At various events throughout the nation's capital, Ottawa's Winterlude festival celebrates the Métis Nation's entry into Canada as the Province of Manitoba 150 years ago.

2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Métis Nation joining the Canadian federation through the establishment of

the Province of Manitoba as Canada's fifth province through the efforts of President Louis Riel and his Métis Provisional Government.

Louis Riel, the first premier of Manitoba and one of Canada's founding fathers, was a strong defender of minority rights who fought to preserve Métis rights and culture. Elected three times as a Member of Parliament but unable to take his seat, Riel would lead the Métis and negotiate the entry of Manitoba into Confederation through the Manitoba Act 1870. This important part of Canadian history is worthy of recognition and cause for celebration.
From January 31 to February 2, the Métis National Council (MNC) and Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) were very excited to partner with Canadian Heritage to ensure that the Métis Nation was highlighted in many of the Winterlude festivities to celebrate this milestone year.

Highlights of the Métis Nation events at Winterlude Festival:

- **Louis Riel (Founder of Manitoba) Ice Sculpture unveil**

On Friday, January 31st, a sculpture of Louis Riel was unveiled at the corner of Sparks and O’Connor Street. This is the first time in 41 years of Winterlude that the ice carvers have partnered with an Indigenous people. A commemorative plaque is beside the statue with plenty of space for pictures to be taken. The ice sculptors working on the Louis Riel carving are from France and Poland – two of the best ice carving duos.

- **Winterlude kick-off party on Sparks Street**

Winterlude celebrations got their official launch on Friday, January 31st on Sparks Street. The Winterlude kick-off party featured live music and performances including a special performance by 13 year old

**Morgan Ginther and Keith Ginther playing fiddle and guitar on Spark St.**

**MMF President and MNC National Spokesperson David Chartrand standing by the Louis Riel Ice Sculpture**

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old Métis fiddler player Morgan Ginther from East Selkirk, Manitoba.

- Children's Ice Picking contest

60 pieces of Métis themed merchandise provided by MMF & MNC are hidden inside a large cube of ice. Children are encouraged to pick until they find a treasure. The event started from January 31st and ran until all items were found by the end of Winterlude.

- Life of Louis Riel – play

On Saturday, February 1st, two performances of the play, The Life of Louis Riel, were presented at the Canadian Museum of History Theatre in Gatineau, Quebec. This play introduces the Métis leader who brought Manitoba into Confederation in 1870. The Life of Louis Riel captures the humanity of one of the Fathers of Confederation by sharing his story – from a young boy growing up in a history of nationalism to become the celebrated leader of the Métis Nation and all Manitobans. This event is presented by the MNC and MMF in partnership with the Canadian Museum of History and with the participation of the Government of Canada.

- Métis Nation Gala – Manitoba 150

On Saturday, February 1st, the Métis Nation held its Gala Dinner at the National Gallery of Canada, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Manitoba’s entry into Confederation in 1870. The Métis Nation shared its rich history and culture, with greeters in traditional Métis clothing in the front foyer, and a Red River Métis inspired dinner served at the Scotia Great Hall. Joining the event were federal Ministers Marc Miller, Carolyn Bennett and Dan Vandal, ITK President Natan Obed, foreign embassy representatives, and others.

- Church Service at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica on Sunday, February 2nd

- Red River Métis Village

On Sunday, February 2nd, a Red River Métis Village was showcased at the Great Hall of the Museum of History. Visitors enjoyed the beautiful culture of the Métis people.
from the Red River including opportunities to hear stories from Métis Elders and a chance to listen and learn Michif, the language of the Metis people. They enjoyed a cup of tea and some bannock and were entertained by the best Métis musicians and dancers.

Métis interpreters were happy to share their knowledge with those wishing to learn more about the Métis Nation. World renowned Métis Master Beader – Jennine Krauchi demonstrated the intricate art of beadwork and the lessons that she has learned over the years. There were plenty of Manitoba-made products on hand, such as Métis jewelry, art, preserves, clothing and books. The Children’s Booth gave children the chance to be fully engaged and entertained with songs and crafts as they learned about Métis culture & history.
Red River 2020 Métis 150 Expedition Kick-Off

— Three-Month Red River Métis Expedition Begins, Celebrating 150 Years of Manitoba

A traditional Métis expedition, complete with a dogsled guide using a traditional Cariole, kicked off from Kenora, Ontario, on February 18, ending at Winnipeg’s Upper Fort Garry on May 12 to celebrate the Manitoba Métis Heritage Fund’s “Heartbeat of the Nation” Gala in support of Diabetes Canada and also to celebrate Métis 150, the Manitoba Métis Federation’s (MMF) campaign honouring 150 years of Manitoba’s Métis-led entry into Confederation. The trek officially kicked off with the dogsled portion.

“It’s going to be a journey, a real good journey. There’ll be a lot of people in and out and there’ll be celebration in different villages as they go through them,” said President Chartrand.

The pre-kick off of the Manitoba Métis Federation’s 2020 Red River Expedition took place at the Sportsplex on February 17, 2020. The event featured a variety of family-friendly indoor and outdoor activities!

The official send-off of the Dog Team was the next day, February 18 at the Ministry landing.

“This voyage is to celebrate Manitoba’s 150 Anniversary. May 12th is it’s official Birthdate! The story behind this expedition, started several years back, with a shared vision from Armand, who is a Métis man from Manitoba, and his wife and partner Kelly Jerome, whom I now call a sister of the Métis. Their vision was to retrace the Dawson Trail route that connected the Great Lakes to the Red River Settlement in Manitoba. The journey would become a two part trek, starting with a Dog Sled in Kenora, and ending with a Red River Cart at Manitoba’s birthplace, Upper Fort Garry.” – Martin Camire, Councillor for the Kenora Métis Council.

For more information, please visit: 2020 Red River Expedition
https://www.2020redrivermetisexpedition.com/
Clément Chartier Honoured for Lifetime outstanding service to the Métis Nation

President Chartier was awarded the Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold Medal by the Gabriel Dumont Institute at its 40th Anniversary Culture and Educational Conference in Saskatoon on February 7, 2020.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold Medal recognizes a lifetime of outstanding service to the Métis Nation. The Silver Medal honours those who have made significant contributions to the Métis, while the Bronze Medal honours GDI students and alumni who have distinguished themselves through leadership, community involvement and overall performance.

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This year’s honouring ceremony took place at the Saskatoon Inn and Conference Centre as part of the GDI 40th Anniversary Culture and Educational Conference.

“I feel very fortunate and honoured to receive this award from the Gabriel Dumont Institute in recognition of the work I and other Métis leaders and elders from Saskatchewan have done to promote our rights within this province,” said President Chartier. “I am especially pleased to have a revered institution such as GDI issue this award, as it is the leading educational and cultural institution in the Métis Nation homeland which has done so much to protect and promote the integrity of our people here in western Canada.”

In addition to President Chartier’s Gold medal award, there were two other gold medal recipients, two silver medal recipients and 20 bronze medal recipients. Among this year’s bronze medal recipients, Tanzy Janvier, a granddaughter of President Chartier, received a GDI Bronze Medal.

“The Order of Gabriel Dumont is awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute to persons who have distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Métis of Canada,” said Geordy McCaffrey, GDI executive director. “It is one of the Métis Nation’s highest civilian honours, awarded to Métis and non-Métis individuals based on their achievements and lifetime contributions.”

President Chartier and granddaughter Tanzy Janvier
Message from the President

The Métis Nation once again finds itself at a critical point in its history, at a crossroads between our leaders and citizens choosing to protect and preserve our nation/homeland, or throwing open the floodgates to anybody who calls him or herself a Métis.

It is inconceivable that there are some Métis leaders from Saskatchewan and Alberta who are even contemplating the choice of abandoning our longstanding existence as a distinct Indigenous people in western Canada. Ready to turn their backs on the centuries of struggle, sacrifice and bloodshed by our ancestors. Ready to simply walk away from the hard work of our leaders of the 1900s who worked so tirelessly and diligently to get us to where we are today.

In 1983 Métis leaders from the three prairie provinces had to regroup once again to secure their own representative national body for the Métis Nation following the failure of the Native Council of Canada which they had set up in 1971 but had been taken over by non-status Indians from outside the prairies. “Never again”, said the 1983 leadership after the formation of the Métis National Council “will we let this happen”.

But here we are again, on the brink of having our national governance structure thrown open to non-Métis Nation people from Ontario, and western Quebec who are members of the Métis Nation of Ontario. The MNO does represent Métis Nation citizens from that small part of our homeland in northwestern Ontario as well as our citizens who have moved from the prairies into that province, but the vast majority of their members are not part of our Nation or people, and never will be.

Add to them tens of thousands of people from Atlantic Canada and Quebec who have no connection to us historically, cultural and politically but are now cynically trying to steal our identity and hard won rights and what you have is a third invasion of our homeland from eastern Canada. We resisted the first two invasions in the Red River in 1869 and Batoche in 1885 and we must resist this new invasion of identity theft today.

The thousands of us who believe in the identity and existence of the Métis Nation will never abandon the fact of our existence as a people, never alter our citizenship criteria to accommodate non-Métis Nation persons, never rewrite our history and never walk away from the geographic territory of our historic homeland.

We can rest assured that throughout the history of our Nation, in the face of overwhelming adversity and against all odds and challenges we have survived, ignored perhaps, but now experiencing a resurgence. Regardless of what may happen to the Métis National Council, the Métis Nation remains strong and deeply rooted in western Canada. It is time to act on that.
Métis Nation Applauds Court’s Decision Upholding Trans Mountain Pipeline Approval

David Chartrand, National Spokesperson for the Métis National Council (MNC), issued a statement on February 4, 2020, following the decision of the Federal Court of Appeal to uphold approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline by the federal Cabinet.

“It is time to move on with this important nation-building project. Trans Mountain will enable Canada to move its energy resources to world markets and will enable Indigenous peoples including the Métis Nation to finally participate in and benefit from a major project of this magnitude. For that reason, last year I joined the President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce on Parliament Hill to support the expansion of the pipeline.

The Métis Nation supports a balanced approach to economic development, one that encourages economic development while protecting the environment and the rights and interests of our people. The Prime Minister also supports this approach which is why we supported his legislation for a new major projects approval process.

We believe Trans Mountain can open doors for us from equity participation to employment and procurement opportunities. We look forward to working with the Minister of Finance to ensure this happens.”
Raymond Carriere and Ernest Letendre Received thanks from the Métis Nation and a $20,000 cheque to each of the veterans under the terms of the Canada-Métis Nation Métis Veterans Recognition Payment Agreement.

Métis Nation Minister of Veterans Affairs David Chartrand, joined by Métis Nation British Columbia President Clara Morin Dal Col, MNBC Minister of Veterans Lissa Smith, and MNBC Veteran Dave Armit (Chair) presented the honours to the veterans at ceremonies in Burnaby BC, on February 10, 2020. Family members of the veterans were on hand to recount the acts of heroism of the veterans during harsh combat conditions in various theatres of the war.
Raymond Carriere was born in Isle des Chenes, Manitoba on December 30, 1925.

In 1944, at the age of 19, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy in Chippawa, Winnipeg. After 7 months he was deployed to Scotland on a large vessel to fight in WWII.

His ship was torpedoed by a German submarine in the Barents Sea and Raymond narrowly missed death. Raymond was one of 205 men evacuated onto a Canadian destroyer which transferred to New York city before completing their voyage back to Halifax. Once back at home Raymond rejoined his first wife Teenie, and continued to work at CNR fixing damaged box cars.

After the death of Teenie, he met and married Monica and together they raised 2 wonderful daughters Maxine and Judi – and years later he was blessed with two amazing grandchildren McKenzie and Chelsea.

Over the years Raymond has worked various jobs including working as a prison guard at the old Okala jail, and the nerve-racking job of working on high power extension lines. In his later years, Raymond was an “improvisation” manager – a role he created himself, and where he retired.

Now, Raymond loves to read, watch sports, and the news. Another frequent hobby of his was a good game of golf, as well as his daily walks which he is very much missing.

Raymond is a proud member of the Métis Nation British Columbia.
Ernest “Ted, Teddy” Letendre was born in 1922 at Lac St. Anne, Alberta. He left for the war at a young age and served as a stretcher bearer, having enlisted along with his older brother, Paul and younger brother, Andrew. He spent the first 1 1/2 years in England. Ted was in the 1st division of the Royal Eddies from Edmonton who invaded Sicily in July 1943. Fighting the Italians and Germans the whole time, they invaded Italy on Sept. 3, 1943. Ted recalls being trapped behind enemy lines for 3 days with a wounded soldier and the other stretcher bearer.

Ted was wounded by shrapnel and was sent to an English hospital to recover. He went on to serve in the liberation of Belgium. He was definitely scarred by his war experiences but spoke little of that time. As he aged he spoke of nightmares about the war disrupting his sleep.

Ted married Janet Otelia Adelia Anderson, who had grown up on a nearby farm, four years after he returned from war and they had five children. Ted and Janet moved over 30 times in 22 years, mostly to small communities and remote settings of north central BC. Ted became a lumber grader and often worked as foreman and supervisor and was also involved in a number of smaller specialty mills.

His children live throughout BC including two in the Lower Mainland who visit him often. Ted had a stroke at age 76 and moved into George Derby Center because it was full of veterans. When Ted first moved to George Derby he took up weaving on a loom, a complete surprise to family. But he was a fastidious weaver, producing beautiful weavings that became vests, purses, small bags, placemat settings and many Métis sashes for his children and grandchildren.
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WWII Métis Veteran Herman “Tup” Lacroix Honoured in Midland, ON

On February 15, 2020, Métis National Council Minister of Veterans Affairs and National Spokesperson David Chartrand visited a Métis Veteran of the Second World War in Midland, Ontario. The ceremony took place at the Georgian Bay Métis Council. Brian Black, President of Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran’s Council, was also in attendance.

Minister Chartrand presented a $20,000 cheque to the Métis veteran Herman “Tup” Lacroix. The cheque is part of $30 million contained in Budget 2019 by the Trudeau government of commemorate forgotten Métis soldiers.

Herman ‘Tup’ Lacroix was born on August 20th 1925 in Perkinsfield, Ontario. He is married to JoAnne Lacroix née Paradis, and has two children Mary-Jo and James Lacroix. He has three grandchildren Shannon, Justin and Karly. He lives with his wife in Penetanguishene and enjoys playing pool and golf.

Lacroix served as a medic during the Second World War in France and Germany from 1944-1945. He received his basic training at Camp Borden. He received a star medal for serving in France and Germany and a 1939-1945 star. Following the war, he worked as a medic administering medication to individuals who were collaborators with German troops.

One story that he remembers fondly was when he went to visit his brother Ernie only to find out he was away on leave. Tup got permission to sleep in Ernie’s cot while he was waiting for him to return. Imagine Ernie’s surprise when he returned to find someone in his bed, and then to realize it was his brother!
On February 28, 2020, Métis Nation Veterans Affairs Minister and MNC National Spokesperson David Chartrand was in Rivers, MB to present Métis WWII Veteran Phyllis Eastcott with a $20,000 cheque—the 19th Legacy Fund presentation as a part of the $30-million Canada-Métis Nation Métis Veterans Recognition Payment Agreement. Ministers John Fleury and Will Goodon, both board members for the Southwest Region, were in attendance to celebrate the occasion, along with Ms. Eastcott’s family and friends from the Riverdale Personal Care Home. Beyond the $20,000 cheque, Ms. Eastcott received a sash and a beaded poppy for her efforts in the war.

Phyllis Eastcott (nee Hyde) was born in 1922 in Fisherton (now Fisher Branch), Manitoba, the middle child of a family of 13 children. Out of 13 children, Phyllis was one of 5 to serve in the Second World War. Her 4 brothers, Gerald, Bill, Henry and Charlie all served, with her brothers serving overseas. Other family members who served include her uncles Charlie and
Jim, and cousin Dorothy. Cousins Cecil Switzer, Clarence Matthews, and Jim Keir all served and were killed in action.

Phyllis often fondly recalled that during her training in Shiloh, when the Commanding Officer would call her, by her last name “Hyde” as was the protocol, all of her fellow corps members would duck as a joke about her last name. During her service, Phyllis was a stenographer, bookkeeper, canteen operator and did office work with the Canadian Women’s Army Corps in Winnipeg, Fort Osborne, and various places across Canada.

She later served as a Dr’s assistant in Portage la Prairie handling intake of returning soldiers and there met her future husband, Wilton (“Slim”) Eastcott.

Following the war, Phyllis and Slim settled down in Rivers, Manitoba to have and raise their 3 children, Wilton (George), Leslie, and Richard. While Slim founded himself as the town’s best mechanic, Phyllis became a champion homemaker. Her most beloved hobby was sewing and quilting. Her children’s clothing rivaled that of Paris fashion houses and her beloved quilts found their way into homes across Manitoba. Later, after her children moved out of the home, Phyllis transformed a main floor bedroom of their home into a sewing room and spent many years sewing and shipping dresses and quilts to orphanages in developing countries.

Phyllis and Slim built a small cabin at Ditch Lake and would spend entire summers there with their children, many Grandchildren and extended family, teaching generations of children how to catch crawdads, the fine art of how to lose at Rummy, and how to beat and not burn brown sugar candy.

Many an afternoon were spent picking wild berries, gardening, baking, canning and preserving.
WWII Métis Veteran Honoured in Regina, SK

Métis Nation Veteran Samuel McKay was honoured at a ceremony in Regina on February 11, 2020. Surrounded by his family at his home where he still resides, Veteran McKay received a $20,000 cheque under the terms of the $30 million Canada-Métis Nation Métis Veterans Recognition Payment Agreement.

Also in attendance along with Métis Nation Minister of Veterans Affairs David Chartrand who thanked Mr. McKay for his contribution to WWII and presented the cheque were President Clément Chartier, MNS Secretary Lisa McCallum, Regional Director Wendy Gervais and Local President Wayne McKenzie.

At the age of 19, Mr. McKay joined the army and did his basic training in Maple Creek, SK. He trained at Canadian Forces Base Shilo during the Second World War until a knee injury resulted in his discharge. Minister Chartrand said the government should have followed through on promises they made to people like McKay and other Métis veterans from the start, but that the apology and the settlement at least shows appreciation for veterans and the fact that they were willing to give their lives for people they didn’t even know.

“We want to thank you for being brave enough as a kid to go put your name there and willing to go overseas... and willing to go there and defend said people you did not know, a country that didn’t really treat you right and so we believe that the settlement we’ve achieved today will at least give you some sense of getting, not even, but just getting to a point of fairness,” Minister Chartrand said.

President Chartier thanked Mr. McKay for his contributions and continued support to the political and educational advancement of the Métis people in Saskatchewan and for his role in ensuring that his family were active in the Métis movement.

“It is through the leadership of yourself and other WWII Métis Nation veterans who influenced the resurgence of the Métis in Saskatchewan and the rest of our homeland in western Canada that made possible the tremendous advances we have experienced. I am pleased to be able to state that I enjoyed working with your family over the years as we worked to make a better place for us and future generations” stated President Chartier.
Métis Nation WWII Veterans Recognized & Honoured to Date

- Veteran Paul Delorme – Malden, Essex UK (June 9, 2019)
- Veteran Clifford Swain – Comox, BC (July 15, 2019)
- Veteran Louis Roy – Beauval, SK (July 16, 2019)
- Veteran George McKay – Tisdale, SK (July 17, 2019)
- Veteran Alex Boucher – Britt, ON (August 17, 2019)
- Veteran Wilfred Rochon – Windsor, ON (August 18, 2019)
- Veteran Norman Goodon – Regina, SK (September 10, 2019)
- Veteran George Earl Watson - Vancouver, BC (October 29, 2019)
- Veteran Jim Boucher - Saskatoon, SK (October 30, 2019)
- Veteran "Alice" Marie Victoria Samuel (nee Petit) – Duck Lake, SK (October 30, 2019)
- Veteran George Ricard – Ottawa, ON (November 8, 2019)
- Veteran Guy Lafreniere – Ottawa, ON (November 8, 2019)
- Veteran Joseph Gagnon - Port Hope, ON (November 9, 2019)
- Veteran Raymond Carriere – Burnaby, BC (February 10, 2020)
- Veteran Samuel McKay, Regina, SK (February 11, 2020)
- Harold “Tubby” Lacroix - Midland, ON (February 15, 2020)
- Phyllis Eastman – Rivers, MB (February 28, 2020)
- John Poitras – Calgary, AB (March 2, 2020)
The Métis Nation Participates Nature-Based Climate Solutions Summit

— By Erin Myers, Environment/Climate Change Advisor, MNC

On February 5-6, 2020, Ottawa, ON: the Métis National Council supported the participation of 9 representatives from the Governing Members, as well as Kyle Vermette and Erin Myers who represented the MNC, to ensure diverse Métis perspectives and leadership were included in the dialogue. Participants also had the opportunity to further develop partnerships and networks with various stakeholders to help further support the important work the GMs are doing to advance their climate and conservation priorities.

The goal of the summit was to increase collective knowledge of nature-based climate solutions and help chart a path forward. There is a growing constituency of non-governmental organizations, institutions, businesses, Indigenous nations, municipalities, provinces and territories that support federal action and investment.

The organizing principle behind the agenda for the Nature-Based Climate Solutions Summit was “moving from big ideas to specific actions” on nature-based solutions to climate change in Canada. Focus areas included: nature-based climate change mitigation, ecosystem restoration and adaptation, natural infrastructure, protected areas, and Indigenous-led approaches to all of the above categories.

Sessions were organized around key landscapes (forests, wetlands, oceans & coasts, agricultural and grasslands, and urban areas & community landscapes) and by important opportunities (i.e. carbon offsets, Indigenous-led conservation, policies and funding).

During the summit, opportunities were explored on how to better work together to advance natural climate solutions that have climate, biodiversity and other co-benefits for both people and nature.
The Métis Nation Participates Canada’s Federal Provincial and Territorial Deputy Ministers Meeting on Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity

— By Marci Riel (MMF)

On February 20, 2020, Will Goodon, representative of the Métis National Council, joined federal, provincial and territorial deputy ministers and Assembly of First Nations representative in Ottawa at an open session on Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity in Canada. With a focus on those three main items, the agenda included a discussion on Canada’s Post 2020 Global Diversity Framework, the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and Protected and Conserved Areas. As Minister Goodon represented the Métis Nation on the Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE), he was uniquely positioned to speak to these topics and provided a perspective on the issues in relation to the rights, claims and interests of the citizens and harvesters of the Métis Nation.

While biodiversity, sustainable harvesting, conservation through reconciliation and SARA are of significant importance to the Métis Nation, Minister Goodon focused the majority of his comments on the priority of collaboration and cooperation as it relates to identifying and implementing a process for protected and conserved areas. Access to traditional lands, food security and limitations on traditional harvesting, shared decision making and Métis traditional and ecological knowledge are vital to securing a role in the conservation of locations of cultural significance. Among other issues, he noted the importance of provincial ministries joining the Métis Nation and federal departments such as Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Parks Canada in the development of co-management plans that are focused on the full, proper and meaningful participation of the Metis Nation. Minister Goodon also noted that the recognition of the Métis Nation as a partner in this process is vital to the achievement of the national targets and strategic policies.
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Métis National Council hosts third Metis Nation Health Forum in Ottawa

— By Storm J. Russell, PhD, Senior Policy Advisor, MNC

On February 26-27, 2020, the Métis National Council held the third annual Métis Nation Health Forum at the beautiful Chateau Laurier in downtown Ottawa, with over 120 delegates from the Métis Nation, the Government of Canada, and other Métis Nation partners coming together to share knowledge and perspectives, and to explore ways in which we can continue to work together to increase the health and well-being of Métis Nation citizens.

Saskatchewan Métis Elder Jimmy Durocher opened the Forum with a moving prayer which was followed by welcoming remarks provided by the Métis Nation British Columbia Director of Health Susie Hooper. Forum Chair and MC Oliver Boulette then introduced delegates to the first panel which included Frances Chartrand, Minister of Health, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), Julianne Sanguins,
Acting Health Director, MMF, Susie Hooper, Minister of Health, Metis Nation British Columbia, and Tanya Davoren, Director of Health MNBC, who spoke about emerging health issues for the Métis Nation, as well as the significant work completed in the area of Métis health during this past year – not least of which is the further implementation of MMF’s landmark health benefits program which has been put in place to respond the urgent needs of vulnerable, low income and older Métis citizens in Manitoba.

Dr. Valerie Gideon, and Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) then spoke to delegates about the proposed Indigenous health legislation, a key component of the 2019 Liberal Party Election Platform, and the associated transformation activities now underway within FNIHB and Indigenous Services Canada.

A key note address by Dr. Terry Ling from the Terry Fox Research Institute created the context for a panel and plenary session on the collaborative work being done by the Metis Nation and partners to tackle cancer and cancer risk factors among citizens and their families, and to improve cancer care systems for Métis people. Speakers and panelists included Pam Tobin, Director of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Strategy at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), Julianne Sanguins, Acting Director of Health, Manitoba Metis Federation, and Ashley Turner, the Provincial Wellness Coordinator for Métis Nation British Columbia.

This session was followed by a series of presentations devoted to Métis Youth health and well-being, a highlight of which was the participation of Métis Youth Tanny Taylor and Jayda Scott from Manitoba who shared their insights and perspectives on tobacco use, vaping and other potential health risks and challenges for Métis youth. A joint presentation on the work the Metis Nation is doing with the Public Health Agency of Canada to develop a Metis Nation-specific Tobacco Strategy rounded out this session and included presentations from Annie Smith, the Director of the McCreary Centre Society, and Caitlyn Timmins, a Program Manager working in prevention at CPAC.

The second day of the Forum began with a session examining the impacts of climate change on health. Dr. Katie Hayes from the Climate Change and Innovation Bureau of Health...
Canada spoke about her research on the mental health impacts of the changing climate, while Paul Courtoreille, a Volunteer Firefighter and community member from Gift Lake Metis Settlement and Lorne L’Hirondelle, Wildfire Ranger and Volunteer Structural Firefighter from the Peavine Metis Settlement in Northern Alberta each gave moving accounts of the critical work they are doing in Northern Alberta as increasingly Métis families and communities are being negatively impacted by climate change, including longer and more intense fire seasons, an increasing fire risk, and potentially greater damage and loss from fire and other climate-related events.

The final panel discussion centred on Métis Nation data needs, and how we can work collaboratively with our partners to increase access and the availability of high-quality Métis data. Brian Schnarch, the Manager of Indigenous Health and Carrie-Anne Whyte, Senior Analyst from the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI), Susan Wallace from the Centre for Indigenous Statistics and Partnerships, Statistics Canada, and Nicolas de Guzman Chorny, Senior Policy Analyst from the Public Health Agency of Canada, each shared information about their respective data holdings as well as the online and interactive tools and resources that are available – or which could potentially be adapted or developed – to better support Métis-specific data gathering, analysis and reporting. All partners reiterated their willingness to continue to work with the Métis Nation in the co-development of new data systems and tools to respond to Métis Nation data needs.

The third annual Métis Nation Health Forum 2020 concluded with a fulsome discussion of how the Métis Nation, stakeholders, and partners can continue to work together and move the yardstick forward on Métis Nation health priorities in this new and exciting period of health system transformation and increasing self-governance.
UPCOMING EVENTS

• MHRDA Working Group Meeting  
  March 3  
  Vancouver, BC

• Building Wealth for the Métis Nation Conference  
  March 4-5  
  Vancouver, BC

• Métis Nation Citizens Forum on Identity, Citizenship & Homeland  
  March 9-10  
  Saskatoon, SK

• First Ministers Meeting (FMM)  
  March 12  
  Ottawa, ON

• Nature Based Solutions  
  March 13  
  Ottawa, ON

• Métis Nation Pathway Gathering  
  March 17-18  
  Vancouver, BC

• Métis Nation-Canada Joint Table on Climate Change  
  March 19-20  
  Vancouver, BC

• UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
  April 13-24  
  New York City

• Michif Conference  
  April 28  
  Ottawa, ON

• Indigenous Language Conference  
  April 29-30  
  Ottawa, ON

• 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands  
  May 1-10  
  Netherlands