



Métis Nation



June 2019

Métis Nation Flag flies proudly in Colombia



l-r: Hilton Gutiérrez (A&D), Colombia President Ivan Duque Marquez, Joseph Ng (Chairman of JNE Group), MNC President Clément Chartier, MMF President David Chartrand

With the growing world of trade and agreements fostered between different governments around the world, Indigenous nations and governments are also seeking the expansion of trade opportunities.

The Manitoba Métis Federation is seeking to expand its economic opportunities and has initiated trade talks with

Indigenous communities in South America, a land of bountiful produce and products for which they are seeking international markets. This is something which Indigenous peoples in Latin America have been seeking for decades.

This trade initiative was fostered through a conferencing process which has witnessed

International Indigenous Trade Conferences throughout the world. At last year's Conference the government of Canada led an Indigenous trade mission to New Zealand, helping to foster trade amongst and between Indigenous communities.

Taking up this challenge the MMF has begun a process of establishing trade opportunities

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in Colombia, and has also initiated discussions with Indigenous communities in Peru. Not only has the MMF delegation, led by President Chartrand been dealing with Indigenous community leaders, meetings also took place on this trip with the Colombian Ambassador for the Americas as well as a Senator from the Indigenous community where MMF is beginning its process of trade relationship.

In addition to these meetings, President Chartrand, accompanied by President Chartier had a meeting with Colombian President, Ivan Duque Marquez in the city of Valledupar. President Duque thanked President Chartrand for this initiative and looked forward to seeing this new



Indigenous trade relationship flourish.

In addition to developing the trade relationship, President Chartrand also addressed the social and cultural aspects of Indigenous life and in this case, worked with Mamo Guillermo of Pueblo Bello to enhance their tourism initiative around

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a natural park dedicated to environmental sustainability. There is now signage at the park prominently displaying the MMF logo and the Métis Nation flag. Additionally, a new

washroom facility was sponsored by the MMF for the convenience of visitors.

With this particular initiative, there are great prospects for the

importation of sugar and coffee which are organically certified, and which will find a ready market in Canada. This is a win-win situation for both Indigenous trade partners.





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In Honour of Two Great Leaders

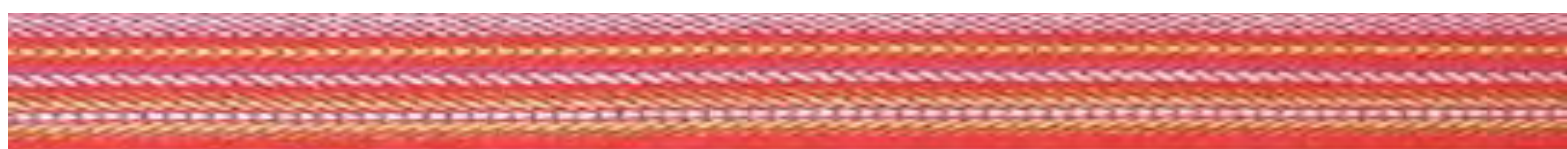


On May 18th President Chartier participated in a ceremony to commemorate the execution of Tupac Amaru and his wife, Micaela Bastidas.

Tupac Amaru on November 4, 1780 called his people to arms in order to expel the Spaniards from their lands. After several battles he, his wife Micaela and children, along with other Indian fighters were captured and many of them on November 4, 1781 were executed in the public square in Cusco, Peru,

the then capital of the Inca Empire.

In laying a wreath in memory of Tupac Amaru, President Chartier spoke of the similarities between the illegal killings of their leader Tupac Amaru and the Métis Nation's Leader, President Louis Riel.





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Message from the President

Over the past four years the Métis Nation has been engaged with the Trudeau government on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis. From our Métis Nation perspective, we fully embrace both concepts applying to us: nation and government. The federal government mostly embraces the “nation” concept but generally still has not embraced the “government” status of the Métis Nation’s national government represented by the Métis Nation Council and its regional governments represented by its Governing Members at the provincial level.

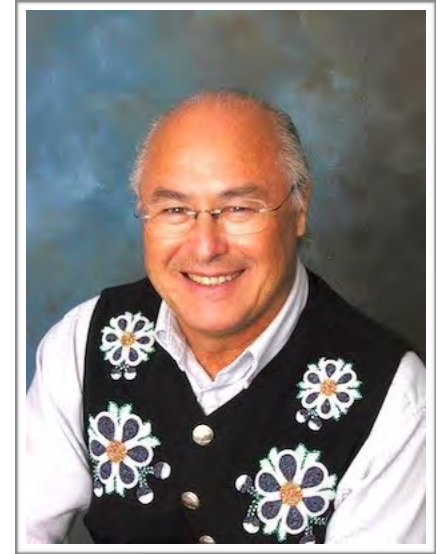
The Permanent Bilateral Mechanism (PBM) is testimony to the fact that the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau has acknowledged the existence of the Métis Nation and its legitimate representatives and has embraced the distinctions-based approach in dealing with Indigenous peoples within Canada, an example which should be emulated by the provincial governments. On the other hand, federal representatives at s.35 rights reconciliation tables, while espousing that s.35 is a full box, are nevertheless resistant to acknowledging the inherent right of self-government of

Métis Nation governments in the absence of federal legislation.

They are not recognizing existing Métis Nation governments, nor the Métis Nation’s inherent right of self-government recognized and affirmed by s.35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, but are reducing such right to a contingent right. That is, the recognition of the right is dependent on concluding a self-government agreement with the federal government which itself, and by accompanying legislation, acknowledge federal recognition of the right.

Ironically, this approach was soundly rejected at the 1987 constitutional conference on Indigenous matters where the Indigenous leaders stood firmly against entrenching in the Canadian Constitution a “contingent right of self-government”.


All Métis Nation governments have been operating on the basis that we do in law and fact, possess the inherent right of self-government, with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan adopting a Constitution in December 1993 declaring self-government outside of federal or provincial



legislation and passing their own legislation. Other Governing Members have also been expressing the inherent right of self-government.

Further, the General Assembly of the Métis Nation in 2002 adopted a national definition of “Métis” which forms the basis for the registry of Métis Nation citizens in a uniform way by Governing Members.

The minister and officials within Crown-Indigenous Relations should seriously rethink their current approach and reject the contingent right of self-government approach. The time to recognize what is in fact reality, Métis government in Canada, is now.



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Métis Nation in strong support of Supreme Court of Canada's dismissal of the Corneau leave to appeal application

— *A Statement from Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier.*

May 2, 2019, today's dismissal of the leave to appeal application in the Corneau case by the Supreme Court of Canada will hopefully put to rest the groundless claims to Métis section 35 rights of groups in eastern Canada. The lower courts have ruled repeatedly in a multitude of cases across Atlantic Canada and Quebec against claimants to Métis rights under section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982. Quite simply, they can find no evidence of historical Métis communities in these regions.

This fact is obvious to the citizens of the Métis Nation in our historical homeland in western Canada. We know that our people emerged during a particular historic period, the fur trade era, in a particular region centred on the prairies. It was here that we developed a distinct identity, culture, language and political consciousness that manifested itself in the Métis Provisional

Governments under Louis Riel in Manitoba in 1869-70 and in Saskatchewan in 1884-1885.


This is historical reality as is the century long struggle of our people to assert our nationhood within the Canadian federation. That long struggle culminated in a number of crucial victories in the Supreme Court of Canada and the historic decision of the Trudeau government to establish a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with the Métis Nation.


Unfortunately, there has been a proliferation of groups in eastern Canada claiming Métis section 35 rights on the basis of being of mixed ancestry. They have no connection to our people and nation but seek to usurp our rights and benefits that we have fought so hard to attain.

The fact that many of these groups are generating significant amounts of money through the

sale of membership cards with bogus promises of tax exemptions or are rooted in the white rights, white nationalist movement and seek to undermine First Nations rights, is particularly disconcerting. For this reason, the Métis Nation and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs signed a mutual recognition agreement and sent a joint letter to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations expressing our deep concerns over the claims and practices of these self-styled "Métis" groups in Nova Scotia.

Hopefully the decision of the Supreme Court not to hear an appeal in the Corneau case will deter these groups from continuing their attempts at identity theft. At the same time, we remain committed to working with the federal government on solidifying and advancing the nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and the Métis Nation.





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Reckless Behavior of Province Threatens Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project, says MMF President David Chartrand




WINNIPEG, MB – “The decision of the federal government to push back the deadline for approval of MMTP is a necessary step in ensuring the Duty to Consult and accommodate is respected”, says President David Chartrand of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF). “It is unfortunate that

Premier Pallister has chosen to ignore this obligation in his dealing with the Métis Nation which has brought us to this critical situation and may cost all Manitobans.”

A spokesperson for the Minister of Natural Resources pointed specifically to the Pallister

government’s decision to back out of deals with the MMF as the reason more time is needed. He noted it was evident that agreements between Manitoba Hydro and the MMF that were discontinued by the Premier are critical for MMF support for this project and this stance by the Province has affected our

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support for the project.

“I met recently with Minister Sohi and he committed that Canada’s duty to consult and accommodate the MMF will be upheld prior to any decision being made to approve the project,” Chartrand said. “I appreciate that he and the Trudeau government honour their commitments to the Métis Nation and respect the rule of law. Why the Premier does not honor hydro’s commitments is perplexing and disturbing.”

The Province has acknowledged that delays could cost Manitoba ratepayers \$200 million a year in damages, penalties and increased costs.

“These costs far exceed what the MMF was to be paid under our agreements with Manitoba

Hydro”, said Chartrand. “Moreover, his actions threaten to undermine the support of the MMF and Métis people for major energy projects which can bring great benefits for our workers and businesses when we are meaningfully involved.

President Chartrand cited the MMF partnership with Enbridge on its Line 3 pipeline replacement as an example of how collaboration agreements based on Duty to Consult can work for industry and Indigenous peoples.

” Enbridge’s Line 3 project provided jobs for 221 Métis people, \$7.3 million in wages, and left a trained workforce for future pipeline projects,” he noted. “Why would anyone want to disrupt this win-win situation. The previous Harper


government chose to ignore our rights and interests in its energy development policies and how far did this take us in getting pipelines approved. Nowhere. Not only is the Premier going down the same failed path, he also is renegeing on previous agreements. This is not responsible leadership.”

Pursuant to the Environment Act, the MMF has filed an appeal on the province’s decision to license the project.

Environment Act Appeal of the Manitoba Metis Federation

http://www.mmf.mb.ca/docs/Environment_Act_Appeal_Licence_No._3288.pdf





June 2019

Rossignol School Holds 20th Anniversary Celebration of Michif in the School



The Métis village of Ile a la Crosse in northwest Saskatchewan held its 20th anniversary week-long celebration of its Michif program. The village is the only jurisdiction in northern Saskatchewan which has its own authority over education, and made it a priority to educate their children in their language as part of the school curriculum. Having a Michif credit is now mandatory before graduating.

Principal Vince Ahenakew has been the main driving force for the Michif language program and has been instrumental in developing a dictionary and a new Michif language app in collaboration with the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

President Chartier participated in the opening event and was a signatory to the Michif Declaration signed by the attending dignitaries. In

addition to the language celebration, the Elders also constructed a traditional camp outside the school on the lake shore and provided instructions in traditional practices to students, as well as treating them to traditionally cooked foods.





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Canada 2019: OGP Global Summit



Canada was the host of this year's May 29-31 Open Government Partnership Global Summit, an international conference with wide participation from around the world. Organized by the Treasury Board, the Summit was preceded by a number of events engaging civil society, including a one-day Open Government Summit

Indigenous Gathering which was held on May 28th.

As part of the day's event, President Chartier moderated a fireside chat composed of Ministers Bennett and O'Regan and three Indigenous youth representing the Inuit, First Nations and the Métis Nation. Tyler Thomas of the Manitoba

Métis Community represented the Métis Nation.

The theme was reconciliation and there was a good exchange between the Ministers and the youth with each of them expressing what reconciliation meant to them and to the future of their respective peoples and nations.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| • ELCC Roundtable on Data and Research | June 4 | Ottawa, ON |
| • 75th Anniversary D-Day & Battle of Normandy | June 4-9 | France |
| • Crown - Métis Nation Summit | June 13 | Ottawa, ON |
| • UNFCCC Climate Change Session | June 17-27 | Bonn, Germany |
| • FPT Ministers meeting on Culture and Heritage | June 18 | Halifax, NS |
| • Métis Nation Health Committee Meeting | June 18-19 | Calgary, AB |
| • National Indigenous Peoples Day | June 21 | |
| • OAS 49th General Assembly | June 26-28 | Medellin, Columbia |
| • Canada Day | July 1 | |
| • Métis Nation Environment Committee Meeting | July 3 | Saskatoon, SK |
| • Energy and Mines Ministers Conference (EMMC) | July 15-17 | Cranbrook, BC |
| • Back to Batoche Days | July 19-22 | Batoche, SK |
| • Ste. Madeleine Métis Days | July 20-22 | Ste. Madeleine, MB |
| • International Indigenous Day | Aug 9 | |
| • Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Annual Meeting | Aug 12-14 | Elk Ridge, SK |
| • MNA AGA | Aug 17-18 | St. Paul, AB |
| • MNO AGA | Aug 22-25 | Sault Ste. Marie, ON |
| • Rv. Poitras, Rv. Boyer, QB Appeal | Aug 22 | Battleford, SK |
| • MNBC AGM | Sept | Prince George, BC |
| • MMF AGA | Sept | Winnipeg, MB |





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