



Métis Nation



Jan/Feb 2019

Message from the President

Following the November sitting of the Métis Nation's General Assembly, a number of individuals (many or some purporting to be citizens of the Métis Nation) were in a flap over the Métis National Council's (MNC) applying for and receiving an "official mark" for the Métis Nation's flag from the federal government.

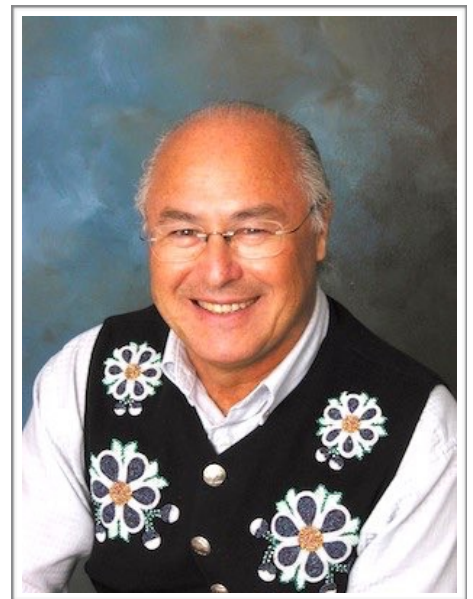
The MNC is the official democratic institution representing the Métis Nation's government at the national level, with the five Governing Members (MNBC, MNA, MNS, MMF and MNO) representing that same government at the provincial level. The MNC is the sole and legitimate national government of the Métis Nation with the right of self-determination under international law, and possesses the inherent right of self-government recognized and affirmed by s.35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

As such, as one of the Indigenous governments

(peoples and nations), the government of the Métis Nation is one of three orders of government under Canada's Constitution, the other two orders being the federal and provincial governments.

All world countries, including Canada, have flags of their own, along with other symbols adopted by their respective governments. The adoption of flags and symbols is the right of governments. This is also the case for the government of the Métis Nation, whose will is expressed by it democratically elected leadership in the Métis Nation's General Assembly.

In the case of the Métis Nation, the first recorded use of the blue infinity flag is found in the Journal of Peter Fidler at Brandon House in early June 1816 where he records that "... at ½ past noon about 48 Half Breeds, Canadians, Freeman & Indians came all riding on Horseback, with their Flag flying blue about 4 feet square



& a figure 8 horizontally in the Middle....".

The flag is next recorded as flying at the Battle of Frog Plain (aka Seven Oaks) on June 19, 1816. This is likely on the same trip which brought Cuthbert Grant and his followers to Brandon House on the way to the Red River.

That the flag belongs to the Métis Nation is captured in a letter written by William

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McGillivray of the North West Company on March 14, 1818 in the following national inquiry into the Battle of Frog Plain wherein he wrote:

... they one and all look upon themselves as members of an independent tribe of natives, entitled to a property in the soil, to a flag of their own and to protection from the British Government.

It is absurd to consider them legally in any other light than as Indians;...

Being therefore Indians they as is frequently the case among the tribes in this vast continent as young men (the technical term for warriors) have a right to form a new tribe on any unoccupied or (according to the Indian law) any conquered territory. That the Half Breeds under the denomination of Bois Brulés, and Métifs have formed a separate and

distinct tribe of Indians for a considerable time back has been proved to you by various depositions.

While here is no written origin of the flag at the time of its adoption, nor what it symbolizes, other than being the flag of the Métis Nation, the flag nevertheless belongs to the people/citizens of the Métis Nation collectively. It does not belong to individual citizens of the Métis Nation, no more than the Canadian flag belongs to individual Canadians, but to the country as a whole. All flags of every country or nation, while owned collectively by their citizens, are not owned by individual citizens, but certainly are there for their proper use.

The government of the Métis Nation has the responsibility and obligation to ensure the integrity of its flag on behalf of its citizens. Based on this responsibility, the General Assembly of the Métis Nation on March 24, 2013 adopted a resolution directing that the Métis Nation's flag be protected by seeking a trademark or patent.

This was deemed necessary as there were now numerous individuals and organizations outside of the Métis Nation, not only identifying as Métis but were appropriating the symbols of the Métis Nation, including its flag, as well as using the term "Métis Nation" to describe their organizations.

On the basis of the 2013 General Assembly resolution, the Métis National Council, which is the national representative governmental institution of the Métis Nation pursued a trademark for the flag, which resulted in securing an "official mark" for the flag. Official marks are provided to governments for their symbols, such as flags and emblems.

In the wake of the proliferation of persons of mixed ancestry purporting to be Métis and appropriating Métis Nation cultural symbols, including the Métis Nation's flag, it is incumbent on all citizens of the Métis Nation to ensure the collective ownership of their flag is vigilantly promoted and protected, and the flag itself widely flown.





Jan/Feb 2019

United Nations Launches 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages



On January 28, 2019, Métis Nation President Chartier addressed official launch event at UNESCO headquarters in Paris while talks progress on

Indigenous Languages legislation in Canada.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2019 as

the International Year of Indigenous Languages (Ref: A/RES/71/178 Rights of Indigenous peoples) in order to raise global attention to the critical risks

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confronting Indigenous languages and its significance for sustainable development, reconciliation, good governance and peacebuilding. The celebration in 2019 will contribute to the access to, and promotion of, Indigenous languages and to a concrete improvement in the lives of Indigenous peoples by strengthening the capacities of Indigenous language speakers and relevant Indigenous peoples' governing bodies.

MNC President Chartier and Culture Minister Clara Morin dal Col attended today's launch event of the UN initiative at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris. On February 1, 2019, the President of the UN General Assembly will convene a High-Level Event in New York for the global launch of international Year of Indigenous Languages.

In his remarks in Paris, President Chartier cited



President Chartier(left) and Minister Morin Dal Col (right)

progress on Indigenous languages legislation in Canada as a concrete example of what can be done by States and the UN System to better support the important work on Indigenous language revitalization. The Department of Canadian Heritage, the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis Nation are working together to co-develop national First Nations, Inuit and Métis languages legislation that will

reflect the distinct geographical, political, legislative and cultural context impacting language preservation, promotion and revitalization. The Métis Nation engaged with Michif speakers, educators and advocates from across the Métis homeland to inform the key elements of the proposed legislation.





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Prime Minister meets with National Indigenous Leaders and First Ministers



On December 7, 2018, the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, met with national Indigenous leaders and hosted a meeting of First Ministers with national Indigenous leaders.

The Prime Minister first met privately with National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Perry Bellegarde, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Natan Obed, and President of the Métis National Council

Clément Chartier. The national Indigenous leaders spoke to the Prime Minister about their respective socio-economic priorities for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

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The three national Indigenous leaders then attended a meeting of First Ministers hosted by the Prime Minister. First Ministers and Indigenous leaders discussed opportunities for concrete federal, provincial, and territorial actions to support economic development, growth, and prosperity for Indigenous communities and businesses.

In his opening remarks, the Prime Minister stressed that the economic inclusion of Indigenous peoples is fundamental to Canada's future. He also noted that the economic growth and prosperity of Indigenous



peoples is integral to reconciliation and essential for the self-determination of Indigenous communities.

After an open discussion among First Ministers and the national Indigenous leaders, the Prime Minister closed the meeting by highlighting that economic reconciliation with Indigenous peoples will require partnerships with federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments, as well as collaboration between Indigenous communities, all orders of government, and the private sector.



Meeting with the national Indigenous leaders is in addition to the Permanent Bilateral Mechanisms with the Assembly of First Nations and First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the four Inuit Nunangat Regions, and the Métis National Council and its governing members.





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Métis National Council launches Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Portal



Sixties.Scoop.Metisportals.ca

1. Sign up and stay connected
2. Have your voice heard
3. Keep up-to-date

Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Portal: A Central Online Hub for the Sixties Scoop



MÉTIS NATION


The Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Portal is the central hub for information, recent news, and upcoming events in regards to the Sixties Scoop and the Métis Nation. We encourage Citizens & Survivors to use this website

to share their stories and stay informed.

On December 18, 2018, at the Manitoba Metis Federation Home Office in Winnipeg, Métis National Council Minister of Social

Development, David Chartrand, launched the Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Portal. This new, online platform will support the information needs of the Métis Nation related to the Sixties Scoop. The Portal can be accessed at

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Sixties.Scoop.Metisportals.CA.

Developed by the Métis National Council with support from the Manitoba Metis Federation, the Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Portal is intended to be the central hub for information, news and events related to the Sixties Scoop for the Métis Nation. The Portal will allow Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Survivors and all Métis Nation Citizens to access up-to-date information that is essential in the development of a Métis Nation Sixties Scoop resolution agreement between the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada.

The “Sixties Scoop” is a term used to describe a child welfare policy, developed and implemented starting as early as 1951, that involved apprehending Indigenous children from their birth families and placing them in middle-class, Euro-Canadian homes hundreds or thousands of miles away from the children’s communities. The Government of Canada and the Métis National Council have agreed to work collaboratively, Nation-to-Nation, to develop a

process to address the legacy of the Sixties Scoop. This process will be informed and guided by Métis Survivors. As first steps in this process, the Métis Nation is documenting the stories of Métis Survivors who were taken from their homes and families during the Sixties Scoop and gathering Métis Survivors’ contact information to ensure that the Métis Government can remain in contact with Survivors regarding any new developments and initiatives.

“Reconciliation of our Sixties Scoop Survivors is paramount,” said Chartrand at the launch. “It is our responsibility, as the Métis Government, to right the wrongs that Métis Survivors suffered while enduring this cultural genocide. Going forward, we seek justice. We seek to correct and rectify the legacy of this dark chapter in Canada’s history. We will not fail Métis Survivors.”

“The launch of the Métis Nation Sixties Scoop portal is a reflection of the Métis Nation’s commitment to Métis Sixties Scoop Survivors. As the Métis Nation advances on an array of wrongs committed to Métis

Nation citizens, let us remind ourselves that our work will never be complete until injustices toward our Survivors are addressed and Métis Nation Survivors are reunited with their families and communities”, stated President Chartier.

Backgrounder

The “Sixties Scoop” was a child welfare policy developed and implemented in 1951’s that involved apprehending First Nations, Métis and Inuit children from their communities and placing them, in most cases, into middle-class Euro-Canadian families. First Nation, Métis and Inuit children were often placed within these homes that were hundreds, or sometimes, thousands of miles away from their families. The intergenerational aftereffects of the Sixties Scoop contribute to the current socioeconomic difficulties facing Métis citizens.

Social workers, administrators, lawyers, government officials, and judges viewed everyday practices of apprehending children from families to be in the best interest of the child.

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The ideal home that a child should be places in was one that society was familiar with; white middle class homes, in white middle class neighbourhoods. These societal ideals wrongly disparaged Métis customs and traditions. They thought we were poor and they didn't think we would be good parents. Métis children were apprehended because of the incongruence of these two different worldviews, sometimes at birth, and placed into the care of non-indigenous homes through the Adopt an Indian-Métis program (AIM). The legacy of AIM program is now referred to as the "Sixties Scoop".

On December 18, 2018, Métis Nation Minister of Social Development, President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, and lead on the Sixties Scoop file, David Chartrand announced the Métis Nation's support for Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Survivors information needs.

In February 2018, the Ontario court sided with plaintiffs in a Sixties Scoop class action that the federal government was liable for the harm done to Indigenous children who were placed into foster care in non-Aboriginal homes. The experiences of Métis people were ignored. They were completely left out of the federal government's multimillion-dollar settlement with First Nations and Inuit victims of the Sixties Scoop between 1951 and 1991. The failure of Canada to recognize and honour the experience of Métis survivors of the Sixties Scoop remains an unresolved issue for the Métis Nation


The Métis National Council along with the five Governing Members (Manitoba Metis Federation, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation British Columbia, and Métis Nation of Ontario) will host a series of consultations with Métis

Nation Sixties Scoop Survivors in order to develop a Métis Nation Sixties Scoop framework to be used to negotiate a settlement agreement with Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Survivors.

The Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Survivors Portal allows Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Survivors and Citizens to:

- access Sixties Scoop information on events and activities happening in the Métis Nation;
- add their contact information; and,
- Assist in ability to have their voices heard
- Connecting Survivors in order to offer each other support
- Education and learning for those who don't
- Directly connect with a Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Advisor

For more information ,please visit:
<https://www.sixties.scoop.metisportals.ca/>





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Métis Hunting Rights




On December 5, 2018 the Provincial Court in Meadow Lake rendered its decision in three hunting and fishing rights cases. While separate charges stemmed from different locations and dates, the three charges were heard together as many of the same community witnesses, and all of the expert witnesses would be the same for each if held separately.

In the hunting case of *R. v. Poitras*, the judge found Mr. Poitras guilty of the charge of unlawful hunting. Although the judge found that Mr. Poitras, who was a life-long resident of Meadow Lake, was therefore covered by the *Lavolette* decision, he nevertheless ruled that there was no historical evidence provided that the Métis of Meadow Lake hunted where the offence took place

(by Alcott Creek some 37 kilometers south of Meadow Lake). While making this decision, the Judge did not say how far south of Meadow Lake Métis rights holders could hunt, but from this case, it could be anywhere from the town itself to approximately 35 kilometers south. The location of the charge actually falls within the modern town limits/boundary of Meadow Lake.

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The case however, was nevertheless an important win for Mr. Poitras as the evidence of the genealogist proved that Mr. Poitras's family had an ancestral connection to Ile a la Crosse from where his great-grandfather had been taken to the Red River by the Bishop for schooling. This was disputed by the Crown. So, while Mr. Poitras and his siblings cannot hunt 37 kilometers south of Meadow Lake, they can now do so for well over 200 kilometers to the north.

In the case of *R. v. Boyer*, while Mr. Boyer was found guilty of unlawful fishing, the judge did however find that Mr. Boyer, a descendant of the Morin family, a prominent Métis family living in all parts of northwest Saskatchewan which is a rights-bearing historic Métis community as established in *R. v. Morin and Daigneault* (QB 1997) and *R. v. Laviolette* (PC 2005) was ancestrally connected to that historic regional Métis community.

The judge also ruled that he was a present member of the Métis community of northwest Saskatchewan. However, the

judge ruled that there was insufficient evidence to conclude that the village of Chitek Lake (located about 24-30 kilometers south of the south end of Green Lake) was established prior to the date of effective control, which in *Laviolette* he set at 1912, but changed in these cases to 1876 to 1881.

He was therefore found guilty because his mother, like the rest of the Métis residents at Chitek Lake, moved from within their rights bearing regional community to a new location within that same regional rights bearing community. Had they all remained in their original village or villages within northwest Saskatchewan their rights would have remained intact.

In the hunting case of *R. v. Myette*, the judge found Mr. Myette not guilty of the charge as the incident occurred in the general area dealt with in the 2005 *R. v. Laviolette* decision, that is, that Mr. Myette, being from Rush Lake/Meadow Lake, is a member of the contemporary Métis rights-bearing community of

northwest Saskatchewan, with an ancestral connection to the historic regional community. Mr. Myette was hunting about 1 kilometer from the south end of Green Lake.

The judge also ruled that Métis are not included in the term "Indians" in paragraph 12 of the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreement between Canada and Saskatchewan, applying the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the 2003 *R. v. Blais* case. The language in all three transfer agreements between the government of Canada and the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are identically worded in the hunting and fishing paragraphs.

Legal counsel (Kathy Hodgson-Smith, Dwyane Roth and Clément Chartier) have filed appeals on behalf of Mssrs. Boyer and Poitras to the Court of Queens Bench.





Jan/Feb 2019

President Chartier attends Deputy Ministers Meeting in Toronto

On December 18, 2018 in Toronto, President Chartier participated in a meeting of federal, provincial and territorial deputy ministers, along with representatives of the AFN and ITK addressing the areas of conservation, wildlife and biodiversity, as well as the Pathway to Canada Target 1.

The deputy ministers discussed commitments made in June at the meeting of federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for parks, protected areas, conservation, wildlife and biodiversity, and preparations for the next ministerial meeting in 2019. Indigenous participation at the deputy minister's forum enabled the continued dialogue on conservation issues of shared



interest, including the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative.

MMF Minister of Housing, Will Goodon, who has been representing the Métis Nation on Canada Target 1

accompanied President Chartier to the meeting.





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Meeting with Ambassador Gwyneth Kutz



On January 21, 2019 President Chartier, along with CONIAP President Hugo Tacuri met with Ambassador Kutz for two hours addressing national issues in both Canada and Peru, as well as international issues dealing with the newly formed American Council of Indigenous Peoples (of which Chartier is the Interim President and Tacuri the Interim Vice-President). The meeting took place at the

Canadian Embassy in Lima, Peru.

Ambassador Kutz who is originally from Calgary, Alberta had a particular interest in the upcoming 2020 celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Métis Nation joining Canadian Confederation and looked forward to its success.

The Ambassador and President Tacuri has a long discussion on

the state of affairs of the Indigenous peoples within Peru, and agreed that they should follow-up on these matters. The Ambassador also expressed interest in the Métis Nation's Treaty with CONIAP entered into at Batoche in 2011 and encouraged the MNC to continue our relationship with the Indigenous peoples in Peru.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Métis Nation Health Forum Feb 13-15 Ottawa, ON
- Canada-Métis Nation meeting on Biodiversity Feb 19 Vancouver, BC
- Métis Nation Knowledge Symposium Feb 20-21 Vancouver, BC
- Environment Technical working group meeting Feb 22 Vancouver, BC
- Housing meeting (Ministers of Housing and Senior Officials) Feb 25 Ottawa, ON
- Métis Nation Sixties Scoop Working Group meeting Feb 28 Winnipeg, MB
- MHRDA Working Group meeting March 4 Ottawa, ON
- Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Conference March 5-6 Ottawa, ON



2019: Remembering Métis Nation 60s Scoop Survivors





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