



# Métis Nation



December 2019

## 150th anniversary of Red River Resistance of 1869-70 celebrated in special stamp



On November 6, 2019, Métis Nation and Canada Post unveiled new stamp next to Fort Garry gate in Winnipeg.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) partnered with Canada Post and unveiled a special stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Red River Resistance of 1869-70 in which the Métis asserted their

rights and protected their families during the turbulent events leading up to the creation of the province of Manitoba. In telling this story, it also honours the great Métis Leader and President Louis Riel and the Métis Provisional Government.

The stamp was unveiled next to the historic Gate of Upper Fort Garry – now a park – the seat of

Riel's Provisional Government and the site of the Métis ratification of the Manitoba Act.

“I am delighted by the many recent national acknowledgements of the Métis Nation,” said MMF President David Chartrand. “Last month on his 175th birthday, the Royal Canadian Mint issued a new coin featuring a portrait of Louis

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Riel. Today, Canada Post today recognizes the visionary leadership of President Riel and the Métis Leadership with this commemorative stamp. Their contributions to Manitoba and to Canada are finally and justifiably becoming fully known and appreciated.”

The stamp image, designed by Paprika and illustrated by Gérard DuBois, is based on two historical sources: an 1848 lithograph of Upper Fort Garry and a photograph of Louis Riel and his provisional government taken in 1870. Throughout the development of this stamp, Canada Post worked closely with the Métis National Council (MNC).

“Louis Riel was Manitoba’s first Premier and a Father of Confederation,” said President Chartrand. “I hope everyone in Canada buys this stamp, and that it goes all over the world. It is a form of visibility and presence that will memorialize his People’s struggle for land, sovereign rights and for the integrity of our distinct culture.”

“The creation and success of Canada Post is longstanding and enduring as is the Métis Nation,” President Chartrand went on to say. “The Métis



Nation is Canada’s Negotiating Partner in Confederation and the Founder of Manitoba. In Partnership with Canada Post, we are pleased that together we can all commemorate our history.”

“We’re thrilled Canada Post is issuing a stamp to mark this important anniversary,” says Clément Chartier, President of

the Métis National Council. “By defending Métis rights, Riel and the provisional government changed the course of Canadian history.”

The stamp is available in a booklet of 10 and affixed to an Official First Day Cover cancelled in Winnipeg. They can be purchased at post offices and online at [canadapost.ca/shop](http://canadapost.ca/shop).

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## Message from the President

As another year comes to an end, and while we can reflect on everything that has happened over the past year, both good and bad, we can also be positive and look to the year ahead; the year 2020, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Métis Nation joining Canada as the fifth province of Canada: Manitoba.

While the rest of the Métis Nation homeland in western Canada joined Canada through the Rupert's Land Order of June 1870 the passage of the Manitoba Act, 1870 was the turning point which marked our partnership with the Canadian State. Unfortunately, it took over a century to start seeing any positive developments in this new relationship.

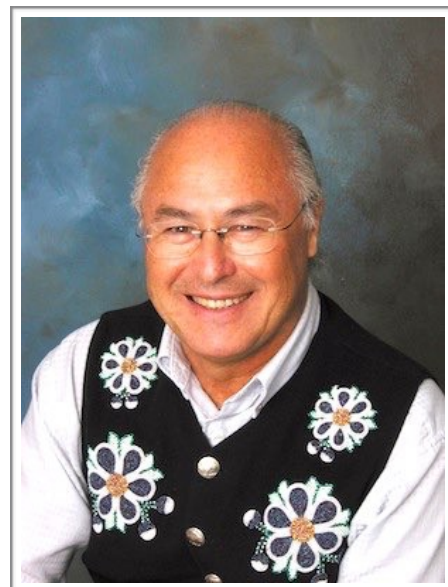
With the patriation of the Canadian Constitution in 1982 and the inclusion of section 35, along with the definition section making it clear that the Métis were a part of the Aboriginal peoples whose Aboriginal rights were recognized and affirmed, a new era of reconciliation began. However, it was not until the October 2015 election of the Trudeau government that real

and substantive developments began to emerge.

This happened primarily through the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism (PBM) Process, which the Métis National Council led to the successful achievement in Budgets 2018 and 2019 and the securing over 2 billion dollars for housing, early learning and child care, education and other neglected areas of services sorely needed by our people.

Certainly there are also other processes which have great promise, such as the section 35 rights reconciliation tables with the MNC's Governing Members which may eventually lead to major developments on matters such as land and self-government.

Nevertheless, 2020 must be embraced as a cornerstone on the path forward. Certainly it will be a big year for the Manitoba Métis Federation, which is the modern government of the 1870 provisional government of Louis Riel and the bedrock of Métis nationalism and existence.



While the vast majority of the Métis Nation's events should and must take place in Manitoba, Métis governments in other parts of the Homeland from northwestern Ontario to British Columbia should also find ways to mark this milestone event.

As 2020 marks the end of the Decade of the Métis Nation which began in 2011, we can all sit back at some point and not just reflect on the successes and challenges of 2019, but of the Decade as whole.





# December 2019

## Métis Nation Veterans Roundtable



On Tuesday, November 5, 2019 Métis Nation Minister of Social Development responsible for Veterans Affairs and President of the MMF, David Chartrand, convened a roundtable in Winnipeg, Manitoba to discuss and consult on the 2019 Federal Budget allocation for Second World War Métis Nation veterans. In attendance from Governing Members were several Ministers responsible for Veterans Affairs, as well as representatives of Métis Veterans.

Minister Chartrand provided an overview of the struggle to finally get Canada to provide an apology to Métis Nation WWII Veterans, as well as the 30 million dollars in this year's federal budget, which will enable the Métis Nation to establish a Legacy Fund as well as provide compensation payments to living WWII Métis Nation Veterans. Minister Chartrand also gave an overview of the outreach and presentation of the compensation to a number of WWII Métis Veterans over the

past few months, while continuing the efforts to locate other living WWII Métis Nation Veterans.

The roundtable discussed the need for consultations to take place with surviving WWII Métis Veterans, families of deceased Veterans and Métis Nation citizens generally on the future of the Legacy Fund. Minister Chartrand made it clear that this is just a beginning step in the quest to ensure that our WWII Métis Nation Veterans will not be forgotten.





December 2019

## Métis Nation Honours Two Second World War Veterans on National Aboriginal Veterans Day in Ottawa



On November 8, 2019, Métis National Council Minister of Veterans Affairs and National Spokesperson David Chartrand honoured two Métis veterans of the Second World War at a ceremony in Ottawa. The ceremony at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument included the presentation of a


\$20,000 cheque to each of the veterans under the terms of the \$30 million Canada-Métis Nation Métis Veterans Recognition Payment Agreement.

“Today’s ceremony is another important step Canada is taking with the Métis Nation on the

road to reconciliation,” said Minister Chartrand who has been visiting surviving Métis Veterans of the Second World War to thank them in person and present them with cheques.

Guy Pierre Joseph Lafreniere was born May 19, 1925 in Swan Lake, Manitoba and enlisted

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August 24, 1943 in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Winnipeg. Two of his sisters also served in the armed forces. After leaving the Air Force, Mr. Lafreniere served in the RCMP until he retired in 1977 in Ottawa. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, he was posted at the Prime Minister's residence, 24 Sussex Drive, to guard then Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

George Ricard was born on October 23, 1925 in Renfrew, Ontario. He joined the RCAF 423rd Sqn at the age of 17. He was stationed in Coastal Command in Ireland for 2-1/2 years where the squadron was employed to attack German U-Boats. Mr. Ricard was an



*President Chartrand presenting cheque to WWII Métis Veteran George Ricard*

airframe technician and did repairs to sheet metal on planes when they needed repairs.

“It may be late but it is still fulfilling to see these heroes of the Métis Nation and indeed all of Canada get the recognition they so rightly deserve,” said Minister Chartrand who is carrying on to Port Hope, Ontario to honour another Métis Nation war veteran tomorrow.

Joining Minister Chartrand at the ceremony to honour the veterans were the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett, the Minister of Indigenous Services Seamus O'Regan, and Margaret Froh, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario.



*President Chartrand presenting cheque to WWII Métis Veteran Guy Pierre Joseph Lafreniere*

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## Métis Nation Honours Second World War Veteran in Port Hope



On November 9, 2019, Métis National Council Minister of Veterans Affairs and National Spokesperson David Chartrand honoured a Métis veteran of the Second World War at a ceremony in Port Hope, Ontario today. Joseph Willmer Gagnon enlisted on April 26, 1941 and was assigned to the Canadian Forestry Corps of the Canadian Army as a truck driver. He spent most of his

wartime overseas time in Holland. His father, Henry Holenger Gagnon, had fought in the Canadian armed forces during the First World War at Vimy Ridge and Passchaendaele in 1917.

Minister Chartrand presented Mr. Gagnon with a cheque for \$20,000 under the terms of the \$30 million Canada-Métis Nation Métis Veterans

Recognition Payment Agreement.

“Today’s ceremony marks another important recognition of these Métis heroes whose contributions were long overlooked,” said Minister Chartrand. “We will remember all of them.”

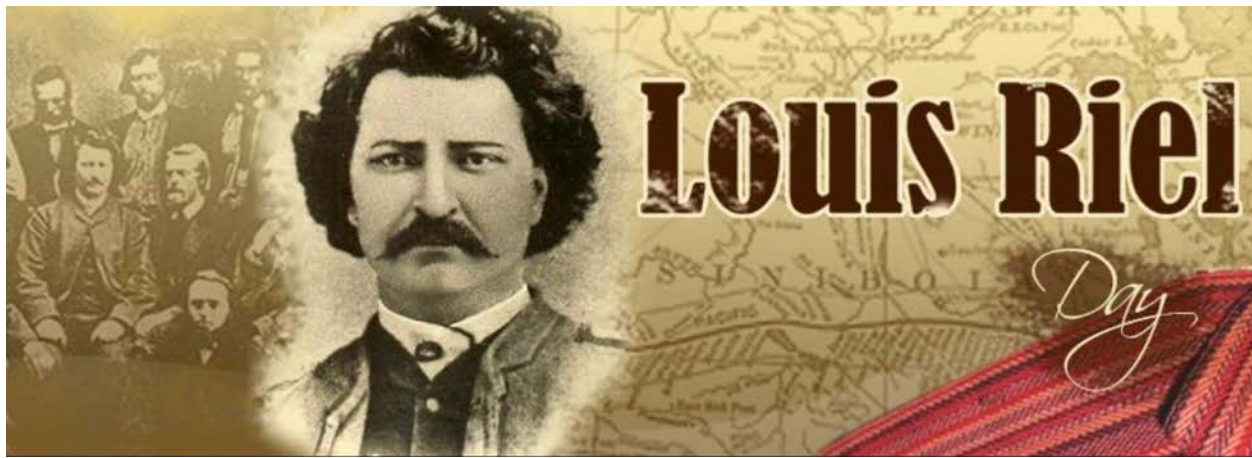






December 2019

## Statement by the Prime Minister on Louis Riel Day



The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on Louis Riel Day:


“Today, we join the Métis people and all Canadians to celebrate the life and achievements of Louis Riel.

“Louis Riel’s leadership left an indelible mark on Canadian Confederation. He was a champion of the Métis Nation, a defender of minority rights, and the founder of Manitoba. Louis Riel’s vision of a just and equal province showed the way to a better, more inclusive country.

“Today, we are working in partnership with the Métis Nation to make progress on its priorities, including through the Canada-Métis Nation Accord and annual Crown-Métis Nation Summit meetings. The Government of Canada has made historic investments to support a Métis Nation-led post-secondary education strategy, recognize the contributions of Métis veterans during the Second World War, and address the housing needs of Métis communities. We will continue to work with the Métis Nation to make a real difference in the lives of Métis people.

“As we prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Métis Nation entering Confederation, I encourage all Canadians to reflect on the essential role the Métis people have played – and continue to play – to build a better Canada.”

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2019/11/16/statement-prime-minister-louis-riel-day>





December 2019

## Statement from Métis National Council Vice-President and National Spokesperson David Chartrand on the Prime Minister's New Cabinet

November 20, 2019 Ottawa, ON

We are pleased and encouraged by the Prime Minister's new Cabinet appointments. They represent a good balance of new faces and experienced cabinet members who will provide a forward-looking and stable government. It was great to see the opportunities provided to those who together represent citizens from right across our country.

We are particularly pleased that Métis Nation Citizen the Honourable Dan Vandal has been appointed as Minister of Northern Affairs. We are also happy to see that the Honourable Jim Carr has been made the Prime Minister's Special Representative for the Prairies. We congratulate everyone on their appointments.

The appointment of the Honourable Chrystia Freeland as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is a positive signal to other governments, including our Métis Nation Government, of the federal government's commitment to national unity and we look forward to a First Ministers Meeting.

As Canada's negotiating partner in Confederation and founder of the province of Manitoba, the Métis Nation will return to our historical role of bringing the West into a united Canada. We will roll up our sleeves to continue to build our great country. We look forward to working with Prime Minister Trudeau, his new cabinet and doing our share for a prosperous and unified Canada.





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## Minorities in Canada – Coming Together



Minorities in Canada – Coming Together was held on November 18-20, 2019 at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, Ontario. The conference featured a broad range of dynamic speakers including academics, published authors

and leaders from a variety of visible minority communities. The three themes of the conference were rights, education, and the economy focusing on issues and challenges faced by Canada's minorities in parallel to the

experiences of the Métis Nation. The conference also explored Métis Nation specific issues including identity, place and appropriation.

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## National Environment and Health Committees Come Together to Discuss Climate Change

— by Erin Myers, MNC Climate Change Advisor



The Métis people hold a sacred and unbreakable connection to the land and rely on the environment as a source of physical, social, economic, cultural and spiritual health and well-being. Rapid changes in the physical environment, including

unpredictable weather patterns, increases in the frequency and severity of wildland forest fires, flooding, heat events and the spread of vector borne diseases such as lyme disease, can affect the ability of individuals and communities to adapt. They also

pose significant risks to the health and well-being of the Métis.

In 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated that “Indigenous, local, and Traditional Knowledge systems

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and practices, including Indigenous peoples' holistic view of community and environment, are a major resource for adapting to climate change, but these have not been used consistently in existing adaptation efforts. Integrating such forms of knowledge with existing practices increases the effectiveness of adaptation.”

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Métis Nation held its first joint National Health and Environment Committee meeting chaired by Minister Clara Morin Del Col and Kathy Hodgson Smith. Ministers and technical staff representing all Governing Members participated in an important dialogue about their climate change and health concerns. Erin Myers, Climate Change Advisor for the Métis National Council, provided an overview of the impacts of climate change on health, Dr. Peter Berry from Health Canada presented on the current Indigenous Chapter of the Canadian Health Impact Assessment, and Director Steven Sternthal from the Public Health Agency presented on the current funding opportunity to develop climate change and health adaptation projects.



The objective of this initial meeting was to strengthen the capacity of the Métis Nation to identify, discuss and constructively look at ways to respond to climate-related health risks and impacts together. Climate change is impacting all aspects of life whether it be housing, environment, health, economic development, etc., and therefore we need to work collaboratively to further understand how climate change is impacting Métis citizens. We also need to include diverse voices such as our Elders, youth, women, traditional knowledge keepers to collaboratively co-develop/support adaptation solutions and provide up-to-date research/tools, and expertise

which can support the development of a Métis Nation platform to share best practices and lessons learned.

Bringing together diverse environment and health expertise will ensure that the Métis Nation will be a part of the climate change and health adaptation dialogue both nationally and internationally, as well as contribute to the global effort by Indigenous communities to find solutions and adapt to a changing world. The Métis Nation is working to adapt to climate change and build resilient communities, providing hope for a positive future.







December 2019

## Remembrance Day Ceremonies

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, there was other great turnout in the annual ceremony at the Veterans Monument in front of the municipal office building in Ile a la Crosse. After hearing several speakers and playing the last Post, the assembled crowd reconvened the day's ceremony at the High School gym for more speeches from invited dignitaries, including Métis Nation President, Clément Chartier, MNS President Glen McCallum, Mayor Duane Favel, MLA Buckley Belanger and Alex Maurice, President NAVA Saskatchewan.



A la Baie Local President, Jim Durocher was the Master of Ceremonies at both the outside event and at the gym. As in previous years, the meal was excellent.

Of note, was the significant number of children and youth who were in attendance, as well as community Elders.



On the same day, Métis representative Will Goodon attended the National Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa where he laid a wreath on behalf of the Métis National Council.





December 2019

## Darlene McKay Honoured by Her Community



On November 13<sup>th</sup> the Prince Albert Métis community came out in great numbers to honour Darlene McKay, as did a number of Local Presidents from the Region. Also in attendance were Les Filles de Madeleine President Tammy Mah and her Board of Directors.


This was a special occasion for Darlene in recognition of her being awarded the Order of

Métis Nation by the Métis National Council for her dedicated work and sacrifices over the past several decades. In addition to this honour, Les Filles de Madeleine presented Darlene with a shawl in appreciation of her hard and positive work on Métis women's issues.

There to celebrate this special occasion with her, were her family, who are all very proud of

the great work and contributions Darlene has made to the Métis community; not just in Prince Albert, but for the Region, the provincial and the national levels as well.

A very proud and deserving moment for such dedicated work!





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## Métis Nation and Mining Industry Look Ahead



l-r: John Weinstein, Al Benoit, President Clément Chartier, Marc LeClair, Wei Xie, Glenn Nolan (Vice President, Noront Resources Ltd), Gordon Stothart (President of the IAMGOLD Corporation and Chair of the MAC), Tara Shea (MAC), Peter Read (Vice President, Suncrude Canada)

President Chartier and senior advisors met with members of the Board of Directors of the Mining Association of Canada (MAC), including senior executives from Canada's largest mining companies, as part of the industry's Mining Day on the Hill program on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Canada's mining industry is a top employer of Indigenous

peoples, a major customer of Indigenous businesses and a significant investor in community initiatives. There are over 455 active Indigenous-mining company agreements cross the country, including a number with Governing Members. The relationships and collaboration between Indigenous partners and the industry are expanding to areas

such as the integration of Traditional Knowledge in mining operations.

At the meeting at the MNC office, the mining company executives and the Métis Nation discussed shared priorities, including those relevant to the priorities of the incoming 43<sup>rd</sup> Parliament.





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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |  |           |                |
|--|-----------|----------------|
| • United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 25                        | Dec 2-13  | Madrid, Spain  |
| • MHRDA Working Group Meeting  | Dec 4     | Vancouver, BC  |
| • Métis Capital Corporations/Senior Officials Meeting                    | Dec 4     | Vancouver, BC  |
| • MEDS IV Planning Meeting   | Dec 5     | Vancouver, BC  |
| • Métis Nation Languages Working Group Meeting                           | Dec 10    | Ottawa, ON     |
| • UN Closing Event of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Language | Dec 16-18 | NYC, USA       |
| • Dialogue Meeting on Enhanced Indigenous Peoples' Participation at UN   | Jan 5-10  | Quito, Ecuador |
| • Métis Nation Health Forum  | Feb 26-27 | Ottawa, ON     |
| • Métis Economic Development Symposium (MEDS IV)                         | March 3-5 | Vancouver, BC  |





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