



Métis Nation



September 2019

Métis Nation Leadership Continues Commitment to Métis World War II Veterans



On August 17, 2019, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) President and the Métis Nation's Minister Responsible for Veterans, David Chartrand continued to fulfill his promise to properly acknowledge the service and sacrifice of Métis Veterans who served in World War II.

President Chartrand honoured 106-year-old Alex Boucher who now lives in Britt Ontario by presenting him with a cheque for \$20,000. Mr Boucher served in the Canadian Infantry Corps from 1942 to 1945.

"This is the very least I can do for these brave Métis Veterans

and their families," said President Chartrand. "You must remember, they were willing to give the ultimate sacrifice, for a country that up until now, has done little to show its gratitude. As the Métis Nation leader responsible for Métis Veterans, it is my duty and honour to now properly

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acknowledge these Métis heroes.”

Mr. Boucher is the latest Veteran to receive benefits under the terms of the \$30 million Canada-Métis Nation Veterans Recognition Payment Agreement. President Chartrand has been diligently searching for any surviving Métis Veterans and has travelled to their homes to thank them in person and to present them with compensation cheques.

“I have been lobbying for proper recognition and compensation for Métis Veterans and their families for the better part of 20 years,” added President Chartrand. “Now thanks to our partnership with the Trudeau government, I am now able to see that hard work come to fruition. To meet these Métis veterans in person and to thank them is some of the most gratifying work I have ever performed.”

On August 18, Minister Chartrand visited 93-year-old Wilfred Rochon at the Windsor




Métis Council office to honour Mr. Rochon and present him with his compensation cheque. They were joined at the ceremony by Mr Rochon’s family, representatives from the Métis Veterans Council and community members.

“I have said countless times, that financial compensation is just one part of this reconciliation puzzle,” added President Chartrand. “While money cannot erase the

memory of being abandoned by their country after the war, it will hopefully help bring closure to our Métis Veterans with a sign that the country for which they risked everything is truly grateful.”

Along with the announced money, the Trudeau government continues to work on an official apology to Métis Veterans and their families.





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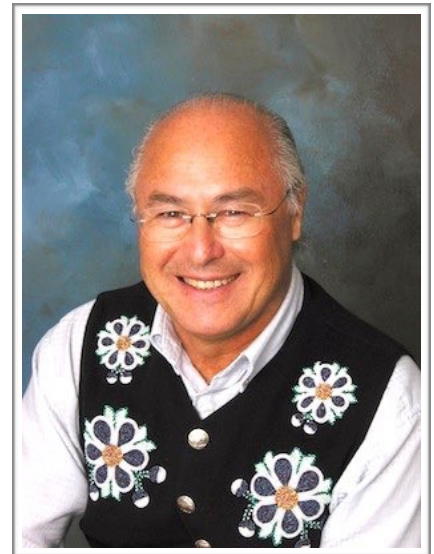
Message from the President

The “Métis Nation” is not an organization. Many may believe that this is the case, like the bogus groups of mixed-ancestry individuals in eastern Canada who have appropriated the use of our Nation as part of their organization’s name. Rather, the Métis Nation is a distinct Aboriginal/Indigenous nation which emerged several hundred years ago in what is now western Canada through a process of ethnogenesis, essentially the children of the first few generations of individuals of mixed Indian (First Nations) and European parents marrying amongst themselves.

This new nation developed its own language (Michif), customs, traditions, lifestyle, culture and has all the attributes which constitutes a people or nation under international law. This nation, the Métis Nation, which entered Canadian confederation in 1870 under the government of President Louis

Riel did extend into a portion what is now northwestern Ontario, but no further to the east. Over the next few decades the Métis Nation homeland did extend further to the west due to the “reign of terror” visited upon the Métis in the Red River Settlement following the Métis Nation’s joining Canada in mid-1870, and after the Battle of Batoche in 1885.


On the other hand, the Métis National Council is the governmental institution of the Métis Nation which was formed on March 8, 1983 to represent the interests of the Métis Nation at the pending March 1983 First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters. As the first national leader of the MNC, I was able to participate with other leaders to get a seat at the FMM table, as well as get Métis Land Base and Self-Government back on the FMM agenda after it had been removed by the Native Council



of Canada (now Congress of Aboriginal Peoples) and others from the AFN and ICNI.

While governmental institutions like the MNC may come and go, the Métis Nation itself is rooted in the blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors who sacrificed so much to get us to where we are today: a proud and strong Métis people. Regardless of what may happen to the MNC in the future, or whatever governmental

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Message from the President

institution which replaces it, the people and nation will never disappear. But this does not mean that we must not be diligent in protecting our nation against outside forces who are not part of us and never will be; who do not share our culture, beliefs, consciousness, territory and history.

A case in point is the fact that at the recent Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly, MNO Chair France Picotte according to CBC news stated that the MNO is not bound by decisions of the Métis National Council General Assembly, especially surrounding the criteria for citizenship in the Métis Nation adopted by the General Assembly in 2002, as well as the November 2018 suspension/probation resolution adopted by the General Assembly.

In terms of the requirements for registration as a citizen of

the Métis Nation based on the 2002 definition, CBC quotes her as saying that if MNO was to follow the MNC requirements, 90 percent of the MNO members would lose out.

She is also reported by the CBC to have said that she “does not care about the probation” as the MNC has no authority over the MNO. She is also quoted as saying that MNO has the support of the Métis groups in Alberta and Saskatchewan who deem the MNC’s suspension/probation resolution unacceptable.

Clearly the delegates from the Métis Nation of Alberta at the MNC GA in November 2018 did vote against the resolution, but the delegates from the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan voted unanimously in favor of the suspension/probation resolution. This was based on a Joint MMF/MNS Cabinet Retreat held in Regina in October 2018 where a unanimous decision was

adopted to support the suspension of the MNO.

From this unanimous support of the MNS Cabinet for the November 2018 resolution to the statement by Chair Picotte at the MNO AGA that the MNS is now opposed to it, is strikingly at odds. If this is in fact the case, it will be interesting to hear the explanation of why the leadership of the MNS would take such a dramatically opposite position to the October and November decisions.





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Métis Nation of Ontario Chair: 90% of MNO members do not meet MNC citizenship requirements

France Picotte, Chair of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, speaks in conjunction with the 26th Annual General Assembly of the MNO in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, August 23-25, 2019.

At the MNC General Assembly in November, 2018, the MNO was placed on probation for one year while it met the following conditions to avoid suspension:

- 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 enrolment 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.

Chair Picotte says she doesn't care about the probation because the MNC "has no authority over us".

See related news article from CBC:

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/amp/1271648/assemblee-generale-annuelle-nation-metisse-crise-confiance>





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President Chartier Speaks at 21st CAAN Annual Gathering



On August 27, 2019 President once again spoke at the Annual Gathering of the Canadian Aboriginal Aids Network, committing the Métis Nation's support to the excellent work being carried out by the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of CAAN.

President Chartier provided an overview of the progress made by the Métis Nation over the

past two federal budgets and the continuing efforts that the Métis Nation is undertaking on the health front based on the \$6 million dollar allocation made in Budget 2018 to enable the Métis Nation to do a health study and data-basing in order to take forward a health budget Ask.

President Chartier affirmed that he has spoken to Métis Nation

Minister of Health, Clara Morin Dal Col who has agreed that part of this study must include Aids, Hepatitis C and other related health matters.

President Chartier was accompanied by Duane Morriseau-Beck who attended the Gathering on behalf of the Métis National Council, which was very much appreciated.





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Crescent Lake Métis Cultural Days Flourish Once Again



l-r: President Clément Chartier, Francis Chartrand (MMF), Tammy Mah (MNS), Richard Genaille (MMF)

President Chartier attended the opening of the Cultural Days on August 3rd in the historic Métis community of Crescent Lake. In the 1940s, land was set aside by the provincial government for the Métis at Crescent Lake a few kilometers outside of Yorkton. The intention was to

provide the Métis with a home after the years of dispossession from their traditional territories.

Things went well, with a school and a thriving Métis community, however, the provincial government with the aid of the

church convinced the Métis to relocate to Esterhazy where a new potash mine was being built and jobs were promised. Upon leaving Crescent Lake, the homes left behind were destroyed, no jobs materialized and the displaced Métis eventually settled in Yorkton,

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and surrounding area.

All that remains of that community is the dilapidated old school, and rich memories. The intent of returning for the cultural days is to continue the connection with their land, and continue their cultural practices of sharing in music, dance and traditional foods. The dream of once again owning land at Crescent Lake is on the cusp of

realization, as Regional Director Derek Langan is close to concluding a deal for the purchase of some of their original lands, with a plan to build a cultural center.

The opening ceremony was well attended with guests, including elected leaders from Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Among them, besides President Chartier, were President David Chartrand from the MMF along with Cabinet Members Francis Chartrand, Will Goodon and Richard Genaille and from the MNS, Secretary Lisa McCallum and Les Filles de Madeleine President, Tammy Mah.

Clearly, the faces of the participants were excellent



President Clément Chartier

indicators of the successful get together.



MMF President David Chartrand



Derek Langan (MNS)





September 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| • Métis Culture Days | Sept 5-8 | Saskatoon, SK |
| • Veterans Announcement | Sept 10 | Regina, SK |
| • MNBC AGM | Sept 13-15 | Prince George, BC |
| • World Indigenous Cancer Conference | Sept 16-19 | Calgary, AB |
| • MMF AGA | Sept 20-22 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Rv. Poitras, Rv. Boyer, QB Appeal | Sept 25 | Meadow Lake, SK |
| • Métis Nation Tobacco Control Workshop | Sept 25-26 | Toronto, ON |
| • LFMO AGM | October 3-5 | Calgary, AB |
| • CFS Committee meeting | October 7-8 | Vancouver, BC |
| • Louis Riel Birthday Celebration | October 22 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Our Mother the Land Conference | October 23-24 | Winnipeg, AB |



2019: Remembering Métis Nation 60s Scoop Survivors





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