



Métis Nation



March 2017

Meeting with the Hon. Melanie Joly

On February 14th, President Chartier met with Minister Joly to discuss the pending Indigenous Languages Act which Prime Minister Trudeau announced in December 2016 would be enacted by his government.

President Chartier emphasized the importance to the Métis Nation of the revitalization, preservation and promotion of the Michif language, as well as other Indigenous languages spoken by citizens of the Métis Nation. The Minister confirmed that she understood the importance of Michif to the Métis Nation and would ensure that it would be covered in the new legislation and resulting programming.

Minister Joly, who has also been championing the proper recognition of Louis Riel, pursued further her views with President Chartier who reiterated the Métis Nation's longstanding position on the place of a pardon, which has now been replaced by an exoneration, and recommended

that the federal government concentrate on actions to honour Riel and Métis Nation. Actions such as erecting a Louis Riel statue on Parliament Hill, ensuring the National Métis Nation Museum at the Red River (Winnipeg) becomes a reality, establishing a Louis Riel Michif Institute and Endowment Fund, returning the Batoche National Historic Site back to the Métis Nation, successfully concluding the negotiations with the Métis Nation on s.35 rights reconciliation and assisting the Métis Nation in our preparations for celebrating the 150th anniversary in 2020 of the entry of the Métis Nation



into Confederation through the *Manitoba Act, 1870* and the *Rupert's Land Order, 1870*.

President Chartier and Minister Joly agreed that they would continue this discussion.





March 2017

President Chartier Joins Minister Carr on Canadian Delegation to Mexico

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Minister, the Hon. Jim Carr headed a Canadian delegation on a Mission to Mexico City, January 31 to February 3, 2017. President Chartier accepted the invitation to attend as a significant portion of the mission included meetings addressing Indigenous peoples of Mexico and the duty to consult by Canadian mining corporations.



responsible for Indigenous Affairs.

On the last day there, President Chartier accompanied Minister Carr and a smaller delegation on a three hour trip by ground transportation to visit an underground gold mine owned by a Canadian mining company. After

the tour, the delegation travelled to a nearby village where the Minister and the mine owner officially opened a children's park, which was sponsored by the mining company.

Indigenous representatives from Canada participated in a number of sessions with the federal government and industry, the federal government and Indigenous representatives from Mexico, as well as a session with Mexican government department officials

The vast majority of the delegation was from the Canadian mining industry which has a large presence in Mexico at various mines throughout that country. President Chartier, along with three other



Canadian Ambassador to Mexico Pierre Alarie and NRCan Minister Carr



mexico-Opening of playground/park



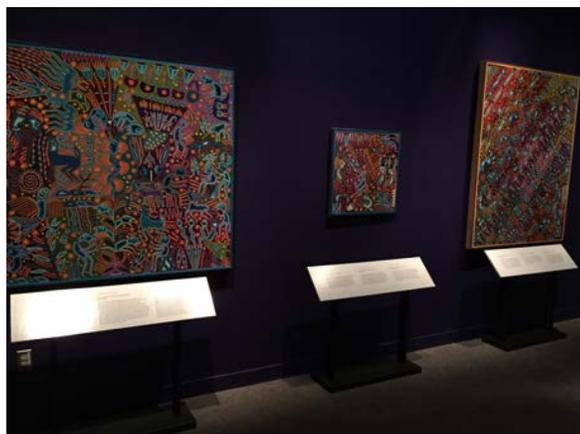


March 2017

Huicholes – A People Walking Towards the Light

On the Canadian Mission to Mexico City, President Chartier met His Excellency Augustin Garcia-Lopez Loaeza the Mexican Ambassador to Canada, and was invited to attend the official opening of an exhibition by Huicholes (an Indigenous people from Mexico) artisans.

The exhibit opened at 6 pm on February 9, 2017 with the Hon. Karina Gould, Minister of Democratic Institutions representing Canada.





March 2017

Métis Nation attends consultations at the United Nations

Consultations by the President of the General Assembly on enhanced engagement of Indigenous peoples within the United Nations system continued on February 27 and 28, 2017 at the UN in New York City. President Chartier made a presentation on February 28th encouraging the UN General Assembly in its meeting later this year to move forward on this new development based on their resolution directing the GA President to examine the issue passed by them at their World Conference on Indigenous Peoples held in 2014.

This will enhance the four institutions which have been emerging since the 1980s: the Permanent Fund, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. President Chartier in his intervention called on the Advisor to recommend that the term they are proposing, “Indigenous Peoples Representative Institutions” be changed to “Indigenous Peoples



Representative Governments and Institutions”, unless “Institutions” is broadly defined to include Indigenous governments.

The next and last consultations before the proposed resolution is taken to the General Assembly will take place during the sitting of the

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, April 24 – May 5, 2017.



l-r: Grand Chief Ed John and AFN NC Perry Bellegarde





March 2017

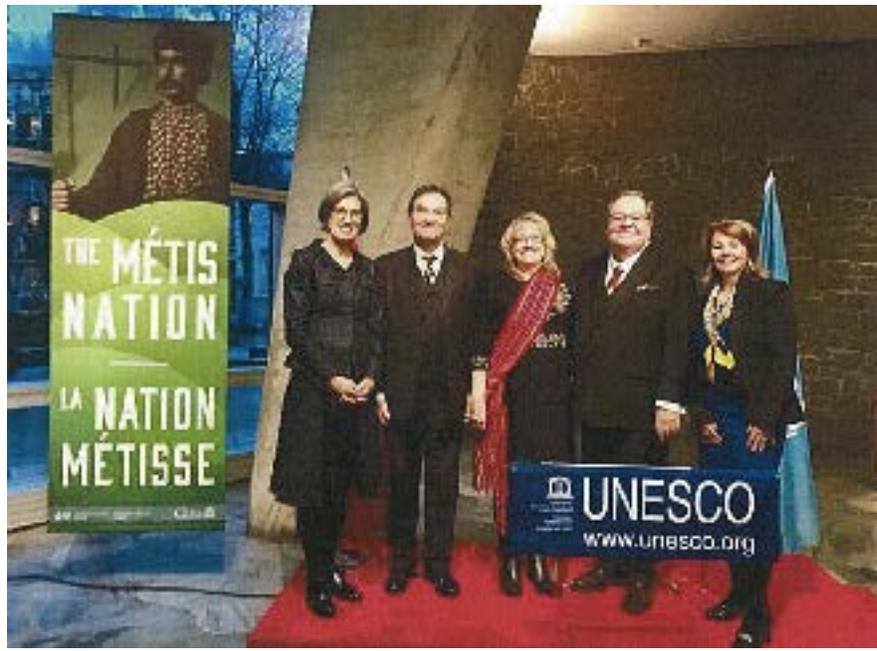
“Hiding in Plain Sight: The Métis Nation in Canada” exposed in Paris!

On Thursday, February 2, 2017 Minister Mona Buors of the Manitoba Metis Federation representing the Métis Nation participated in the inauguration of the Canadian Library and Archives Exhibit, which was displayed in Ottawa last year.

The exhibit is made up of a number of documents, photos and artifacts which have been housed at the archives for decades but which were never accessed nor identified. Hence the title: “Hiding in Plain Sight”, there, but not seen!

The exhibit was hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its Paris Headquarters. Minister Buors joined Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, Ambassador Elaine Ayotte, Permanent Delegate of Canada to UNESCO and Dr. Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada in the inauguration ceremony.

“I was extremely honoured to be asked by President Chartier to



represent the Métis Nation at this event. It was a proud moment for both myself and the Métis Nation as those dignitaries present expressed their interest in the existence of the Métis Nation, as well as engaging me in animated discussions on our people and history” stated Minister Buors.





March 2017

MNS Election Set for May 27, 2017



On February 18, 2017, hundreds of Métis leaders and Métis citizens from across Saskatchewan gathered in Saskatoon for Métis Nation Legislative Assembly for which 98 legislative assembly members attended easily meeting the 75 delegates required for quorum. At the meeting, the MNS election date was set for May 27, 2017. Loretta Metzger of Saskatoon was appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer.

MNS Vice President Gerald Morin, MNC President

Clément Chartier and MMF President David Chartrand welcomed delegates and provided an overview of the work going forward for the Métis Nation. Later in the day President Chartier provided an update on the national work being under by the Métis National Council. This included the newly announced process of a whole of government initiative between the Prime Minister, key Cabinet Ministers and the Métis National Council Board of Governors.

After providing an update on the harvesting rights litigation in Saskatchewan, President Chartier presented a President's Recognition Award to Métis Elder and Shell Lake Local President Blanche Pott for the dedicated work she has done for her community, the Métis Nation and the long time financial contributions made by the Local to the Métis Rights Defence Fund.





March 2017

Message from the President

At the Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS) in December 1993, over 900 delegates declared self-government through the adoption of a Constitution which was not registered with either the federal or provincial governments. The Constitution established institutions of government, including the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) and the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA).

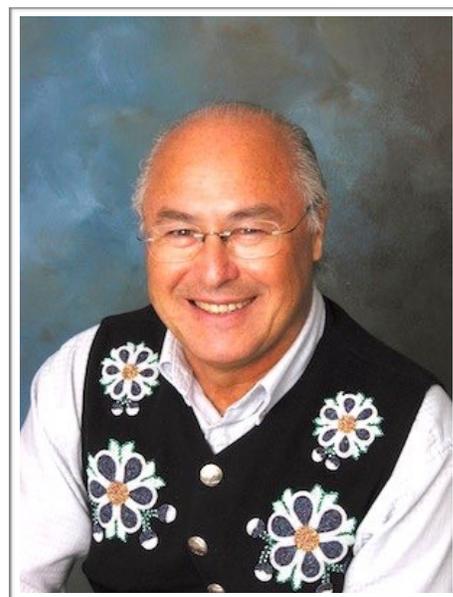
It also retained the Annual General Assembly for MNS citizens to meet for the purpose of receiving information and reports from their leadership as well as to formulate policy to provide direction to the elected leadership. The only formal role that it has is the ratification or non-ratification of Constitutional amendments.

The PMC is composed of four elected executive officers including the President and twelve regional representatives, all of whom are elected by the ballot box which was instituted

in 1979. The Presidents of the women's and youth councils also sit on the PMC.

The MNLA is composed of the PMC, the Local Presidents, and four delegates each from the youth and women's councils. The MNLA is the ultimate decision-making body of the Métis government within Saskatchewan. To date the MNLA has passed the MNLA Act, Senate Act, Wildlife and Conservation Act, Elections Act and the Citizenship Act. Over the years several constitutional amendments have also been adopted.

What is noteworthy is the staying power of that 1993 Constitution. Through the years there have been many court challenges, particularly around elections, in which the courts in Saskatchewan (Queens Bench and Court of Appeal) have continuously upheld the validity and authority of the Constitution. The MNS Constitution has withstood an avalanche of court challenges and has been instrumental in



leading the MNS leadership (PMC) back to open, transparent and accountable governance. The most recent ruling by the Court of Queen's Bench clearly stated that the elected leadership of the PMC is the legitimate governmental representative until the MNS election is held on May 27, 2017.

In true democracies, Constitutions do serve a purpose.





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