



Métis Nation



November 2018

Métis Nation Leaders and Federal Ministers Push Ahead on Priorities under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord



On October 25, 2018, the third Ministerial-level meeting in Ottawa continues collaborative work envisaged by June's Crown-Métis Nation Summit with Prime Minister.

Federal Ministers led by the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and the Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada,

met with the leadership of the Métis Nation in the third ministerial meeting under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord. The Accord is the Métis Nation's component of the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism 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 progress going forward.

Today's meeting provided an opportunity for Ministers and Métis Nation Presidents to discuss the implementation of the Métis Nation investments in federal Budget 2018 related to the Year 1 priorities of employment and training, housing and early learning and child care. In the matter of the

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\$450 million Budget allocation for the Métis Nation over 10 years for early learning and child care, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development joined Métis Nation Minister of Social Development David Chartrand in a review of the steady progress being made toward the release of those funds.



The Ministers and Métis Nation leaders also reviewed the progress that has been made on Year 2 priorities under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord. Minister Philpott and Métis Nation Education Minister Glen McCallum reviewed the work on post-secondary education which has led to a co-developed proposal for post-secondary education support for Métis students. Minister Philpott and Métis Nation Health Minister Clara Morin Dal Col looked at the progress being made on Métis Nation child and family services which will figure in the federal government's proposed

legislation in this area. They were joined by the federal Minister of Health, Ginette Pettipas Taylor, in a discussion of the significant strides that have been made in the co-development of a proposal for achieving equity in a Métis Nation health policy.

Economic development was the focus of President Chartier who is also the Métis Nation's Minister of Economic Development, Minister Philpott, Minister of Natural Resources Amarjeet Sohi, and Parliamentary Secretary for Innovation, Science and Economic Development David Lametti. Minister Bennett and President Chartier also reviewed the work on the recognition and implementation of an

Indigenous Rights Framework which the Métis Nation strongly supports.

"We are definitely advancing on the priorities under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord", said President Chartier. "There has been real progress in most areas and a few stumbling blocks, particularly in the area of economic development but the federal Ministers are showing good faith in trying to work out solutions to problems where they occur. This is what the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism is all about."





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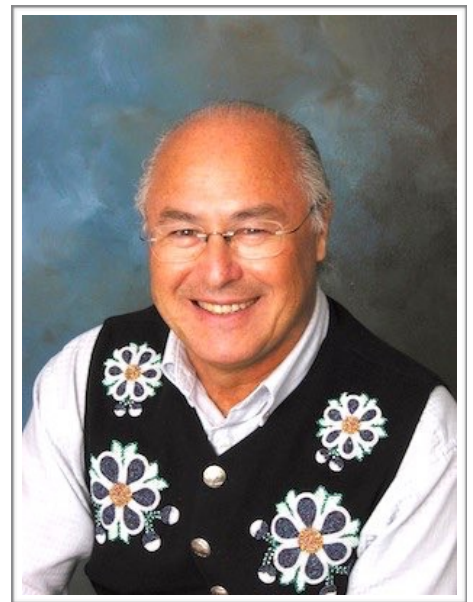
Message from the President

One cannot emphasize enough the importance of the integrity of the Métis Nation and its citizens. While we were able to withstand the bullets and cannon balls fired our way in the late 1880s when we stood up against the British and Canadians who were seeking by force to displace us from our lands and take away our self-government, we are now seeing the attempt by the pen to accomplish what could not be done by the sword.

In particular, with the term “Métis”, a term which historically and up to 1982 referred to the Métis of western Canada, being entrenched in s.35(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, thousands of individuals from all parts of Canada outside the Métis Nation homeland are claiming to be Métis. We have witnessed the term “Métis” going from a proper noun referring to a people, a nation, a polity with a distinct culture, territory and language to an adjective to encompass any one, anywhere, saying I am of mixed Indian and White heritage, therefore I am Metis. This reminds me of the years immediately following the coming into force of the *Constitution Act, 1982* which marked the beginning of the current trend of the proliferation of the use of the term “Métis”.

At that time, our leadership responded by speaking of the big “M” Métis and the little “m” metis, the little “m” metis being those persons of mixed ancestry (including some degree of Indian blood). Our leadership further stated that we are not the wastepaper basket or catchall for left-over Indians. They clearly stated that we are nation of people, not of mixed ancestry, but a distinct Aboriginal people with all the attributes recognized by International law which evidences the existence of such a people.

While the rulings of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Powley* in 2003 and *Daniels* in 2016 definitely benefited our Métis Nation, they fueled the proliferation of organizations cropping up in eastern Canada, both provincially and nationally referring to themselves as “Métis”, some using the term “Métis Nation”, and going so far as illegally using the Métis Nation’s flag. In *Powley*, the Court suggested there may be more s.35 “Métis” beyond the historic Métis Nation while in *Daniels*, it implied that there are non-s.35 rights bearing Métis who would be classified as “Indigenous peoples” and therefore fall within s.91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* and



therefore within federal jurisdiction.

With the substantial progress being made by the Métis Nation, legally, politically, economic and socially, and the upcoming federal Indigenous Languages Act and the Indigenous Child and Family Act, it is imperative we be vigilant in defending the identification of the Métis Nation in that legislation. That we will do battle to protect our nation and people, and will not allow any one, including the governments and courts to reduce our Indigenous nationhood to the level of an adjective!





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Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Survivors Seek Justice

From October 19 to 21, the Métis National Council hosted a Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Symposium at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Symposium brought Métis leaders together with Métis survivors of the Sixties Scoop from across the Métis Nation homeland to share knowledge and experiences, toward reconciliation for Métis Citizens taken from their families during the Sixties Scoop era. The Symposium gathered input from survivors to build a framework of reconciliation between Métis Sixties Scoop survivors and the Canadian government.

“The Métis Nation will seek justice for those who were robbed of their future,” says MMF President and MNC Vice-president David Chartrand. “We will hear the stories of survivors and work with them to create a reconciliation process that reflects their needs to heal.”



President Clément Chartier stated, “It is a significant time for the Métis Nation as we

continue to seek justice for our people, particularly those whose lives have been impacted by the

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Sixties Scoop era.”

The Symposium marks the first in a series of engagements, directed and guided by survivors, to shape the framework for reconciliation with Canada. In addition to presentations and consultation sessions, the Symposium will launch a registration database to connect Métis survivors with the reconciliation process. A trauma team was on site throughout the

weekend to support the health and wellness needs of survivors in attendance, while a gathering place and accommodations are available for Métis Elders.

One year ago, the federal government announced that it would settle numerous lawsuits related to the Sixties Scoop, an era from the 1950s through 1990s during which thousands of Indigenous children were placed with non-Indigenous families. As

these lawsuits only involved First Nations survivors, Métis survivors were not included in the settlement. MMF President David Chartrand, in his role as V.P. for the Métis National Council leads this file, working in advancing the creation of a framework that will advance reconciliation for Métis Sixties Scoop survivors.



Sixties Scoop Symposium

OCTOBER 19 – 21, 2018

Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba



Media Sources:

CBC news: You can't do this to people': Sixties Scoop survivors tell their stories in Winnipeg
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/sixties-scoop-settlement-survivors-1.4871905>

CTV News Winnipeg: A symposium for Sixties Scoop survivors
<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1519519>





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Joint Cabinet Summit Successful Step in Defending Métis Nation Future




l-r: Gerald Morin (MN-S), President David Chartrand (MMF), Lisa McCallum (MNS), President Clément Chartier(MNC), and President Glen McCallum (MN-S)

MMF – MN-S MEDIA RELEASE
October 30, 2018

Regina, SK – Duly elected cabinet members from the two Métis Nation Governments – Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN-S) – held a Joint Cabinet Summit over two days in Regina October 27-28, 2018. The first time the two cabinets met was in Cranberry Portage in 1978: this was the beginning of the formation of the Métis National Council.

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The recent Joint Cabinet Summit demonstrated the importance of our unity, cooperation, and common cause for our governments and more importantly for our constituents. To continue this relationship, MN-S President McCallum and MMF President Chartrand signed the Regina Declaration in the city where our leader, Louis Riel, was murdered.

The declaration is a commitment by both governments to continue working side by side in promoting progress and prosperity for Métis Nation citizens, and seeking opportunities for cooperative and productive initiatives between the MMF and MN-S, and others.




l-r: Thomas Isaac (MN-S Negotiator), President Clément Chartier (MNC), President Glen McCallum (MN-S), President David Chartrand (MMF), and Al Benoit (MMF)

“This meeting has been a long time in coming and its timing is perfect. We have identified strategic areas of opportunity for our citizens and government that will have benefits for generations to come,” President McCallum stated.

“We are more than just neighbours, we are a family,” explained President McCallum. “At this weekend’s meeting, we showed we will stand shoulder-to-shoulder for our future generations. We will work side-by-side with rolled-up sleeves and continue to strengthen our Métis Citizens, our Métis Communities, and our Métis Nation. We are proud to be Métis.”

At the very heart of the meeting was full recognition and respect for the Métis Nation, its Homeland, and its Governments. To achieve this, a starting point was the unanimous adoption of the Métis Nation Homeland map that defines the eastern boundary of the Métis Nation. Those in eastern Canada can no longer pretend to be a part of our Nation.

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“To ensure the future integrity of our Métis Nation Homeland, I will stand firm. The MMF will defend our name, our flag, and our hard-won benefits,” said President Chartrand. “The Métis Nation is an Indigenous People with our birthplace in western Canada. The MMF will ensure our proud name, Métis Nation, and our Métis National flag are not used by those trying to steal our identity for their own personal ends.”

“Stopping Métis identity theft is of extreme importance for both the Métis Nation and Canada,” President Chartrand went on to explain. “The work we do today will promise progress and prosperity for our Métis Nation Citizens, and indeed Canadians, for generations to come.”

To this end, the two Métis governments also discussed housing, education, health, and child welfare issues facing our people. The two governments also focused on economic development opportunities for our Métis Nation.

“It’s been almost 133 years since our leader Louis Riel was wrongly put to death,” President Chartrand added “and we continue on with his vision even in the face of challenges from those who may be unsupportive and who still oppose our Section 35 Rights, despite our numerous court victories. We will continue to build relationships and stand united to protect our Homeland territory, our Nation, and our Citizens.”



Youtube video: 40 Years in the Making

<https://youtu.be/2QgzDbfSKMU>





November 2018

The *Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada* launches extensive new educational resources




On October 22, 2018, President Charlier attended the launch of the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada teaching guide at Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Organized by the Liberal Party Indigenous Caucus, the launch celebrated the completion of

Canadian Geographic's innovative Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada educational resources.

The educational resources that accompany the Atlas are unique in both their content and scope.

Much of the information presented in these resources has never been made available in written form or shared with educators before now. And the extent of history and geography covered by these resources is impressive — most of Canadian

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Geographic Education's teacher's guides are about 35 pages long, but the IPAC teacher's guide offers more than 170 pages of activities and lesson plans.

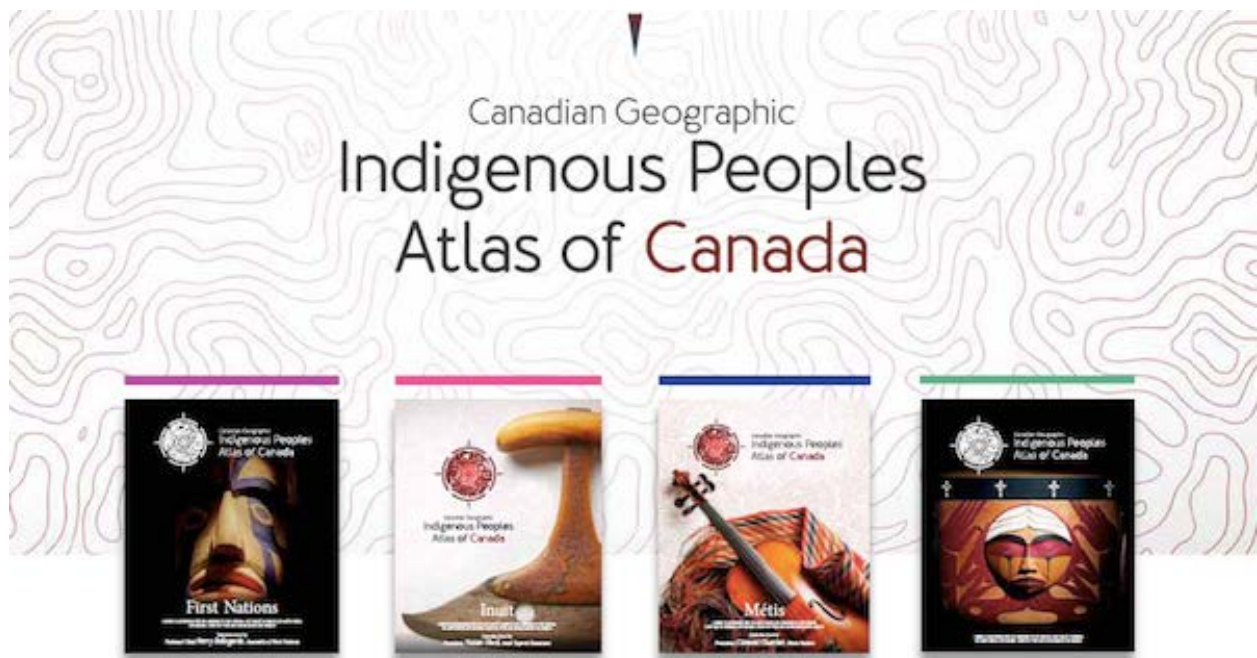
The Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada was created in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, which cites the development of culturally appropriate curricula for Indigenous students as a top priority. Lack of appropriate educational and financial

resources for Canada's Indigenous students has long been deemed a contributing factor to the marginalization of Indigenous communities.

The Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada includes a four-volume print atlas, an online interactive atlas with an accompanying app, Giant Floor Maps, and various other educational resources for classrooms. This ambitious, ground-breaking educational resource is unprecedented in scope, as well as in the level of

Indigenous participation and content creation on a geography-related project.

"If one wants to explore the many dimensions of the Métis Nation and its history and culture, the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada is the place to go" stated President Clément Chartier.





November 2018

President Chartier addresses AFOA Conference

On Thursday, October 4, 2018 President Clément Chartier was the featured keynote speaker at the Aboriginal Finance Officers Association's 19th National Conference, after which he joined a panel with three other Indigenous representatives, Dr. Paulette Tremblay, AFN CEO; Dr. Simona Bignami, University of Montreal and Bill Lomax, National Congress of American Indians, to further explore the topic of the keynote, which centered on "Inclusive Growth".

President Chartier addressed the many challenges encountered by the Métis Nation in getting to where it is today, overcoming many barriers to finally participate in a meaningful way in the economic life of western Canada. He further emphasized the importance of the distinctions-based processes now being engaged in with the federal




government which has led to unprecedented federal budget allocations and a promise of benefiting from these development, particularly in the field of economic and social development.

The panel discussion discussed and explored a number of questions which addressed the place of and potential for greater Indigenous peoples' engagement in the Canadian economy.

For a view of President Chartier's presentation go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LxlnkgQ6zc&feature=youtu.be>





November 2018

President Chartier meets with new Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs



On October 4th, President Chartier met with the Hon. Dominic LeBlanc the newly appointed intergovernmental affairs minister. At this meeting President Chartier emphasized the importance of the distinctions-based approach to dealing with Indigenous peoples. This President

Chartier indicated related to the three National Representatives of Indigenous peoples and nations: the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Assembly of First Nations and the Métis Nation.

The Minister and President Chartier spoke in a frank and honest manner about the need

for all governments, including the provincial governments to accept the fact that Indigenous peoples/nations and their inherent rights of self-government and representation at intergovernmental fora must be acknowledged, accepted and respected.





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Indigenous Leaders meet to discuss emerging issues



On October 5th, the three National Representative of Indigenous peoples and nations, Presidents Clément Chartier and Natan Obed and National Chief Perry Bellegarde met to discuss a number of matters which are currently unfolding nationally.


The leaders discussed the progress of the co-development of the two proposed pieces of legislation dealing with Indigenous languages and Indigenous child and family services. All three leaders agreed

with the importance of this proposed legislation and also agreed that they would respect their respective authorities to pursue what they believed to be important for inclusion, taking into account the distinctions between their respective peoples.

Discussion also took place with respect to the proposed federal legislative initiative relating to a rights recognition and implementation framework meant to modernize past policies related to land claims and

implementation of the inherent right of self-government. While there were differing views on this matter, President Chartier stated that the Métis Nation would pursue the passage of such legislation vis-à-vis the Métis Nation which currently is either totally excluded from such processes, and where not, is significantly marginalized.

The leaders also addressed a number of other matters and agreed to reconvene in the next few weeks.





November 2018

President Chartier and Minister Joly meet in Calgary



On October 15th President Clément Chartier and the Hon. Mélanie Joly met for an hour prior to the start of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Tourism meeting with representatives of Indigenous organizations. Consistent with the decision adopted in 2017 in connection to the Council of the Federation (COF) meetings which refuses to recognize the governmental capacity of the three National Representatives of Indigenous peoples and

nations, the Métis Nation refuses to participate in these intergovernmental meetings where the lobbyists groups, CAP and NWAC have been invited to participate.

At their meeting, President Chartier and Minister Joly spoke to her mandate to develop a national tourism plan which will attract and foster enhanced tourism activity for both within and from outside of Canada. In this connection, Minister Joly is

proposing to incorporate Indigenous tourism as an integral part of the new national plan.

In this connection, President Chartier committed to providing documents which will help inform that plan, in addition to fostering or promoting the Métis Nation's 150th anniversary in 2020 since joining the Canadian Federation in 1870 as the province of Manitoba under the government of President Louis Riel.





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President Chartier calls for repatriation of cultural property before Parliamentary Committee on Canadian Heritage



PRESIDENT CHARTIER REMARKS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CANADIAN HERITAGE

OCTOBER 18, 2018

I begin this presentation with a statement of whom I am referring to when I use the term “Métis”, and that is the historic Métis Nation based in western Canada. A distinct people, with a distinct history, language (Michif), a national flag over 2 hundred years old, a significant population and a defined geographic homeland. A people or nation who took both political and military action to defend its people and territory.

I am not referring to the modern-day plethora of the hundreds of thousands of people of mixed Indigenous

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and European ancestry, particularly in eastern Canada who now claim to be metis, using that term as an adjective and being of mixed-ancestry, with potential or tenuous claims to some far away Indian ancestor.

This adjective or mixed-ancestry use of the term “metis” does not relate to the Métis Nation, which is a distinct Indigenous people, a polity and full-fledged rights bearing Indigenous people, with its own distinctive culture and rights which are inherent in that fact.

Today, I am here to address Bill C-391, a proposed Act respecting a national strategy for the repatriation of Aboriginal cultural property. This proposed Act it is expected will provide for the development and implementation of a national strategy to enable the return of Aboriginal cultural property to Indigenous peoples in Canada, something desperately needed now.

The sense of urgency the Métis Nation, the Inuit, and the First Nations peoples are feeling is evidence that Indigenous peoples want to reclaim their culture and heritage. While Indigenous cultural revitalization also includes languages and land, cultural property held by others is a fundamental component to cultural renewal and reclamation.

From the birth of the Métis Nation, visitors to this land appreciated the beauty of our material culture and collected and kept it as works of art. This was the time when some semblance of fair trade and commerce was taking place, as Indigenous peoples and the settlers exchanged goods and services.

The colonization and oppression that followed changed this dynamic and put the power to own and to possess Indigenous material culture in the hands of the newcomers. This included limiting and eradicating food sources, restricting freedom, denying land ownership, and curtailing business, trade, and commerce.


The Métis are often touted as the middle men and women of the fur trade. We were once a vibrant and successful connection between the First Nations and the newcomers. However, this too diminished as the Métis Nation was dispossessed of land and forced to disperse, forcing most Métis families into abject poverty and hiding and denying their identity for cultural safety.

This was coupled with over a century of shaming Indigenous peoples through unfair treatment, one-sided historical records, relocation, outlawed spiritual practices, heavy handed assimilation tactics, and numerous other forms of discrimination.

Having to choose between feeding your children and keeping culturally significant property was no choice at all. Forced relocation meant taking only what you could carry. The kind of infrastructure that allowed those in more stable environments to enjoy cultural practices and make cultural property could not exist under these conditions.

Métis women were essential to the family's economy. Métis women made their best and most beautiful cultural property to be bought and collected by others while at the same time it was impossible for Métis

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families to keep and enjoy what they made.

The kind of work available to Métis men included sporadic and difficult labour endeavors at very low wages and these men were considered more fortunate than others. Providing for a family through harvesting plants and animals was absolutely necessary. It was a laborious and time-consuming endeavour.

We ask ourselves: “What kind of cultural property there might be if these hardships had not been foisted on Indigenous peoples? What kind of effort did it take to covertly maintain our culture, and to continue to pass on the cultural arts for which we became so well known?”

We are grateful to those who could, and hold no malice to those who could not, in order to survive. Some people with origins elsewhere may be thinking to themselves, “I don’t know the songs and dances of my ancestors and I can’t make any of the material culture either. So, what’s the big deal?”

The big deal is that the vast majority of Canadians have a country of origin from which to reclaim any part of their culture. It wasn’t outlawed or suppressed like it has been here in Canada for Indigenous peoples. It hasn’t suffered from decades of indifference and shaming which drove people to the cultural safety of letting their traditions go in order to survive.

When we look at the care and attention given to the cultural property of those who were free to make and collect it and to how long they have had this privilege, we can imagine what might have been if Indigenous peoples had the same freedom and opportunity.

The most precious and beautiful items would have been kept for cherished family heirlooms. They would not have been sold or taken. These items would not be mislabeled or unlabelled regarding who the artisan was or the Indigenous nation from which they originate. They would certainly not be in keeping houses other than our own.

As an example of proving the provenance of potential cultural items which may be subject to repatriation, in August I joined a number of OAS Ambassadors, Indigenous leaders and others on a tour of the Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

In one of the displays of bonnets, a piece caught my eye, a beaded baby bonnet with distinctive Métis beadwork. Upon reading the caption it stated “Plains Cree (Prairie Cree) baby’s cap, about 1910, Saskatchewan, Canada”. This is a potential case of having Métis art labelled wrongly, as the suppression of Métis rights and existence was then being visited upon the Métis Nation.

Bill C-391 is a good first step for Canada to reconcile these injustices. It will serve to make way for Indigenous peoples to reclaim their cultural property and to guide all involved in processes that should ultimately make everyone feel this is the right course of action.

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The repatriation of Aboriginal cultural property is going to speed up the process of cultural renewal for Indigenous peoples. It will reflect a time Canadians should not be proud of, and support a time in which Canadians can take great pride.

But there is also a need to ensure that repatriated cultural property has a home or homes to return to. In too many cases, the Métis Nation does not have adequate resources to establish museums and/or cultural centres. This is slowly changing. The Manitoba Metis Federation on behalf of the Métis Nation after a 20-year effort is in the final stages of being able to establish a National Métis Museum in Winnipeg, the former site of the Red River Métis Provisional Government.

Other initiatives are also underway.

In particular, the Métis Nation in 2020 will be celebrating its 150th anniversary of joining confederation, which was made possible through the negotiations under President Louis Riel and the passage of the Manitoba Act, 1870.

We look forward to all Parliamentarians and all Canadians in celebrating this historic event with us.

Marsi, Thank you, Merci.



2018: Rights of the Métis Nation Child





November 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|---|-----------|-----------------|
| • 8th Annual Meeting of Indigenous Peoples of the Andes | Nov 3-5 | Tinta, Peru |
| • Conference Board of Canada meeting | Nov 8 | Fredericton, NB |
| • Remembrance Day | Nov 11 | |
| • Joint Health Committee (Canada-Métis Nation) | Nov 13 | Ottawa, ON |
| • Joint Table on Climate Change (Canada-Métis Nation) | Nov 14 | Meadow Lake, SK |
| • Canada Engagement with the Metis Nation on Anti-Racism | Nov 15 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Louis Riel Day | Nov 16 | |
| • Métis Nation Pre-GA Policy Session: Recognition of the Métis Nation | Nov 26-27 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Métis Nation General Assembly | Nov 28-29 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Métis Nation Health Committee/CIHR Workshop | Dec 5-7 | Victoria, BC |





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