November 4, 1780 Tupac Amaru II called for the expulsion of the Spanish. He, his wife Micaela Bastidas and one of their children, along with a number of other liberation fighters were captured and on May 18, 1781 were executed in the public square in Cuzco, Peru. His limbs were sent in four directions as a warning to others who may wish to fight the Spanish.

With the November 4th celebration/commemoration beginning in 2011, the CONIAP leadership is aiming to re-unite their nation/people from the

representatives from those countries as well as Venezuela, Nicaragua and Canada in attendance this year.

The ceremonies on November 4th are preceded by a political meeting of the various delegations on November 3rd. This year, with the formation of the American Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) in April 2018 in Lima, Peru the three Executive Members were present to





December 2018

Métis Nation and Federal Officials Visit Northwest Saskatchewan



On November 13-14, 2018 officials from the several departments from the federal government engaged in the work of the Pan-Canadian Framework Agreement and its implementation joined the MNC's Environment Committee in a community visit to the Métis village of Ile a la Crosse on November 13th, joined by President Chartier, Métis

Nation Minister of the Environment.

The visit included a community tour, a traditional meal at noon, accompanied a display of Métis cultural expression through the fiddle-playing by two high school students, joined by a dance troupe of high school students.

This was followed by a meeting with the village's leaders representing the A la Baie Métis Council, the Village Council, the Trappers Association and the Fishermens Cooperative, as well as community Elders and citizens. President Chartier spoke to the Métis rights which have been proven in the courts with respect to northwest Saskatchewan.





December 2018

Minister Rodriguez Meets with Métis Nation Leaders in Winnipeg



On November 15th the Hon. Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Heritage Canada met with approximately 40 representatives of the Métis Nation. This included 60s Scoop and residential school survivors, front line workers and elected leaders. This session which took place at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights as part of the Minister's consultations on a proposed national anti-racism strategy.

The session was an opportunity for a free and open expression of the issues and experiences experienced by citizens of the Métis Nation and the marginalization visited upon the Métis Nation for generations by the federal government. Minister Rodriguez was very attentive, engaged and was left with a profound sadness and empathy by what he heard. In this connection he was able to put in perspective his own personal experience that he was subjected to when he and his

family were forced to flee his home country, but being able to do so as a family which was denied to Métis children forcibly removed from their homes and families.

The Métis Nation participants at the consultation session were satisfied with the consultation session and felt a sense of certainty that the Minister not only heard what they had to say, but that he fully understood what he heard.





December 2018

President Chartier Spends Week of November 19th in Ottawa

Taking a break from travel, President Chartier spent the week in several meetings in Ottawa. On November 19th President Chartier attended a meeting on “Indigenous Peoples House” at 100 Wellington with National Chief Perry Bellegarde, President Natan Obed and Minister Bennett. The purpose of the meeting was to review developments to date, including planning on going forward with the co-development of the vision and use of the existing buildings and potential new developments in the open space.



On November 20th President Chartier appeared before the Standing Committee on

Canadian Heritage to address proposed amendments to pieces of legislation which would be affected by the adoption in Parliament of a new holiday: Indigenous Peoples Day. The new holiday is in response to one of the Calls for Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. President Chartier who appeared along with former TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson, agreed with her that June 21st should remain as is, a day of celebration and a day in September selected for the holiday which would be commemorative in nature. Ms. Wilson proposed Orange Shirt Day which President Chartier confirmed would be appropriate.




Later in the day, President Chartier met with Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. Jonathan Wilkenson and discussed the amendments to the Fisheries Act and related regulations as well as the need to deal with the inland commercial fishery and the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, along with the need to ensure the health and survival of that commercial fishery as it is one of the last remaining viable traditional resource industries dominated by Métis Nation and First Nations fishers.



On November 22nd, President Chartier met with the Hon. William (Bill) Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction to discuss the

Continued on next page





December 2018

President Chartier Spends Week of November 19th in Ottawa

current review on the potential ban on hand guns and assault rifles and related matters, including the new cannabis law. The discussion was animated and also provided an opportunity for President Chartier to brief the minister on the progress the Métis Nation is experiencing under the new relationship with the federal government.



President Chartier also met with the Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development and discussed the Métis Nation's economic development plans, strategy and the Budget 2019 economic development ask which is currently working its way through the system.

On Friday, November

23rd, President Chartier met with The Most Reverend Lionel Gendron, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Monsignor Frank Leo its General Secretary. A number of matters were discussed, including a potential visit to the Holy See in Rome. The delegation would include Bishop Gendron and the three National Representative of Indigenous Peoples and Nations. President Chartier confirmed that the Métis Nation would certainly participate if the visit does come about.





December 2018

Louis Riel Day Celebrated

On November 16, 2018, President Chartier attended the Louis Riel Day commemoration ceremony at Louis Riel's gravesite in St. Boniface, Manitoba. On November 16, 1885 Riel was executed for leading the Northwest Resistance in defence of Métis rights.

Métis people across Manitoba came together on Nov. 16th to mark the 133 anniversary of the hanging of Louis Riel.

"November 16 is a very significant day for the Métis Nation as it gives us an opportunity to commemorate and honour the sacrifice made by Louis Riel who gave his life in the defence of the rights of the Métis, a legacy which instills in our people the



determination and spirit to continue the battle for justice and rights" stated President Chartier.

Many people came out to take part in the ceremony, which honoured the life and

contributions of Riel. This was followed by a traditional meal, complete with moose stew and bannock served at Elsie Bear's Kitchen at the MMF building.

President Chartier's remarks at the ceremony

<https://youtu.be/o2fvY5Xx0js>





December 2018

Statement by the Prime Minister on Louis Riel Day

<https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/11/16/statement-prime-minister-louis-riel-day>


The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on Louis Riel Day:

“Today, we commemorate the life of Louis Riel, a dedicated Métis leader, politician, and the founder of the province of Manitoba.

“A champion for minority rights and the Métis Nation, Louis Riel played a key role in Canadian Confederation. He was a visionary who dreamed of a diverse and inclusive Canada. On Louis Riel Day, we reflect on his contributions to building the country we are all proud to call home.

“This summer, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Métis Nation leaders at the annual Crown-Métis Nation Summit. The Summit supports the Canada-Métis Nation Accord and helps advance Canada’s commitment to work with the Métis Nation and drive progress toward their vision of self-determination.

“As we continue to strengthen our relationship and build on our efforts of reconciliation, I encourage Canadians to reflect on the important contributions of the Métis people. We recognize the vital role they have played – and continue to play – in building Canada.”



December 2018

Armistice 100 The Great War ... When the guns fell silent

David Armitt, Chairperson of the Métis Veterans British Columbia Committee



Canadian Veteran Delegation Armistice 100 Grand Place Mons Belgium

A century has passed since the guns fell silent on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of

1918 in Belgium. This date saw the end of World War One, the Great War, the War to end all wars. Over 600,000 Canadian

men and women left their loved ones, their families, the safety and comfort of their homes to help liberate the people of

Continued on next page

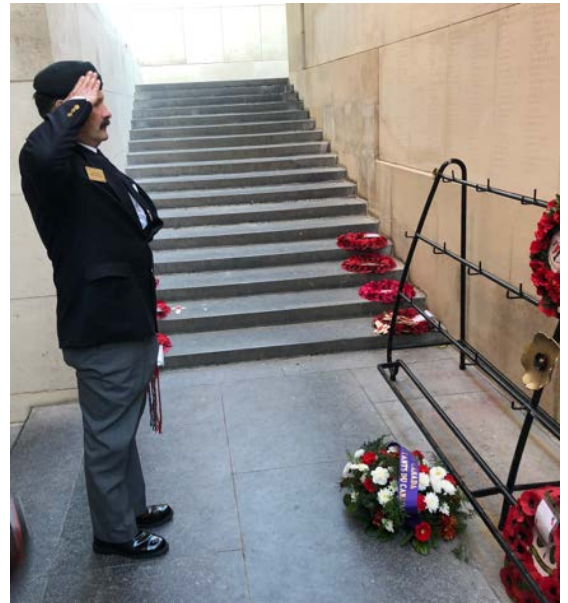


December 2018

Europe. More than 66,000 Canadians did not return and more than 172,000 were injured. Some injuries were inflicted by poisonous gas, released on these unsuspecting souls or, the millions of artillery shells that bombarded them in the trench and the battlefields as they fought on foreign soil to free the oppressed peoples of Europe. Many more returned home broken, not only in body, but also in mind. They fought in appalling conditions living in trenches filled with water, dead bodies buried under foot by debris left by the pounding of artillery shells, scavenged by rats and infested with lice, suffering through diseases and infections such as TB, pneumonia and trench foot.

On 06 November 2018, after three years of careful planning, preparation and coordination, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) gathered a Canadian delegation of Veterans, Veterans families, Members of Parliament and the 2017 National Silver Cross Mother departing for Belgium to participate in the commemorative events marking Armistice 100. The VAC delegation, led by the

Honourable Seamus O'Regan Minister for Veterans, participated in three solid days of commemorative activities throughout Belgium and France. The activities included attending a memorial service in Hyon with the rededication of plaque for the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders who liberated this village a century earlier. The VAC delegation was warmly greeted by hundreds waving Canadian flags and to the cheers of children and villagers who were chanting "CANADA, CANADA, CANADA". The overwhelming welcoming by the villagers of Hyon was made more memorable as the VAC delegation was accompanied by the villagers on a memorial walk to the school on a street named Rue des Canadien, lined by 100 large Canadian flags draped on the front of houses, buildings and shops. Truly, there was an affectionate showing of appreciation and gratitude to Canada when, at the culmination of the ceremony at the school, the children of Hyon



Dave Armitt Laying a wreath Memin Gate Ypres Belaium

released red and white helium balloons with a ribbon tail and a paper white dove attached to each into the sky above symbolizing the freedom they felt on this occasion.

Two minutes before the eleventh hour on eleven November 1918, when it was expected that the guns would fall silent, ending four hard fought years of war, Private George Lawrence Price, a young 19-year-old Canadian Soldier born in Nova Scotia who had moved to Moose Jaw where he

Continued on next page





December 2018

was conscripted into the Canadian Expeditionary Force with "A" Company of the 28th Battalion (Northwest), Canadian Expeditionary Force, was struck and killed by a bullet from an enemy sniper. This loss of life, at such an auspicious moment, was both unexpected and needless. Private Price lost his life in the town of Ville-sur-Haine (Le Roeulx), Belgium where the town has honoured him erecting a monument (Memorial Price), an obelisk in

the shape of a drop of blood which signifies the last drop of blood shed in the Great War. The town has also named a school in his honour. What made this experience extra special was that the Nephew of Private Price, George Barkhouse a Royal Canadian Navy Veteran, was in attendance as a member of the VAC delegation and was honoured at the Memorial Price event that the VAC delegation participated in. What is important to know as Canadians

is, although the Great War ended in 1918, that the people of Belgium are so appreciative that they show their gratitude by honouring the Liberating Canadians every year at many monuments, cemeteries and events through Belgium. The VAC Delegation also undertook a solemn ceremony in Vimy France at Vimy Ridge that was attended by our Canadian Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau.

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

By Robert Laurence Binyon

To mark the Armistice 100, VAC invited the Métis National Council to provide a delegate. MNC was represented by David Armitt of Comox British Columbia. David is a citizen of Métis Nation British Columbia and currently serves as the Chairperson of the Métis Veterans British Columbia Committee. David was born and raised in Winnipeg and served our Country as a Combat Engineer for 21 years with the Canadian Armed Forces. David's service took him to various location across Canada between Chilliwack BC, Petawawa ON and Edmonton AB. While serving, David had the opportunity to serve his Country on two United Nations missions in Pakistan and Cambodia. Upon retirement, David's military training and experiences led him to another 15 years working internationally supporting the United Nations and several International NGO's in Post Conflict Rehabilitation efforts in many countries helping with locating, identifying, marking and removal of hazardous Explosives Remnants of War and as well, Humanitarian Relief Efforts in response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami in the most affected region of Aceh Province Indonesia and in Haiti after the devastating earthquake.





December 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

- UNFCCC COP 24 Dec 2-14 Slaskie, Poland
- FPT Ministers meeting on fisheries and aquaculture Dec 4 St. John's, NFL
- CIHR Workshop Dec 5-7 Victoria, BC
- MNC Board of Governors Preparatory meeting Dec 6 Montreal, QC
- Meeting of Prime Minister and National Indigenous leaders Dec 7 Montreal, QC
- Meeting of First Ministers and National Indigenous Leaders Dec 7 Montreal, QC
- Policy Session on Early Learning and Child Care Dec 10 Ottawa, ON
- Policy Session on Housing & Homelessness Dec 11 Ottawa, ON
- Workshop on Performance Measurement Dec 12 Ottawa, ON
- MHRDA Working Group meeting Dec 13-14 Ottawa, ON
- FPT Deputy Ministers meeting on conservation, wildlife and biodiversity Dec 18 Toronto, ON





Office of the President
Métis Nation
#4 - 340 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 0M6

(800) 928-6330

www.metisnation.ca

info@metisnation.ca



FACEBOOK



TWITTER

