



MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

Office of the President

December 2015

Louis Riel Day Celebrated

On November 16, President Chartier attended the Louis Riel Day commemoration ceremony at Louis Riel's gravesite in St. Boniface. On November 16, 1885 Riel was executed for leading the Northwest Resistance in defence of Métis rights.

Métis people across Manitoba came together on Nov. 16th to mark the 130th anniversary of the hanging of Louis Riel.

"With the new government, it will be a dramatic opportunity for the Métis people especially for our children and our future" said Manitoba Metis Federation President, David Chartrand.



"November 16 is a very significant day for the Métis Nation as it gives us an opportunity to commemorate and honour the sacrifice made by Louis Riel who gave his life in the defence of the rights of the Métis, a legacy which instills in our people the determination and spirit to continue the battle for justice and rights" President Chartier added.

Many people came out to take part in the ceremony, which honoured the life and contributions of Riel. This was followed by a traditional meal, complete with moose stew and bannock served at Elsie Bear's Kitchen at the MMF building.





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Forgotten: The Métis Residential School Experience



On November 16, President Chartier attended the launch of newest exhibition on the Métis Residential School Experience at the Canadian Human Rights Museum.

The exhibition consists of a collection of rare archival photographs, objects, and stories curated by a team of prominent Métis led by Greg Scofield and including Maria Campbell, Christi Belcourt, Dr. Brenda Macdougall, and Guy Freedman.

“Today, exactly 130 years after the death of Louis Riel, where our people have often felt excluded from the discussions on residential schools, the exhibit is a potential turning point in Canada’s movement towards truth and reconciliation, where the Métis story is acknowledged, valued and addressed” stated President Chartier.

“On behalf of the Métis National Council, I thank The Legacy of Hope Foundation for putting together this Métis-specific exhibition to teach other Indigenous peoples and all Canadians about the history of Residential Schools and their impact on the Métis Nation” President Chartier added.





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Métis Nation Renews Ties with Peruvian Indigenous Peoples



On November 3rd, President Chartier attended the 5th Annual Meeting of Indigenous peoples of the Andes in the Indigenous community of Tinta, Peru.

President Chartier had formerly attended the 1st and 2nd meetings in 2011 and 2012, following an MNC sponsored visit of CONIAP to Batoche and Ottawa in July 2012. At an

MNC Board of Governors meeting at Batoche, a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation was signed between CONIAP and the Métis Nation.

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Based on their experience at Batoche and seeing the thousands of Metis from across the homeland participating they decided to implement their own days of gathering to honour the struggles of their past and selected November 4th, the day that Tupac Amaru II in 1780 called his people to rise up against the Spanish which resulted in his capture the following year and the execution of he and his wife, Micaela Bastides in the public square in nearby Cuzco.

The meeting on November 3rd featured a number of speakers on various topics including President Chartier who spoke about the election in Canada and the victory of the Liberal Party which gives Indigenous peoples some hopes that their rights may gain recognition. He also spoke of the Metis Nation's continued support to the creation of an organization of Indigenous leaders to better represent ourselves at UN and OAS meetings.

Hugo Tacuri, President of CONIAP addressed a number of matters of importance to the

Indigenous peoples of Peru, as well as the rest of the Andean peoples. President Tacuri also spoke to the progress made on our efforts over the past five years to form an Indigenous Leaders organization of the Americas.

Felix Cardenez Aguilar, Vice-Minister of Decolonization from Bolivia also spoke about the meeting on decolonization to take place shortly in Bolivia, encouraging participants to attend. He also spoke to a proposed meeting to take place in Bolivia, likely some time in the fall of 2016 where the Indigenous peoples of Latin America would get together and form an organization to represent the Indigenous peoples/nations of Abya Yala (Latin America). Following that, the plan would for the indigenous peoples of North America, as well as the Caribbean to join in and form an organization that would represent the Indigenous peoples of South, Central and North America and the Caribbean. It is proposed that this founding meeting would occur in 2017.

In late afternoon the meeting participants moved to Urcos where Mayor Hilton Nahome Huscamayta sponsored a meal and an inaugural session to open the November 4th commemoration and celebration event. The Mayor greeted the participants and gave a short speech followed by other leaders from the Tinta meeting.

On the morning of November 4th, following breakfast provided by the Mayor, the participants walked to the square where more speeches were made, followed by a walk-by by youth carrying the flags of the country's from which the various participants came from, including the Canadian flag.

In his speech, President Chartier thanked the Mayor for his hospitality, spoke about the importance of these events and interactions between various Indigenous peoples and the need to move forward with the plan to form an organization for the Indigenous peoples within the Americas. President Chartier also informed the gathering that today, as we are

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l-r: Pedro Huamani (Vice-President of CONIAP), Clément Chartier (MNC President), and Hugo Tacuri (President of CONIAP)



l-r: Mayor Hilton Nahome Huscamayta, Felix Cardenez Aguilar, Vice-Minister of Decolonization from Bolivia, President Chartier, and Hugo Tacuri (President of CONIAP)

meeting, in Canada a new government is being sworn-in, a Liberal government which raises hope that relationships with Indigenous peoples, not only in Canada, but in the rest of the Americas as well, will markedly improve.

Following the speeches and related activities the participants were invited to the Mayor's office where he presented gifts to all the participants. Following this, President Chartier presented to the Mayor his vest with Eagle heads on it, saying that this symbolizes a step toward the finalizing of the joining of the Condor and the Eagle. In return the Mayor took off his official mantle which has the Condor on it. The Condor to the Andean Indigenous peoples is like the Eagle to us in North America and there is an Andean prophesy that when the Condor and the Eagle come together the world will change for the better.





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A DAY FOR REMEMBRANCE



On November 11, President Clément Chartier laid a wreath at the national monument in recognition of the many sacrifices made by so many Canadians, including citizens of the Métis Nation.

Each year, the Métis National Council participates in National Remembrance Day Ceremonies as these ceremonies are very important to Métis because we have contributed to the defense of Canada as far back as the War

of 1812 as well as both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, United Nations peacekeeping missions and most recently, Afghanistan. President Chartier was joined by MNC communications officer Ke Ning.

President Chartier stated “We remember and thank all Canadian veterans for their many sacrifices in defending world peace; past and present. In particular, the Métis Nation will forever thank and remember the

brave women and men of our Nation who so courageously gave their best in the defence of Canada and other peoples of the world during the great wars and the Korean conflict. They returned home and became our modern day leaders and defenders of our rights, the backbone of our struggle for justice and rights in the country they so valiantly stood up for. Many did not return. We shall remember them!”





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MNC Meets with Aboriginal Equity Partners in the Northern Gateway Project



On November 12, 2015, MNC President Chartier met with the Aboriginal Equity Partners (AEP) Stewards in the Northern Gateway Project (NGP) in Victoria, BC, to discuss the future of this major pipeline project, with a particular focus on Métis and First Nations support for NGP. In June 2014 the Northern Gateway pipeline

project, a proposed 1,177 kilometer long pipeline carrying diluted bitumen from the Athabasca oilsands to a marine terminal in Kitimat B.C. was approved by the federal government, subject to 209 conditions.

The AEP comprises representatives of 28 Métis and

First Nations groups who have agreed to become co-owners of the NGP with its sponsor and operator, Enbridge Inc. They include two of the MNC's Governing Members, Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Nation British Columbia, and two Métis Settlements in Alberta. It has a steering committee of four, with two

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representatives from the First Nations and two from the Métis Nation. MNBC President Bruce Dumont and Elmer Ghostkeeper, Vice-Chairperson from Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement, serve as the Métis members of the committee.

The members of the AEP meet on a regular basis to discuss the project and their role in it. They

had invited President Chartier to discuss Section 35 Métis Rights and the Daniel's case. The AEP stewards emphasized the importance of Aboriginal participation in the NGP consortium in moving the project ahead. Enbridge itself has cited this support as being critical to its plans, recently calling on the federal government to carry out

“required consultation” with First Nations and Metis along the pipeline route, given the “potential economic impact a crude oil tanker ban would have on those communities and Western Canada as a whole.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Christmas Day

December 25, 2015



2015: Honoring our Métis Nation Elders





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Message from the President

Another twelve months has gone by, marking the 130th anniversary of the execution of our Leader Louis Riel on November 16, 1885. A lot has happened in that 130 years, including the struggle of the citizens of the Métis Nation to regain the rightful place of the Métis Nation within the Canadian state.

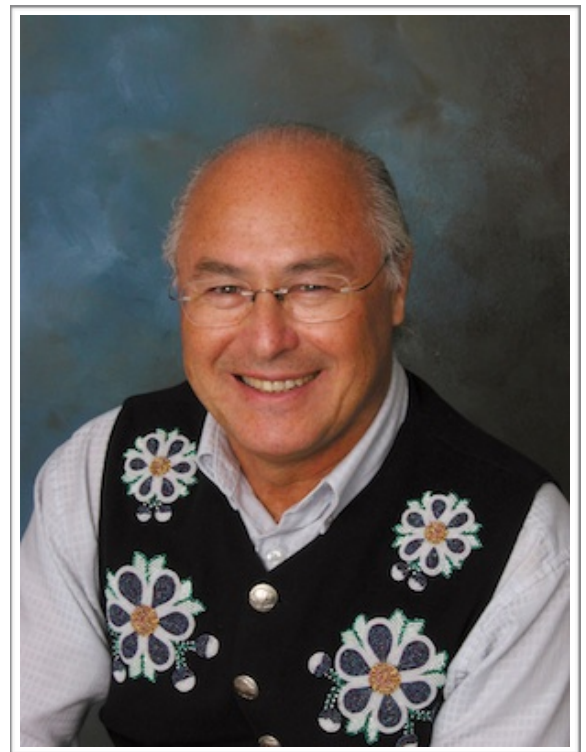
Various attempts to achieve that objective have been made by our past leaders and communities, including the political organizations established by our people within the provinces that have come into being since 1870. Our contemporary organizations began in the 1930s in Alberta and Saskatchewan and emerged later in the rest of the Métis Nation homeland.

There has never been any question as to the existence of the Métis Nation, and while newly emerging rump groups are beginning to improperly

appropriate our Nation, flag and other symbols, our existence as a people has deep roots and will never be displaced.

However, we will need to soon take a firm decision and a strong stand on these pretenders such as the Métis Federation of Canada, and the so-called Metis Nation of Canada, which appeared on the web a few years ago with a prime minister, disappeared and resurfaced in an email a couple of days ago, informing us that we cannot use the term "Métis Nation" as it belongs to them by trademark. While they may be delusional, it is still an irritant.

As we move forward on a nation-to-nation relationship



with the Trudeau government, we must take a strong position that only the Métis National Council has the mandate to speak on behalf of the Métis Nation.





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