



Métis Nation



August 2017

General Assembly Works on Priorities Under Canada-Métis Nation Accord



In advance of Batoche Days, the Métis Nation General Assembly convened in Saskatoon on July 19-20 to discuss reconciliation and the implementation of the Canada-Métis Nation Accord which was signed with the Prime Minister at the Crown-

Métis Nation Summit on April 13, 2017. Panels comprising ministers and specialists from the MNC and Governing Members led discussions with the Assembly on three of the Accord's first year priorities—housing, employment and

training, and early learning and child care.

It had been agreed at the Summit that Métis Nation-specific components of the new federal ASETS (employment and training) program, the

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National Housing Strategy and the National Early Learning and Child Care Framework would be developed in time for Budget 2018. MNC and Governing Members have been meeting throughout July to identify and elaborate on key elements of Métis Nation strategies in these areas, setting out principles, priorities, delivery mechanisms, and accountabilities. The General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions on the second day to guide the work on the strategies including setting out the asks for Budget 2018.

Delegates also addressed the recent decision of the MNC not to participate in the meeting with the Premiers on July 17, 2017 in advance of the Council of the Federation meeting. They unanimously adopted a resolution that nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationships between the Crown and the Métis Nation,

First Nations and Inuit should govern the intergovernmental process involving Indigenous peoples and shape the principles and terms of reference of this process. They also resolved that the Métis Nation shall not participate in intergovernmental meetings that do not respect nation-to-nation, government-to-government engagement with the Métis Nation, First Nations and Inuit.

President Chartier briefed the Assembly on a number of breaking developments in Canadian and international law that directly impact Métis rights. These include the Working Group of federal Ministers headed by Justice Minister Wilson-Raybould that is reviewing laws and policies related to Indigenous peoples, federal Indigenous Languages Legislation and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which is

similar to UNDRIP, the UN declaration, but is coming from the Organization of American States, that is the nation-states of the Americas.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution to ensure that the Governing Members were in full compliance with their obligations as part of the Métis Nation governance structure to maintain the integrity of the registry system for Métis Nation citizenship and adhere to democratic practices and procedures.

In keeping with the theme of reconciliation, delegates watched a video on the announcement by the Prime Minister of the transfer of 100 Wellington Street, the former U.S. Embassy site across from Parliament, to the Indigenous peoples in a historic ceremony in Ottawa on June 21, 2017.

Download (PDF): Resolution on Métis Nation Participation in Intergovernmental Process
<http://www.metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/resolution-on-Me%CC%81tis-Nation-participation-in-intergovernmental-processfinal.pdf>

Download resolution on Citizenship (PDF)
<http://www.metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/CITIZENSHIP-RESOLUTION-July-2017-GA.pdf>

YouTube Video: 100 Wellington Street (2017)
<https://youtu.be/Qi6o0NSwITE>





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Batoche Days



Once again the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan hosted the annual Batoche Days which was well attended and witnessed a fun-filled weekend from July 21-23. The Days started off with the Veterans leading the Métis Nation leaders and invited guests to the officiating platform. After the opening remarks from leaders and guests the festivities began in earnest with fiddle music and Métis dance competitions and traditional games over the next 3 days, including chariot and chuck wagon races.



On Sunday, the annual walk to the mass gravesite at the Batoche cemetery took place along with a prayer and remarks.





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Métis Nation Begins Dialogue with Federal Ministers on Laws and Policies Review Consistent with Nation-to-Nation Relationship

On July 18, 2017, President Chartier and Vice-President Chartrand had an inaugural meeting with the Working Group of Ministers (WGM) chaired by Minister of Justice Jody Wilson-Raybould that is tasked with a review of laws, policies and operational practices related to Indigenous Peoples. Announced by the Prime Minister on February 22, 2017, the working group is to identify and recommend to Cabinet and Ministers and departments the legal, policy and operational changes that must be implemented to meet the promise and purpose of section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The other Ministers in the working group are: Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett; Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Dominic LeBlanc, Health Minister Jane Philpott;



Minister of Social Development Jean-Yves Duclos; and Minister of Natural Resources James Carr.

President Chartier told the Working Group that he is generally encouraged by the WGM's guiding principles that will help direct a shift to government approaches based on recognition and implementation of Indigenous rights, including self-

determination and the inherent right of self-government. He and Vice-President Chartrand also engaged with the WGM on some of the key policy changes that have not yet been adopted by the federal government and are required, in particular those related to federal programs and services in the wake of the *Daniels* decision of the Supreme Court of Canada.





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Métis Nation President Chartier joins National Chief Bellegarde and ITK President Obed at press conference in Toronto and explains why the Métis Nation did not attend the meeting with the Premiers in Edmonton

— A Statement by President Clément

July 17, 2017 (Toronto, ON) – It has been the longstanding position of the Métis Nation that the Premiers should recognize s. 35 inherent self-government rights and have intergovernmental meetings with the t h r e e constitutionally recognized Indigenous peoples as represented by the AFN, ITK and MNC. During the rule of the Harper government, our meetings with the Provinces through the



Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) were constrained by the absence of the federal government at the

table with us. As the current Chair of the Council of the Federation notes, having a federal government willing to

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come back to the table represents an important opportunity to advance beyond the limited results of the AAWG.

In fact, we now have a federal government that recognizes the inherent right to Indigenous self-government and the need to establish a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with the Métis Nation. The Prime Minister has established a permanent bilateral process with the Métis Nation to co-develop policies and programs and to resolve section 35 rights. He has also tried to engage the Métis Nation along with the First Nations and Inuit in intergovernmental talks on key matters such as climate change and health.

It was and is our hope that this important reset in our relationship with Canada will be accompanied by a willingness of the Provinces to join with Canada and the three Indigenous peoples in an intergovernmental process on similar terms. This would be of immense value; the priorities of the Canada-Métis Nation Accord that was signed by the



Prime Minister and the leadership of the Métis Nation on April 13, 2017, includes key matters such as employment and training, education, housing, and health where the five westernmost provinces have strong interests and can make significant contributions.

Unfortunately, our recent correspondence with the Chair of the Council of Federation indicates that the Premiers are not there yet. Their position that they will determine who will be at the table and what will be discussed precludes our meaningful participation and relegates potential meetings to little more than photo-ops. That time has passed.

We strongly believe in the need for intergovernmental fora where the Indigenous peoples can meaningfully engage with the Provinces and federal government including meetings with the Premiers. These fora should be built on the same recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership that guides the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism. I encourage the Premiers in their upcoming meeting to consider joining the First Nations, Inuit, Métis Nation and Canada in developing principles for this type of engagement so we can then move on to making Canada a better country.





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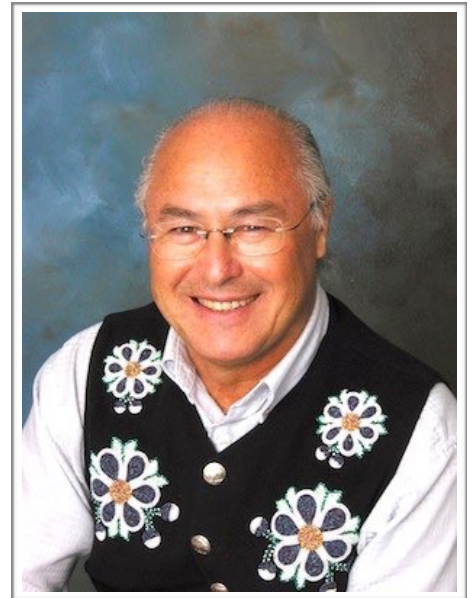
Message from the President

In the last issue I asked the question of when we will take a stand on proper recognition and participation in inter-governmental meetings with the other two orders of government: federal and provincial. Well, I am pleased to say that that stand was taken on July 17, 2017 when the leaders of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and the Métis Nation (MNC) in a well broadcast press conference announced that our continued participation in meetings of the Council of the Federation was contingent on their accepting us as the national representatives of Indigenous nations and peoples for intergovernmental purposes.

This begs the question of “representation”. In an earlier letter and accompanying memo, the then spokesperson for the Council of the Federation told the Prime Minister that they (the Premiers) would determine who


will be at the inter-government tables, and that the AFN, ITK and MNC do not represent all of the Indigenous peoples in Canada. Well, I can certainly respond that the Métis National Council is the sole and legitimate national government of the Métis Nation.

I believe it is time that the issue of representation is taken seriously. It is clear that the AFN represents its First Nations governments. It is also clear that the ITK represents Inuit governments. Who does the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) represent? Clearly it does not have any significance within the Métis Nation homeland. Does it have significant representation in eastern Canada? Does it, as it professes, represent all off-reserve First Nations peoples? Perhaps the Premiers should examine this matter. Based on what they find, perhaps their views may change.



While it is also clear that the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) has been active since the mid-1970s and has accomplished a lot of positive work, including being a leading voice on the issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, clearly NWAC is not a government, or a representative of Indigenous governments. It is also a fact that there are

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three other Indigenous women's organizations: Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak/ Women of the Métis Nation, Pauktuutit Inuit women of Canada and the AFN Women's Council. If the COF insists that NWAC be at the table, why not the other three Indigenous women's organizations.

This issue of representation is also spilling over to the proposed Federal Provincial Territorial Indigenous Forum (FPTIF) which failed at its proposed founding meeting in June 2016 as the parties were

not able to agree to a terms of reference to guide the work of the Forum. At the press conference immediately following the meeting, I made it clear that the Métis Nation would not be participating in the Forum unless a terms of reference acceptable to the Métis Nation was adopted.

Attempts to kick start the process are being made, and in keeping with the new position on who should be at inter-governmental tables, the Métis Nation re-iterated its June 2016 position that it would not be participating until terms of

reference that we can agree to have been accepted. The current response as of a few days ago from the federal and provincial co-chairs is that they will proceed without the Métis Nation, but will re-consider that decision if others take a similar position.

I am pleased to say that this position by the leadership was endorsed by a resolution unanimously adopted by the Métis Nation General Assembly on July 20, 2017.



2017: Promoting Métis Nation Families





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MMF – Southwest Region AGA



On Saturday, July 29, 2017 President Chartier attended the Annual General Assembly of the Southwest Region of the Manitoba Metis Federation. Following their the business portion of the meeting President Chartrand provided an update on the developments within the

Manitoba Métis government and President Chartier who made a surprise appearance provided an update on the recent political developments with the federal government and also within the Métis Nation government itself.

This was followed later in the afternoon by a presentation from the Manitoba provincial government on the issue of night hunting and Métis rights. This was a first regional meeting between the two governments and will take place in the other MMF regions as well.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| • Métis Nation of Alberta AGA | Aug 11-13 | Peace River, AB |
| • Métis Nation of Ontario AGA | Aug 19-21 | Kenora, ON |
| • Métis Days Celebration | Aug 25-26 | Fort McKay |
| • MNC Environment Committee Meeting | Aug 28-29 | Saskatoon, SK |
| • MMF Elders' Conference on Self-government, Culture & Language | Aug 30-31 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • 10th Anniversary of Adoption of UNDRIP | Sept 12-13 | NYC, NY |
| • Manitoba Metis Federation AGA | Sept 23-24 | Winnipeg, MB |
| • Métis Nation of British Columbia AGM | Sept 23-24 | Dawson Creek, BC |





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