



Métis Nation



May 2018

Founding Meeting of the American Council of Indigenous Peoples



On April 13, 2018, Indigenous leaders from throughout the Americas met from April 11 to 12th in Lima, Peru for the Fifth (5th) Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas (ILSA) and established a new

organization to represent their interests: the American Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP). In Spanish, the Consejo Americano de Pueblos Indígenas (CAPI).

The newly established body will be headquartered in Ottawa, Canada and will have an Executive Council composed of eight members, two (2) each from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

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The eight (8) member Executive Council which was mandated to select a President, Vice-President and Secretary from amongst themselves selected Clément (Clem) Chartier from Canada for President, Hugo Tacuri from Peru for Vice-President and Brooklyn Rivera from Nicaragua for Secretary. It will be their task, along with the other five (5) Executive Council members to develop a draft constitution, establish a Head Office in Ottawa and organize a General Assembly in 2020 at which time elections for the three Executive Council members will be held. The Organizing Committee composed of Hugo Tacuri of Peru, Amadeo Martinez of El Salvador along with Clem Chartier and Perry Bellegarde of Canada will carry on as members of the Executive Council. Brooklyn Rivera of Nicaragua who has also worked with the Committee has joined the Executive Council. There is agreement that a representative of the Amazonian Indigenous people will be added to the Executive Council, as will two representatives who will be appointed by the Caribbean region.



ACIP Executives (l-r): Hugo Tacuri (Vice-President), Brooklyn Rivera (Secretary), and Clément Chartier (President)

It was also agreed that the Executive Council will serve until a General Assembly can be convened in 2020 at which time elections for the ACIP leadership will take place. It was also agreed that the Executive Council would consult broadly on a constitution for ACIP and will provide a draft for further discussion and adoption at the 2020 General Assembly.

In addition to dealing with the creation of a new representative body, the Summit also discussed

the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (ADRIP) adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in June 2016, as well as the Plan of Action for implementing the ADRIP adopted by the OAS General Assembly in June 2017. The consensus of the Summit participants was that while the adoption of ADRIP and the Plan of Action are welcomed, they will only serve Indigenous peoples if they are

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implemented, and one of the tasks of the newly established body is to advocate for their implementation.

Another important topic of discussion was international trade between Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas, and the Summit received with interest the initiatives of the Manitoba Metis Federation and the lead role it is playing in advocating and implementing international trade relationships with Indigenous communities from Latin America.

In concluding remarks the participants expressed their happiness in the successful conclusion of the Summit, and in particular the creation of the new Americas-wide Indigenous peoples' organization. The participants also expressed their



l-r: Marie-Josée Gingras (Permanent Mission of Canada to the Organization of American States), Clara Morin Dal Col (MNBC President), Marlene Poitras (Regional Chief- Alberta, AFN), Gwyneth Kutz (Canadian Ambassador to Peru), Clément Chartier (MNC President), Jennifer Loten (Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS), Cassidy Caron (Minister for Métis Youth and Provincial Métis Youth Chair, MNBC)

gratitude to the Métis Nation

and the Assembly of First Nations in their work on the committee to make this a reality as well as providing financial support for the Summit itself. Thanks was also given to the Métis Legal Research and Education Foundation which also assisted in this effort, as well as making a financial contribution.



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Founding Meeting
of the American
Council of
Indigenous Peoples

April 11-12, 2018
Lima, Peru





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President Chartier Attends the PFII in New York



The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UN PFII) held its 17th annual session in New York City from April 16-27th. In attendance from the Métis Nation during the first week, along with President Chartier was MNS President, Glen McCallum.


Over the first two days, April 17-18th, Presidents Chartier and McCallum attended the general sessions and side-events

organized by the Canadian government which was represented by Ministers Bennett and Philpott. In the side-events both Presidents were able to express their positions with respect to the Métis Nation.

President Chartier returned to the PFII on April 25th in order to participate in the session dealing with North America where he presented a lengthy

address on the progress of the Métis Nation, from dispossession from our lands and resources to decades of marginalization to the inclusion in s.35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the court victories, including the 2016 *Daniels* decision and the current Trudeau government's reconciliation processes and the success of the Métis Nation in Budget 2018.





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Message from the President

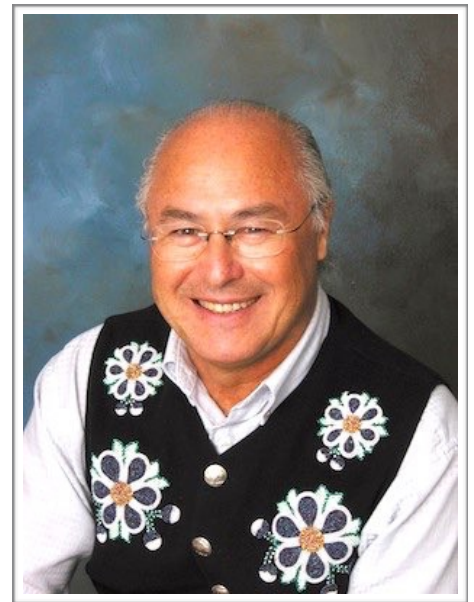
From April 16 to 27, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) held its 17th annual session in New York. The major theme for this year was lands and resources. Underlying all of the discussions in the PFII since 2008 has been the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which contains numerous provisions dealing with the land and resource rights of Indigenous peoples.

In Canada, this Declaration has been embraced by the current federal government with its key ministers declaring Canada's full support and respect for the Declaration at the 2016 session of the Permanent Forum. Coupled with this, in Canada, the current federal government has instituted a number of initiatives which are based on the principles and rights-recognition contained in the Declaration. This has been evidenced through the distinctions-based political and

rights approach adopted by Prime Minister Trudeau.


For the Métis Nation, we have the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism which in April 2017 witnessed the signing of the Canada – Métis Nation Accord that set up the process and agenda which to date has resulted in a positive inclusion of the Métis Nation in Budget 2018. Also in place is a s.35 rights reconciliation process between the federal government and the Métis Nation's Governing Members. Through this process, our Governing Members will have the opportunity to seek recognition and implementation of the rights contained in s.35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, including land and resources and self-government.

In the prairie provinces, the Alberta NDP government shortly after its election victory endorsed the Declaration and committed to be guided by the principles contained therein. To



date some progress has been made, but the situation is still lacking in terms of the rights of the Métis in that province to harvest wildlife as is their right to so do. In Manitoba, the previous NDP government, after the s.35 harvesting right confirmation in the *Goodon* case in 2009, concluded a harvesting rights agreement with the Manitoba Métis government. This agreement covers a substantial part of the province and is governed under Métis law and regulation.

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In Saskatchewan, the opposite is true. Even with the 1996 Queen's Bench ruling that the Métis in northwest Saskatchewan continue to possess harvesting rights which scrip did not extinguish, the province in the early 2000s charged a Métis living about 25 miles south of an imaginary line drawn by the province. In 2005, the provincial court ruled that the northwest Métis rights bearing regional community extended into that geographic area (Meadow Lake). Currently, the Métis Legal Research and Education Foundation

(Foundation) is defending three Métis for hunting and fishing in their traditional territory about another 25-30 miles south of the previous decision. This trial goes to final argument on May 7th.

If that is not egregious enough, in 2007 the Foundation in the *Belbumeur* case established in provincial court that the Métis of the Qu'Appelle Valley and environs, including the city of Regina, have s.35 harvesting rights. Unfortunately, and in utter disrespect of the rule of law, the province of

Saskatchewan does not recognize the rights of those Métis citizens impacted by the *Belbumeur* decision. Apparently, for the province of Saskatchewan, the Declaration is not of any significance nor is a decision of a provincial court.

Nevertheless, it is still important for the Métis Nation that we participate in the current developments with respect to our rights, both domestically and internationally.

Minister Announces Indigenous Trade Mission

On April 21st Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade announced that he will be undertaking an Indigenous entrepreneur international trade mission.





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Métis Nation holds Michif Conference



On April 4-5th, the Métis National Council held a national conference in Saskatoon to address issues surrounding Michif, the official language of the Métis Nation. This included the preservation, standardization, enhancement and practice of the language, as well as other languages spoken by citizens of the Métis Nation, including Cree, Saulteau and Dene.

The conference was well attended by Michif speakers from western Canada, as well as

representatives from Métis governments and secondary education institutes. The primary organizers of the conference were Karon Shmon of the Gabriel Dumont Institution and Sharon Parenteau of the Louis Riel Institute, under the leadership of Clara Morin Dal Col, Métis Nation Minister of Culture, Heritage and Families.

The sessions included the review of a position paper developed based on consultations held over the past few months, as well as the work undertaken by the Joint

Co-Development Working Group composed of the MNC, AFN, ITK and federal officials which will lead to the eventual adoption of an Indigenous Languages Act.

A presentation was also made with respect to next steps, in particular the future engagement sessions based around the pending consultations on the draft legislation, which it is hoped is introduced in the House of Commons by October of this year with adoption prior to the next federal election to be held in 2019.





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G7 Coming to Canada



On April 3, 2018 President Chartier along with representatives of the Assembly of First Nations and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami met with Deputy Minister Peter Boehn who is organizing the G7 Summit to be held in La Malbaie, Quebec from June 8-9, 2018.

Canada holds the presidency of the G7 for 2018 and as host will

have a significant opportunity to influence global trends, demonstrate leadership and also showcase that it is possible for governments to deal with gender equality, Indigenous peoples' rights, youth engagement, as well as community engagement. In this connection, Canada can take center stage and show that it provides a model for reconciliation as it has engaged

in a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship, through a distinctions-based approach with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation national representatives.

The G7 is comprised of Japan, Italy, Germany, France, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Symposium May 24-25 Vancouver, BC
- Public Health Conference May 30-31 Montreal, QC
- OAS General Assembly June 3-5 Washington, DC
- MHRDA Working Group Meeting June 5-6 Toronto, ON



2018: Rights of the Métis Nation Child





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