



Métis Nation



November 2017

Métis Nation Meets First Ministers on Economic Growth



President Chartier spoke on the Métis Nation economic development strategy and plans for economic growth at the First Ministers Meeting on the Economy in Ottawa on October 3, 2017.

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Opening Remarks

President Clément Chartier

Prime Minister, Premiers and fellow Indigenous leaders.

The Métis Nation perspective on economic development and economic growth is straightforward.

We are pro-growth and pro-development subject to respect for our rights and the environment.

You will see this perspective reflected in the report on a Métis Nation Economic Development Strategy which we have included in a binder for your review.

This report from 2015 was the result of consultations and engagements of the Métis Nation with governments and industry over a six year period that accompanied significant movement on economic development for our people.

This process included three Métis Economic Development Symposiums in 2009, 2011

and 2015 involving the Métis Nation leadership, the federal Minister of Indigenous Affairs, his counterparts from the five westernmost Provinces and corporate leaders.

At the 2015 conference, I signed a Canada-Métis Economic Development Accord with the federal Minister committing our governments to development and implementation of the Métis Nation Economic Development Strategy.

Access to capital for our Métis Nation entrepreneurs, both loan and equity capital, is a key component of the Strategy.

Strengthening government and corporate procurement policies to benefit our businesses including Métis Nation set-asides is another.

A third, flowing from our section 35 rights, is consistent and reliable consultation and accommodation policies and

related collaboration agreements with industry that are engines for economic growth for our communities.

Labour force development is another integral component of the Strategy.

The Strategy builds on the proven track record over many years of our Métis governments' skills and economic development corporations.

During the 14 years prior to the report, our Métis Nation training and employment ASETS holders accounted for 91,774 clients served, 31,558 employed, and 6,825 returned to school.

Our developmental business lenders or capital corporations on the prairies had rolled over their initial capital of \$20 million more than six times for lending totaling \$130 million, 2,000 small businesses receiving loans, and close to 6,000 jobs

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created or maintained.

The Strategy also builds on Métis Nation partnerships with industry and governments.

The current federal government in Budget 2016 provided \$25 million for the resourcing of the Métis Economic Development Accord.

In the next big step in the bilateral work on economic development, the Prime Minister, I and the Presidents of our Governing Members signed a Canada-Métis Nation Accord on April 13, 2017, that includes economic development as a priority item.

Pursuant to the agreement, we are making steady progress on Métis Nation specific components of broad and much welcomed federal initiatives that will directly promote economic development as well as provide essential social supports for this development.

These include the renewal and enhancement of a distinctions-

based Indigenous skills and employment training program as well as new early learning and child care, housing and scholarships and bursary initiatives for the Métis Nation.

We see the five provincial governments having critically important roles to play in all the priority areas of the Métis Nation Economic Development Strategy and would like as much as possible to tap into their policies and programs to expedite economic development for Métis people.

I should note that at a meeting with the Premiers in 2008, I secured the support of the five westernmost Provinces for what would become the three multilateral symposiums between 2009 and 2015.

So today, with the stars aligning on Métis Nation economic development and in the spirit of reconciliation, I am asking the Prime Minister and the five Premiers to join with me in support of a fourth symposium of their Ministers, Métis Nation leaders and industry representatives to

continue this important work that is producing real material benefits for Métis workers, businesses and communities.

Beyond economic development, and taking a whole of governments approach on the road to a true and lasting reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation, I also today seek the agreement from you Mr. Prime Minister and Premiers Wynne, Pallister, Wall, Notley and Horgan to engage in a yearly meeting with the leadership of the Métis Nation.

This we believe will lead to a win-win for all parties so engaged.



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Métis Nation and Federal-Provincial Ministers Focus on Economic Inclusion

Following up on the Métis Nation's meeting with First Ministers on the economy ten days ago, President Chartier spoke with federal and provincial innovation and economic development ministers in Vancouver on October 13.

President Chartier and AFN representative Richard Nerysoo briefed federal, provincial and territorial ministers of innovation and economic development at a breakfast meeting in Vancouver. The ministers have established a sub-committee on Indigenous Economic Development with a work plan focused on fostering corporate reconciliation and enhancing Indigenous business support.

President Chartier provided an overview of the work the Métis Nation has been doing with INAC and its counterparts from the five westernmost provinces since 2009 on the Métis Economic Development Strategy. He also identified the support and input of the private sector in this work which will be



Minister Bains and President Chartier

helpful in promoting reconciliation and inclusion of the Métis people in economic growth. A number of provincial ministers together with federal Minister Navdeep Bains agreed on the need for Canada to ensure greater labour force participation and skills development of Indigenous peoples if Canada is to meet the economic challenges of an aging population.

President Chartier advised the Ministers that he had called on the Prime Minister and the

Premiers of the five Provinces to send their ministers to a fourth Métis Economic Development Symposium to accelerate joint efforts to advance economic opportunities. He also encouraged their participation in MEDS IV as ministers responsible for industry and economic development to ensure that the Métis Economic Development Strategy benefits from the fullest support of the Provinces beyond the limited support that has been provided by their respective Indigenous affairs departments.





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Message from the President

Findings from the 2016 census recently made public are another stark reminder to Métis Nation leadership of the threats to our existence as a distinct Indigenous nation and people. This was seen in the surge in the number of people identifying as Indigenous/Aboriginal and especially so with those who now identify themselves as Métis.

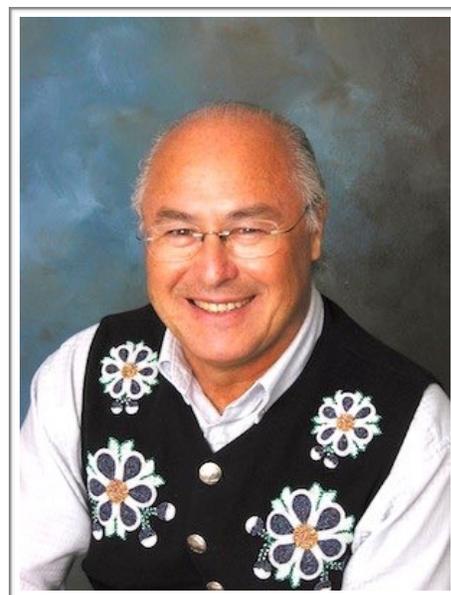
As I previously wrote in messages in February 2013 and September 2017, the very essence or core of the Métis Nation and its emergence, evolution and existence as a people is being challenged by recent judicial, political and administrative developments.

This time it is the Canadian census which opens the door for every Canadian citizen who has some Indian (First Nations) ancestry to self-identify as Métis, as can be

seen in the hundreds of thousands in Quebec and Ontario who are doing so.

In the early 1980s, when the Métis Nation re-organized with its own distinct representative body, we pursued an enumeration and registry of Métis Nation citizens, only to be met with Canada's response that this was not necessary as it could be accomplished through the census. This proposition was rejected outright by the Métis Nation leadership and remains the Nation's position today.

The major reason we rejected the census as a means of identifying the Métis is that it is based on self-identification and nothing more. This flies in the face of the Métis Nation and its unique history, culture, language (Michif), and homeland.



Fortunately, the federal government beginning in 2004 reversed its position and has since provided the fiscal resources to enable the Métis Nation through its Governing Members to register its citizens based on the 2002 criteria adopted by the Métis National Council General Assembly, and reinforced by the 2003 *Powley*

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decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. However, drawbacks remain. For one, the MNC General Assembly has not yet completed the Acceptance Process including a national registry, which was adopted in principle in 2001 and tabled in 2002 for further consultation.

Another is the unilateral declaration in August of this year by the Ontario government and the Métis Nation of Ontario of six new “historic” Métis communities in Ontario, only one of which falls within the historic Métis Nation homeland. Further exacerbating this problem is the fact that the MNO is the only one of the five Governing Members which, following the adoption of the 2002 Métis Nation citizenship criteria, refuses to re-register its members based on those criteria, and chooses instead to grandfather-in these members, many of whom, if not the majority,

would not meet the citizenship criteria.

Not surprising, the so-called Métis population between 2006 to 2016 spiked in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces: 64.3% increase in Ontario; 149.2% in Quebec; and 124.3% in the Atlantic Provinces. According to the census, there are now 120,585 persons in Ontario who self-identify as Métis.

While these new developments will never erase the existence of the Métis Nation, they do have the potential for perpetuating public confusion about the distinct nation of Indigenous people known as Métis. To counter this, it is incumbent on the Métis Nation’s leadership to continue our nation-building, including pressing for our right to a land base and self-government, adoption of a Constitution, and the adoption and

implementation of the acceptance process and national registry.





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GENERATION ENERGY – Moving Canada Forward

On Wednesday, October 12, 2017 in Winnipeg, MB, President Chartier participated in two sessions: in the morning a Round Table on Advancing Reconciliation through a Shared Clean Energy Future and an armchair discussion with Minister Carr and other Indigenous leaders.

The Roundtable was attended by National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Duane Smith, Chair and CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, President Chartier, Minister Carr, NRCan, and several other Indigenous representatives. The session lasted an hour and various aspects dealing with a clean energy future were presented, along with the challenges facing Indigenous peoples, governments and communities in meeting this challenge.

The Armchair discussion following lunch featured Minister Carr as the moderator with National Chief Bellegarde, President Chartier and Mr. Smith providing responses to

questions posed by Minister Carr. The major questions revolved around the question of what reconciliation would look like in practice when it comes to energy development and how would Indigenous peoples be ensured of benefitting from a shift to a low-carbon energy future.

President Chartier addressed the systemic problems faced by the Métis Nation due to its dispossession from its lands and resources and the continued marginalization when it comes to consultation and accommodation by industry based on the federal and provincial governments' continued denial of existing Métis rights which he stated flies in the face of s. 35 Métis



constitutional rights. President Chartier however offered that the Métis Nation is prepared to do its share in addressing climate change and clean energy in the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation as was appreciative of the federal government's newly emerged engagement on a nation – to – nation, government – to – government approach with the Métis Nation through the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism.





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National Indigenous Education Forum

President Chartier was invited to Darwin, Australia as an International Keynote Speaker for the Forum. In a 45 minutes speech titled “Education and the Métis Nation” President Chartier spoke about the challenges which faced the Métis Nation with a particular emphasis on education and the work which Métis Nation leadership has undertaken from the mid-1900s to address the problem. While having overcome in large part some of those earlier issues, President Chartier stated that there were still a number of matters which need further work, and that the Métis Nation was hopeful that we could accomplish much of this through the new bilateral process with the federal government.

The reason for his invitation was because the organizers of the Forum were aware of the challenges facing the Métis Nation and were interested in how our experience could assist them in meeting some of their



own challenges which are relatively similar.

President Chartier was accompanied by Dale LeClair, MNC Chief of Staff and at a morning after-conference workshop led by the Métis Nation a lively discussion took place over a three hour period informed by a power-point

presentation prepared and delivered by Mr. LeClair.

In follow-up, a number of Indigenous participants expressed the hope that the Métis Nation would be available to help them in their ongoing educational initiatives.

President Chartier was also invited to meet with staff





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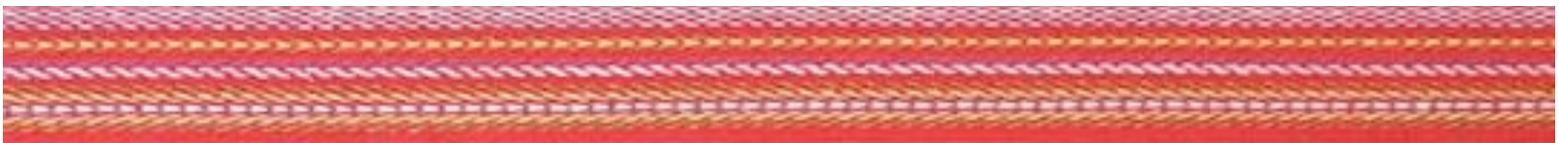
members of the Northern Land Council, primarily lawyers and anthropologists who are working with Indigenous communities to prepare them for land title cases and/or negotiations.

They were particularly intrigued by the dispossession of the Métis through the scrip process and the current victories of the

Métis Nation in the courts. They also were impressed by the political developments between the federal government and the Métis Nation with the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism and the s.35 Métis rights reconciliation with the MNC's Governing Members.

One of the weaknesses identified in Australia was the

lack of a national Indigenous representative organization which made it much more difficult for them to get the national government to develop national policies and agree to constitutional amendments.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Forum Nov 3 Vancouver, BC
- Public Policy Forum Nov 8 Winnipeg, MB
- FPT Forum on Status of Women Nov 8-10 Toronto, ON
- National Remembrance Day Nov 11
- Louis Riel Day Nov 16
- United Nations Symposium on Implementing the UNDRIP Nov 20 Gatineau, QC
- Our Land, Our Future Summit Nov 21-22 Calgary, AB
- Métis Nation Environment Committee Meeting Dec 4-5 Vancouver, BC





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