



Métis Nation



October 2019

Métis Veterans Receive Apology from Canada



l-r: President Chartrand, John Goodon, WWII Métis veteran Norman Goodon, Minister of Veterans Affairs Lawrence MacAuley, President Chartier

On September 10, 2019, Federal Minister of Veterans Affairs Lawrence MacAuley made historic announcement in packed room at the Royal Canadian Legion in Regina.

Statement of the Minister:

“Métis across Canada valiantly participated in military service,

and their courage and contributions are a source of honour to their families, their communities, and to all Canadians. They served in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War and as recently as in Afghanistan as well as in other conflicts and humanitarian efforts around the globe.

Looking back, it is clear that the pre- and post-Second World War experiences some Métis Veterans faced may have negatively affected their successful re-establishment in civilian life following the Second World War. Many experienced prejudice, poverty, and a relative lack of pre-war education, vocational skills, and work

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Minister of Veterans Affairs Lawrence MacAuley

Canada's action to protect basic rights and freedoms around the globe.

“Addressing these longstanding concerns is a significant step forward in the process of reconciliation with the Métis people. When the Government of Canada and the Métis Nation signed the Canada-Métis Nation Accord in April 2017, we agreed that Métis Veterans were a priority area that needed to be addressed.

“To this end, I am pleased that

experiences. We apologize that the benefits offered to Veterans after the war were not well designed to meet Métis Veterans' specific needs. For example, many Métis Veterans did not possess the required prerequisites to access education and training.

“We regret that our country has taken three-quarters of a century to address the concerns of Métis Veterans who joined Canada's call to arms to enter the Second World War. They left this country not knowing the enemy they would face, nor the countries and people they were to defend. They were, nonetheless, instrumental in



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the Government of Canada has allocated \$30 million to recognize Métis Veterans of the Second World War for their pre- and post-war experiences and to support commemorative initiatives that promote awareness and appreciation of Métis Veterans' sacrifices and contributions among the Métis People as well as the general Canadian public.

“On behalf of all Canadians, we thank the Métis who served our country valiantly during the Second World War. They deserve our respect and we say thank you to them, their families, and the Métis Nation for the sacrifices that they made.”

MNC Minister of Veterans Affairs and MMF President David Chartrand responded on behalf of the Métis Nation:

“I thank Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister Lawrence



MacAulay for today's statement and apology to our Métis Veterans and the legacy left for future generations. They have shown great leadership taking action to correct the wrongs done to our Métis Nation Veterans who joined Canada's call to arms only to be met with

broken promises upon their return. After three quarters of a century of inaction by other Governments, and years negotiating acknowledgement and compensation, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Government is the first to keep the promise. With today's act, Canada fully recognizes our Métis Veterans' sacrifices and takes a historic step towards reconciliation.”

President Chartrand has been visiting surviving Métis Veterans of the Second World War to thank them in person and present them with \$20,000 compensation cheques under the

\$30 million Canada-Métis Nation Veterans Recognition Payment Agreement. He and Minister MacAulay presented 93 year old Métis veteran Norman Goodon with his cheque at the historic event.





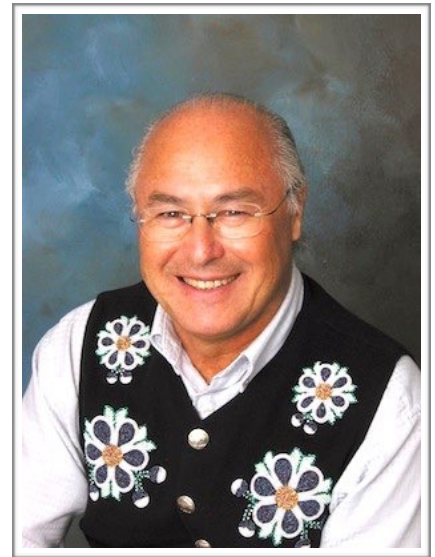
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Message from the President

On Sunday, September 22nd 3,000 delegates attending the Manitoba Metis Federation's Annual General Assembly unanimously adopted two major resolutions which are foundational to the future of the historic Métis Nation. The first one, Resolution 5, re-affirmed the will of the Métis citizens in Manitoba to stand strong in their belief in, and defence of, their inherent right of self-government. This was clearly a strong endorsement of their Cabinet's decision to not enter into the Framework Agreement on Self-government offered by the federal government in June 2019. Signing that Framework Agreement would have witnessed the Manitoba Metis Federation abandoning their inherent right of self-government for one contingent on negotiating a self-government agreement which the federal government would then need to endorse. Those Framework Agreements also provided the Governing

Members who signed them the federal government's permission to adopt their own definition of Métis, thereby abandoning the national definition adopted by the General Assembly in 2002.


The second resolution adopted, Resolution 6, endorsed the MMF Cabinet's decision to enable the President of the MMF to withdraw their government from further participation in the Métis National Council if certain conditions are not met. In particular, the MMF will refuse to continue participating in a national Métis governmental institution (MNC) if the Métis Nation -Saskatchewan and the Métis Nation of Alberta continue to accept the participation of the non-Métis Nation citizens from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in the affairs of the Métis Nation. The basis for arriving at this major decision is the General Assembly's suspension/probation resolution of the



MNO in November 2018, the non-compliance by the MNO of the conditions laid out in that resolution and the statement by MNO Chair Picotte at their August 2019 AGA that if MNO followed the MNC definition, 90% of their members wouldn't qualify.

Clearly this has the potential for a major turning point in the history of the Métis Nation. The Métis Nation itself will not be affected or altered, as it

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Message from the President

is a people, not an organization. In that respect the Nation and all of its attributes will not change. The MNC, as a governmental institution of the Métis Nation will of necessity undergo change. If the MNS and MNA continue to support the MNO with its current non-Métis Nation membership to continue participating in the Métis Nation's government, MMF Resolution 6 will be triggered and without the MMF as part of the Métis Nation's government, it is inevitable that the current

national body as it is now constituted will undergo another rebuilding process.

In March 1983, with the non-Status and Status Indians taking over the Native Council of Canada which the three Métis prairie organizations established in 1971, the prairie Métis had to re-establish their national representative organization with the commitment that never again would non-Métis Nation citizens participate in their future or speak on their behalf.

Ironically, we are now once again witnessing non-Métis Nation citizens participating in our Métis Nation government through the MNO and potentially altering the very future of the Métis Nation itself. So, here we are once again, a potential third time for the Métis Nation's defenders to once again, and hopefully for the last time, adopt a government that will not only be a true representative of the Métis Nation, but will be Métis Nation-only.



2019: Remembering Métis Nation 60s Scoop Survivors





October 2019

MNBC holds its Annual General Assembly in Prince George



The Métis Nation British Columbia held its Annual General Assembly in Prince George on September 13-15th with several hundred Métis in attendance.

Métis Nation President Clément Chartier and Vice-President David Chartrand, MMF President both spoke at the opening of the Assembly and outlined the progress made at

the national level since their last appearance before them. In particular both leaders spoke about the significant progress made with the Trudeau government over the last two federal budgets which is now seeing major portions of the over 2 billion dollars allocations now rolling out, including housing, early learning and child care and scholarships and

bursaries for Métis Nation post-secondary students.

Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand also spoke about the substantial progress the MMF is making with respect to programs and services under the Manitoba Métis government, in particular their new housing initiative and health services to their seniors.





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President Chartier Speaks at WICC

On Tuesday, September 17th, President Chartier spoke at the opening of the Second World Indigenous Cancer Conference in Calgary, Alberta held September 16-19, 2019. The first conference was held in Brisbane, Australia, in 2016. The theme at this conference was “Respect, Reconciliation, and Reciprocity: Connecting Across Knowledge Systems”.

The National Chair for this Conference was Angeline Letendre RN, PhD a Métis Nation citizen from Alberta. The National Co-Chair was Gail Garvey PhD from Brisbane, Australia.

President Chartier spoke about the negative effects of cancer on Métis Nation citizens, including four of his older siblings. President Chartier thanked all of the participants for taking the time and making the efforts to seek solutions to the prevention, detection, treatment and eradication of cancer. He introduced Métis Nation Health Minister, MNBC President, Clara Morin Dal Col who has been active with her national



health committee in addressing all health issues, and in particular cancer, and who would be staying for the duration of the Conference. He also thanked partners who worked with the Métis Nation, including the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer which has been partnering with the Métis Nation for a number of years.

President Chartier also mentioned the great progress being made with the Trudeau

government and the budgetary allocations over the past two years, including a 6 million dollar allocation in Budget 2018 to enable the Métis Nation to undertake health studies and gather relevant data which will lead to a future budget health ask. This he said, would include research on cancer which the Métis Nation delegation, headed by Minister Morin Dal Col would be addressing throughout the conference.





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Manitoba Metis Federation Holds Annual General Assembly in Winnipeg



On September 21 and 22nd, the Manitoba Metis Federation held its Annual General Assembly which was attended by 3,000 delegates from throughout the province. There was a long line of guest speakers at the outset of the Assembly from the federal and


provincial governments and political parties, as well as the Mayor of Winnipeg.

Interestingly, Dan Vandale, local Member of Parliament who represented the federal government is Métis. The mayor of Winnipeg, Brian

Bowman is also Métis. With these two guest speakers it is clear that the Métis in Manitoba are making their mark in the life and politics of the province.

The first speaker was President Clément Chartier who gave a

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short overview of the substantial progress made by the Métis Nation over the past four years, particularly with respect to the Prime Minister's recognition of the Métis Nation and the establishment of federal government – Métis Nation processes, as well as federal budgetary allocations of over 2 billion dollars over the last two budgets for programs and services for the Métis Nation.

Some of the highlights of the opening were two announcements by the MMF: the first one dealt with the establishment of a \$10,000 reward for persons who provided information to the police which leads to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators against murdered and missing Métis women and girls. The second was the presentation of a one million dollar cheque to CancerCare Manitoba. By this donation, the MMF made it clear that they are also citizens of the province and want to help make a difference for all



citizens in Manitoba; Métis and non-Métis.

The delegates also adopted a number of resolutions, and in particular unanimously adopted two major resolutions which also impact national issues. Resolution 5 was a declaration of self-government, based on their inherent right to do so by virtue of s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and

Resolution 6 which provided the authority or mandate for the MMF President to take the MMF out of the Métis National Council if the MNC General Assembly does not fully implement the GA November 2018 suspension of the MNO until such time that it only represents Métis Nation citizens.





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A first for the Supreme Court of Canada



For the first time in its history, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) has heard cases outside of Ottawa. During the week of September 23rd, the SCC sat for two appeals, and at the same time took time to meet with Indigenous leaders amongst others.

On Friday, September 27th, the nine Justices of the SCC had a luncheon meeting with the Cabinet of the Manitoba Métis

government, along with several guests invited by the MMF. While the meal of traditional Métis foods was exceptional, the interaction between Chief Justice Richard Wagner and President David Chartrand was quite interesting and captured the complete attention of all present.

President Chartier was also in attendance as a guest of President Chartrand and was

impressed by what he witnessed. “For me to be at an informal luncheon meeting between the SCC and the Cabinet of the Manitoba Métis government was certainly very interesting and historic, with the Chief Justice definitely captivated by the recounting by President Chartrand of the Métis Nation’s history, oppression and aspirations” reflected President Chartier.





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APTN hosts Reconciliation Day

September 30th has been designated as Orange Shirt Day in memory of former Residential School Survivors, and those who tragically did not survive. A Bill to mark September 30th as a National Day of Reconciliation for Residential Schools did not make it through Parliament, but the Day is nevertheless an important one.

President Clément Chartier, along with ITK President Natan Obed and AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde were among the guests invited to bring statements during the one hour program, which included performances by a number of Indigenous singers and dancers.

President Chartier spoke of the ongoing need for the federal government to address and conclude settlements for Métis residential schools, including



the Ile a la Crosse residential school which he attended for ten years. While acknowledging the significant movement forward between the Métis Nation and Canada over the past four years under the Trudeau government, President Chartier concluded by saying that a true and lasting reconciliation between Canada

and the Métis Nation cannot and will not happen unless the Métis residential schools outstanding issues are dealt with in a manner which brings closure to this sad chapter in the Métis Nation's history.





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Métis Nation Tobacco Control Workshop



The Métis Nation Tobacco Control Workshop took place in Toronto from September 25-26. It brought together a diverse range of participants from across the Metis Nation to share learning and experiences about tobacco control, and most importantly, to work together on building the Tobacco Control Strategy for the Metis Nation. Each of the Governing Members sent participants, including elders, leaders, youth and staff from their health portfolios. Participants also came from the Metis National Council and selected external organizations.

The Workshop took place through four sessions, over the two days:

- Session 1: Setting the Stage – The Current Situation
- Session 2: Moving Forward – Prevention
- Session 3: Moving Forward – Cessation and Treatment
- Session 4: Synthesis – Key Points





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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| • LFMO AGM | Oct 3-5 | Calgary, AB |
| • Métis Nation Child & Family Services Committee meeting | Oct 7-8 | Vancouver, BC |
| • Canadian Parks Conference - Quebec City | Oct 7-10 | Quebec City, QC |
| • Métis Nation Performance Measurements Workshop | Oct 17-18 | Ottawa, ON |
| • Louis Riel's 175th Birthday Celebration; Royal Canadian Mint Coin Unveil | Oct 22 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Métis Nation Conference: Our Mother the Land Conference | Oct 23-24 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Canada Post - Red River Resistance Stamp Unveil | Nov 6 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Métis Nation Health Committee meeting | Nov 6 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Métis Nation Environment Committee meeting | Nov 6-7 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • National Remembrance Day | Nov 11 | |
| • Riel Day | Nov 16 | |
| • Minorities Conference | Nov 18-20 | Ottawa, ON |
| • Métis Nation Health Forum | Feb 26-27 | Ottawa, ON |
| • Métis Economic Development Symposium (MEDS IV) | March 3-5 | Vancouver, BC |





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