



Métis Nation



October 2016

Message from the President

The annual general assemblies of our Governing Members have now concluded for this year. It was interesting listening to the dialogue ensuing from the various agenda items.

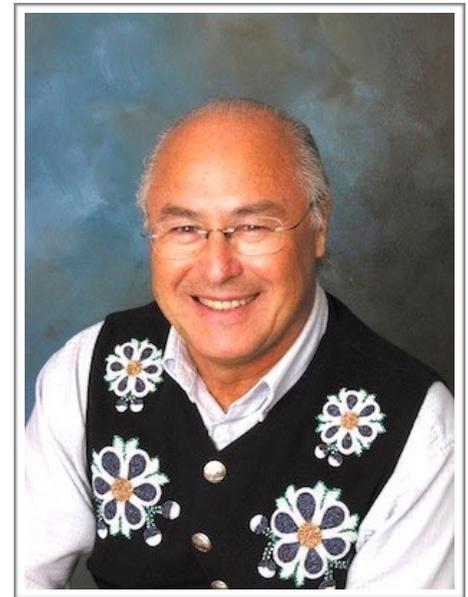
Of particular interest is the ongoing debate about Métis Nation citizenship cards, as well as harvester cards and the s. 35 Aboriginal harvesting rights thus far affirmed by the courts. Also of great interest to our citizens were the April 2016 Supreme Court of Canada *Daniels* decision and the July 2016 release of the Isaac Report and the federal government's commitment to engage in a s. 35 Métis rights reconciliation with the Métis National Council and its Governing Members.

One of the recurring questions I was asked was when would we begin registering our citizens who have moved to other parts of Canada and are thus not eligible for securing their registration with one of the Governing Member registries. To these inquiries I generally responded that we are still

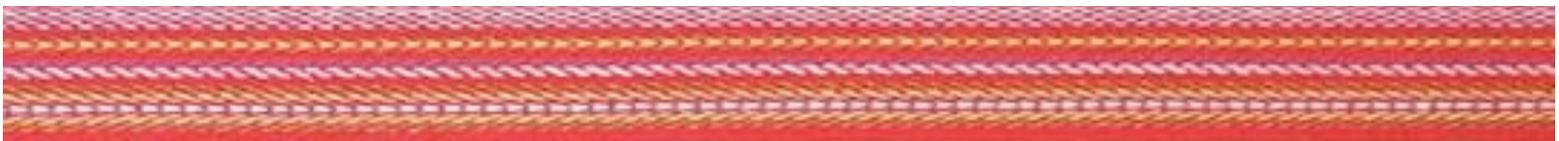
working on adopting an acceptance process which would include a national registry based on the Governing Member registries.

Once we arrive at a decision to adopt a national registry, which essentially would serve as a national repository of the five Governing Member registries, we could entertain accepting registrations from citizens living outside of our Governing Member jurisdictions who would apply through their original place of origin and upon approval be placed on the national registry which would supplement those citizens residing within the Métis Nation homeland.

In this modern era, many of our citizens have moved outside of our historic homeland as well as outside the five Governing Member jurisdictions and must also be taken into account. As a nation of people, regardless of residence, we must ensure that all of our people are eligible to be registered.



As we move forward with the Trudeau government and engage in reconciliation on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis, we must strengthen our determination to be self-governing, including adopting all measures which a self-governing nation would exercise. One such measure is ensuring that all of our citizens are registered, regardless of where they may currently reside.





October 2016

Implications of *Daniels* Decision Explored at National Conference



An important national conference “The *Daniels* Case: Understanding The New Era of Métis Rights Law”, was held at the Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development Centre in downtown Toronto on September 22, 2016. The conference brought together members of the legal community, most members of the MNC Board of Governors and Board members from a number of the MNC Governing Members. It was co-chaired by

Mr. Thomas Isaac, Partner, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP who recently served as Ministerial Special Representative on Métis Rights and well-known Métis lawyer Jason Madden, Partner, Pape Salter Teillet LLP .

The conference explored a variety of issues that have arisen since the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in *Daniels* that the federal government has jurisdictional responsibility to

deal with the Métis. Among the topics pursued were:

- Understanding the relationship between s. 91 (24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* and s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
- Métis identification and registry issues;
- Métis consultation and accommodation;

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October 2016

- Implementing Powley;
- Métis land rights and outstanding claims; and
- Recent development in Métis research.

In his address to the conference, MNC President Chartier explored the implications of the *Daniels* decision for policies and programs as well as its impact on Métis claims. In a keynote address, MMF President Chartrand discussed dimensions

of the MMF victory in the Supreme Court of Canada in 2013 on the historic Métis Nation land claim centred in the Red River Settlement.





October 2016

Lewistown Métis Days



l-r: Audrey Poitras, Dwayne Roth, Louella Fredricksen, Ron Quintal, Clément Chartier and Bruce Dumont

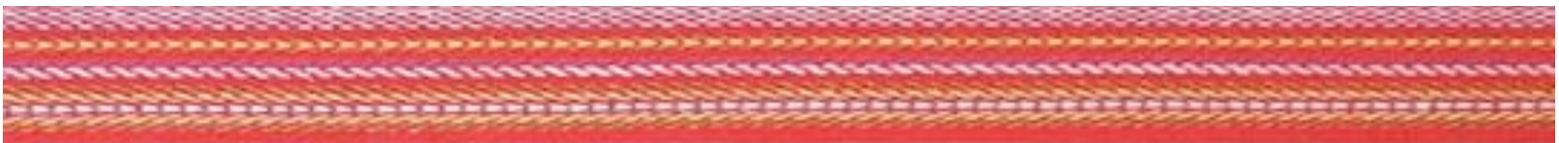
On September 2-5, 2016 the Métis in Montana held their annual Métis Days and Powwow. The event was again a major success. This year, President Chartier was joined by Presidents Bruce Dumont of MNBC and Audrey Poitras of the MNA. Ron Quintal, President of the Fort McKay

Métis Community was also in attendance, along with some of his Board and staff.

The MNA delegation was a major contributor to this year's celebration as President Poitras brought a significant delegation including a young Métis fiddler and the 200th Anniversary

Cuthbert Grant display which they organized for the Batoche Days.

The Métis delegations from Canada numbered about 25 in total and were greatly appreciated.





October 2016

Dr. Carloyn Bennett returns to north west Saskatchewan

When Minister Bennett visited the village of La Loche on February 9th where she met with community representatives of La Loche in the wake of the January 22nd shootings in the community, including at the high school, she made a commitment that she would be back. At that time, she also met with representatives of the Ile a la Crosse residential school and the Métis leadership of the region.

True to her word, Dr. Bennett travelled to both La Loche and Ile a la Crosse on September 8th. President Chartier joined her at both the Friendship Center grand opening at La Loche as

well as the meeting in Ile a la Crosse with former students of the Ile a la Crosse residential school.

In helping pursue a solution to the social and economic issues confronting the First Nations and Métis residents of La Loche and the adjacent Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN) reserve, Dr. Bennett symbolically handed over a large poster sized replica cheque in the amount of \$775,000.00 to Executive Director Leonard Montgrand to assist in the cost of the new building. This was preceded by a community breakfast of pancakes, sausages and bacon.



The new building houses a number of social agencies which are working on the social issues confronting the community, as well as offering programs and other events to assist the youth of the community.

Following this, the Minister held a meeting at the high school and then with the CRDN leadership following which she travelled to Ile a la Crosse.

At Ile a la Crosse, Dr. Bennett was met by more than 200



Continued on next page





October 2016

former Ile a la Crosse residential school students, many of whom travelled from various locations within Saskatchewan and Alberta where they currently reside. After introductory remarks, the former students had over an hour to relate their experiences to Dr. Bennett expressing in a polite but emotional manner the trauma that they experienced as a result of their years at the residential school.

arrived at for other residential schools. The Minister in her response to the interventions of the former students addressed their statements in a respectful and knowledgeable manner evidencing that she indeed did listen and wasn't speaking from a prepackaged speech. While the Minister did not make any concrete commitments the meeting nevertheless ended on a positive note with a general sentiment that a resolution to the matter would be pursued.



Dr. Bennett and two former students, Abraham Gardiner and Violet Benjamin begin process of demolishing the boys old residence building utilizing a sledge hammer.



Jules Daigneault former Ile a la Crosse Residential School student speaking directly to Minister Bennett. President Chartier and MP Jolibois to left of Bennett.

From the tent where the meeting took place, the participants walked a short distance to the old residence

and knocked out a piece of the cement block. The complete eradication of this reminder of the past will be carried out following this meeting.

The former students recommended to the Minister that her government engage in an exploratory discussion with them in order to seek a resolution to this long standing matter, and their exclusion from the settlement agreement

which had housed the boys and in a symbolic act of demolistment the Minister aided by two former residential school students took a sledge hammer to a corner of the building



The old former boys residence getting the sledge hammer.





October 2016

Community Visits

In follow-up to Minister Bennett's visits to La Loche on February 9th and September 8th, INAC senior official, Richard Quintal and President Chartier attended an evening meeting on September 27th with representatives of the La Loche Métis community in order to work with them on re-establishing an active Métis leadership and community in La Loche. Updates were provided to the community members and it was decided that a further meeting would take place at the end of October and at that time a date and place would be set for elections for a new Métis community board.

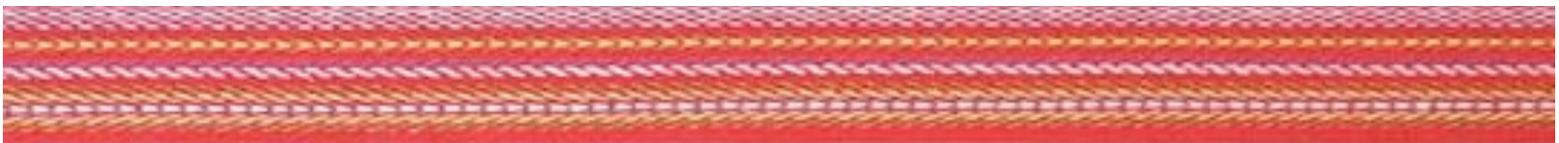
Earlier in the day, President Chartier attended the high school at Ile a la Crosse where the Lt. Governor of the province, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, was presenting student achievement awards. To take advantage of this opportunity the community leadership, Mayor and Principal, etc, decided to have the "orange shirt" day a few days early. The orange shirt day, which began in British Columbia three years ago, is spreading eastward and has reached Saskatchewan this year.

On October 30th, schools are encouraged to have their students wear orange shirts to remind everyone of the residential school



legacy and to honor former students. For Ile a la Crosse, it was felt that the former Ile a la Crosse residential school students should be honored and that current students not forget the hardships their families endured during their time in residential school and the impacts of that experience which still permeate the community.

Following this event, President Chartier met with some residential school committee members, A la Baie Métis Local leaders and village council members in follow-up to the meeting with Minister Bennett and what next steps should be taken.





October 2016

The Métis Nation and Progressive Trade

On September 9, 2016, the Métis Nation participated in Toronto in a Progressive Trade conference with Trade Minister Freeland and INAC Minister Bennett in Toronto to help launch a new chapter on federal-Indigenous relations on international trade and investment initiatives.

Pursuant to the Federal government's commitment to build renewed nation-to-nation relations with Indigenous peoples, the objective of the event was for the federal government to work closer with the Indigenous peoples on international trade and investment initiatives going forward, and to provide a forum in which Indigenous representatives could provide meaningful input towards the development of an enhanced federal-Indigenous international trade and investment engagement strategy.

MNC President Chartier stated that Canada's international trade



and investment policy should be consistent with the nation-to-nation relationship that is being developed between Canada and the Métis Nation. Accordingly, the rights and interests of the Métis Nation should be built into Canada's approach to international trade and investment. Chartier supported measures in the Trans-Pacific

Partnership (TPP), the free trade agreement with Canada's Asia-Pacific trade partners currently being considered for adoption by the federal government, that shield key policies and programs that contribute to Métis economic development such as set-asides for Métis businesses in government procurement

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October 2016

policies.

More broadly, he stated the Métis Nation sought an expanded relationship with Canadian trade offices worldwide to assist in identifying new export markets for Métis products and services and to facilitate meetings with potential partners and investors for Métis Nation economic and business projects which require significant amounts of capital. On this note, he referenced the signing of an agreement in Beijing a few days ago, with the Prime Minister on hand as witness, by President David Chartrand of the Manitoba Metis Federation and the president of a Chinese housing developer that will be making a

multi-million dollar investment in a housing manufacturing plant in Manitoba using green technology for the construction and repair of homes in Indigenous and remote communities.

Chartier also encouraged the federal government to leverage its nation-to-nation relationship with the Indigenous peoples in Canada and inter-Indigenous relationships at the international level to get in on the ground floor of development in emerging markets, particularly in the Americas. He said Canada should financially support the establishment of an Americas-wide Indigenous representative body that would bring Canadian best practices such as

consultation and accommodation to other parts of the Americas, including the Andean countries that are included in TPP, where Canadian banks and resource corporations are major players.

He also called for the revitalization of the Indigenous Peoples Partnership Program (IPPP) established by a former Liberal government and subsequently disbanded by the Harper government, that enabled Canadian Indigenous peoples to work with Indigenous communities in South and Central America on social and economic development projects.





October 2016

President Chartier Speaks at MMF and MNBC Annual Assemblies

The recent release of the Ministerial Special Representative (MSR) report on Canada-Métis Nation reconciliation and Métis section 35 rights as well as the *Daniels* decision of the Supreme Court of Canada provided a stimulating backdrop to the annual assemblies of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and Métis Nation-British Columbia (MNBC) from Sept. 23 to Sunday 25, 2016.

Over 3,000 delegates from across Manitoba gathered at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg to participate in the 48th Annual General Assembly of the MMF. In his address on September 24, MNC President Chartier congratulated the MMF on the steady progress it is making with the federal government in establishing a negotiations framework toward settling the historical land claim of the Métis in the Red River Settlement that was upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada in its landmark ruling in 2013.

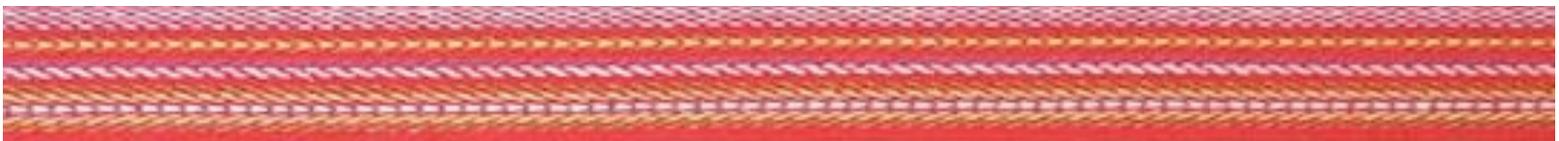
MMF President David Chartrand reported on the recent community consultations on the land claim and steps underway to conclude a framework agreement towards a modern day treaty with Canada. He also presented traditional Métis jackets to lawyers Tom Berger and

Jim Aldridge who litigated the MMF land claim in the courts for many years.

government has been supportive of MNBC in the areas of governance and for work in the areas of health and children and families but has resisted on the issue of Metis rights.



On September 25, President Chartier addressed the 20th Annual General Meeting of Métis Nation British Columbia in Richmond, BC. It was his first opportunity to publicly congratulate President Clara Morin Dal Col on her recent election to the MNBC Presidency. President Dal Col noted that while the report of MSR Tom Isaac and the *Daniels* decision were very favorable for Métis people and the issue of Métis rights, there was a lot of work to do in British Columbia to realize their potential. She stated that the provincial





October 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|--|-----------|----------------|
| • National Environment Committee meeting | Oct 12 | Vancouver, BC |
| • MNC Special General Assembly | Oct 13-15 | Vancouver, BC |
| • UN Habitat III Summit | Oct 17-20 | Quito, Ecuador |
| • Health Ministers Meeting | Oct 17-18 | Ottawa, ON |
| • Aboriginal Economic Development Conference | Oct 19-20 | Banff, AB |
| • Canadian Chamber of Commerce Roundtable | Oct 26 | Ottawa, ON |
| • RCAP Forum: Sharing the Land, Sharing a Future | Nov 2-4 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Louis Riel Day | Nov 16 | |
| • International Forum on Aboriginal Suicide | Nov 17-19 | Vancouver, BC |
| • ASETS Conference | Nov 22-24 | Vancouver, BC |

Métis Nation Anthem Competition

We thank all citizens who submitted their anthems for consideration. At this time we are still reviewing the submissions and hope to have a final decision made at the MNC Special Sitting of the General Assembly scheduled to take place on October 13-15, 2016.





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