Message from the President

April 2020

The Métis Nation has faced many adversities throughout its history. The current coronavirus pandemic may be added to the long list. One can only hope and pray that our people will not be adversely affected by the rapidly spreading COVID 19 virus.

The Métis Nation as a whole is at risk, and in order to address this pandemic, the total leadership of the Métis Nation has the responsibility to collectively organize and collaborate to ensure the wellbeing of the citizens of the Métis Nation. Now is not the time to engage in political partisan activities.

In the spirit of this required approach the national leadership of the Métis Nation, as represented by the Métis National Council – the national representative government of the Métis Nation – has over the past few weeks reached out to all Governing Member Presidents as well as the President of the MNO to join the national effort to address the pandemic. Hopefully those who continue to reject this invitation will realize that a unified national approach is not only required but is the right thing to do.

Now is not the time to continue internal Métis Nation political maneuvering, but in fact, the time to target the pending pandemic and its potential catastrophic effect on our citizens and communities. While the federal government must be commended and thanked for the provision of fiscal resources to Indigenous peoples on a distinctions-basis, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation, those fiscal resources must be used strategically for the health and wellbeing of our respective citizens: all of our citizens and communities, and not as what appears may result in the use of these fiscal resources in a partisan manner which has the potential of inflicting extreme harm on some sectors of the Métis Nation.

Due to this rapidly spreading pandemic and the many safeguards being put in place by the federal and provincial governments, it is essential that the governments of the Métis Nation must also do its due diligence and responsibility to keep not only its citizens but all Canadians safe. As a consequence all meetings of the Métis Nation at the national level have been either cancelled or postponed to a time where it will be safe to do so. This also includes the necessity to postpone the proposed Special Sitting of the General Assembly to address the MNO and the regular sitting of the General Assembly which would include the election for the National President.

As we move forward over the next several weeks and potentially months, I strongly re-iterate that it is both the right thing to do and mandatory that the Métis Nation governments collaborate on an urgent and consistent basis placing the wellbeing of our citizens at the forefront of our actions going forward. There will be plenty of time to deal with political issues following the defeat of the pandemic invasion.
Métis Nation COVID-19 website:

It's hard not to feel overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information on #COVID19 being thrown at us every day. That's why MNC has created a coronavirus webpage so all the information you need can be found in one place.

Please visit: https://metisnation.ca/covid19/
Métis Nation Taking Proactive Measures on COVID-19 Virus

Press Release
March 12, 2020

The Métis Nation is taking preventative measures to minimize risks to Métis Nation citizens and communities during the COVID-19 emergency. Some citizens may already have been exposed to the virus as a result of travel and meetings and are in self-quarantine as a means of prevention.

The MNC will be holding a conference call with members of the Board of Governors today to discuss a strategy to protect Métis Nation citizens, ensure they are not neglected by public health authorities, and communicate the needs of our communities to other jurisdictions and the public at large.

The MNC is concerned that funds allocated to the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch as part of the federal government’s COVID-19 response will not be available to Métis Nation citizens.

The Manitoba Metis Federation is already mobilizing some of its resources including mobile homes and two 48-bed secure camps for use in self-quarantine of citizens. They are all fully accessible for citizens with special needs. It is also exploring all options to provide immediate supports to its most vulnerable citizens.

The Métis National Council gathering on Métis Guardians and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) planned for March 17-18, 2020 in Vancouver, BC is being postponed. This decision was made based on current public health concerns with respect to the COVID-19 virus.

Given the importance of issues around lands, environmental conversation and stewardship, the Métis National Council is working with its partners to reschedule the gathering at the earliest opportunity.

For the time being, the MNC is suspending all meetings.

We thank all citizens for doing their part in ensuring the health and wellbeing of our families, our communities and our nation as well as that for all people in Canada and globally.
MNC National Spokesperson and Vice-President David Chartrand emerged from a teleconference with Prime Minister Trudeau, satisfied that the federal government is committed to supporting the Métis Nation and its communities in coping with the coronavirus emergency.

“I went into the call very concerned that the $100 million for Indigenous peoples was to be channelled through the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch which, as its name suggests, provides services to First Nations and Inuit communities only,” said Chartrand.

“I am pleased to announce that the Prime Minister clearly assured me that there will be distinctions-based funding for the Métis Nation and that Minister Miller will partner with the Métis National Council to ensure the Métis Nation is resourced. He also said the $100 million is not finite and that additional resources will be made available if needed.”

The Prime Minister and the National Spokesperson agreed on the need for an action plan with an emphasis on a comprehensive communication strategy emphasizing prevention measures.

The National Spokesperson, who is also President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, informed the Prime Minister that the MMF has already deployed some of its resources including secure mobile health units and two 48-bed secure health facilities to support Métis Nation citizens who require self-isolation in rural and remote communities. It has adopted a province-wide policy and measures to protect its staff and citizens and is launching telehealth initiatives.

“I encourage other members of the Métis National Council to develop their action plans so they can participate in this national pandemic plan of the Métis Nation,” said Chartrand. “I am in sync with the Prime Minister’s message that we must all work in unity.”

Prime Minister's Readout: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with National Indigenous Leaders on efforts to address the impact of COVID-19

Today, taking necessary steps to further protect the health and well-being of the Manitoba Metis during this crisis, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is investing $1 million in financial supports for Metis Elders, entrepreneurs, and employees who are being adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MMF President David Chartrand, along with MMF Health Minister Frances Chartrand, announced funding to support the MMF Health Action Plan, which includes significant direct supports, partnerships, and ongoing and extensive outreach to our Manitoba Metis citizens.

“As the Minister responsible, I will do everything within my power to face this crisis,” said MMF Minister of Health & Wellness, Frances Chartrand. “Thanks to President David Chartrand and the support of my fellow Cabinet members, we are pleased that we are able to make this unprecedented emergency response to help our people get through this difficult time.”

The MMF again commends Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and his Ministers and staff, for taking immediate action and committing to a partnership with the Metis Nation, said President Chartrand. “We will need to work together to address the health, economic, and social impacts on the Métis in this rapidly evolving COVID-19 health crisis.”

Studies have shown the Manitoba Metis have among the highest levels of chronic disease and diabetes, putting them in a high-risk category and making them susceptible to the virus. MMF Leadership and staff have been conducting extensive checks and follow-ups on many of our most vulnerable Citizens to ensure they have rides for their doctor appointments, medication, food, and essential supplies. This investment is on top of the free prescription and free eyeglasses program already being offered by the MMF to its Elders.

“Health authorities across the country and the globe have made it clear that Elders and other vulnerable people need to be in self-isolation,” said Minister Chartrand. “We will do what we can to ensure our Metis Elders do not leave the safety of their homes unless they have to.”

To date, over 1,000 Elders have been contacted to determine their needs and offer assistance.

In addition, the funding will also be used to support Metis entrepreneurs and workers.
whose income is adversely affected by the pandemic. The MMF is prepared to offer aid to Metis Citizens facing financial hardships as a direct result of COVID-19 and who are not receiving support from their employers. The same initiative applies to Metis business owners affected by the crisis.

“This pandemic is causing financial strain to business owners and their employees, which is obviously no fault of their own,” said President Chartrand. “We are asking Metis entrepreneurs or employees who are being impacted financially to register with the MMF today, so we may work with them to assist within all sectors and offer our support for their families alongside the ongoing announcements from Canada.”

In addition to the $1 million announced today, the MMF has also purchased three mobile health isolation units that can be moved anywhere in the Province. Métis N4 Construction has also made available two secure, 48-bed, fully accessible health facilities. These can be used as community supports for self-isolation requirements during this crisis. As a benefit to all Manitobans these facilities may be available on an as-needed basis outside the Metis Government use.

“These initiatives are part of the ongoing partnerships between the Federal Government and the Metis Nation,” concluded President Chartrand. “It is our responsibility to work together for the betterment of our Citizens and, indeed, all Canadians. United, we will emerge strong after this critical situation.”

MMF Citizens needing access to a service are asked to contact the MMF as follows:

Metis Employees and Elders, please contact 1-800-665-8474.

Metis Businesses and Entrepreneurs, please contact 1-800-387-6004.

Additional contact information will be released shortly on our website. www.mmf.mb.ca.
COVID-19 Crisis Forces Postponement of Métis National Council General Assembly

Press Release
March 27, 2020

Given the danger and practical impossibility of convening meetings during the COVID-19 crisis, Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier today informed Members of the MNC General Assembly that the MNC General Assembly anticipated for the end of April, 2020 will be postponed. An alternative date will be set once the health emergency is lifted.

MMF Bridging Financial Support

The Manitoba Metis Government is here to help Metis Citizens who have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The MMF recognizes a gap for families and as a bridge for support will be providing an emergency financial supplement to eligible Metis to help alleviate the economic hardship until the Canada Emergency Response Benefit becomes available in April.

Please note that online applications will be available shortly, for immediate assistance please call the numbers listed in the ad.
April 2020

Despite Pandemic Métis Nation Takes Time to Honour World War II Veteran

On March 24, 2020, Second World War Métis Veteran Donald Russell Linklater received thanks and a $20,000 recognition payment on his 101st birthday.

The payment to Linklater is part of the $30 million Métis Veterans Recognition Payment Contribution Agreement reached between federal government and the Métis National Council in September 2019. An apology was also issued by Trudeau's government for the injustices Métis Veterans faced upon returning home to Canada.

At the wishes of his family and adhering to emergency protocols surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Métis Nation Minister of Veterans Affairs David Chartrand was not able to personally present the Recognition Payment to Veteran Linklater.

“I apologize for not being permitted to present myself personally,” Minister Chartrand stated in a letter to the veteran, “I look forward to meeting you in person in the very near future and to capture your experiences to share with the young your lifetime of wisdom.”

Continued on next page
“Though I cannot be there personally, it is very important that Veteran Linklater receives his long awaited Thank you and Recognition Payment from the Métis Nation, Prime Minister Trudeau, and Canada on his 101st Birthday.” States Minister Chartrand, “I look forward to having an opportunity in the very near future to meet Veteran Linklater and learn from his life experiences.”

Minister Chartrand goes on to say, “The impacts of COVID-19 are reminiscent of war as we face this world crisis that is ravaging our most vulnerable in society. As we fight our invisible enemy, it is heartening to steal a moment in time from the rage of battle to celebrate and honour the contributions of Veteran Linklater and fellow Métis Brethren in liberating the world of tyranny in WW II.”

On September 10, 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued an apology for the injustices Métis Veterans faced upon returning home to Canada. The Métis Nation and Prime Minister Trudeau committed to Recognition Payments being issued to every surviving WWII Métis Veteran to further reconciliation and acknowledge the negligent treatment by Canada that affected the Métis Community.

“On behalf of the Métis Nation and our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, it is my great privilege to present Veteran Linklater with a Recognition Payment in the amount of $20,000 on the most auspicious occasion of his 101st birthday.” Said Minister Chartrand, “Even in these times of uncertainty and social distancing we can still unite and celebrate the heroes who were willing to sacrifice everything for our freedom and liberties.”

Donald (Russell) Linklater was born March 24th, 1919 in Cloverdale Manitoba. Russell grew up on the family farm which still stands on the original homestead. After school Russell was hired by Manitoba Rolling Mill. In 1940 he signed up for service in the Air force and worked as a Physical Trainer Instructor until 1945. Russell had two brothers who were in the service as well, James Stuart and Ross Fletcher Linklater.

After his service he returned to Manitoba Rolling Mill. In 1950 Russell married Elaine (Barnard) and they had two children Gary and Linda. Russell retired from the Manitoba Rolling Mill in 1984. Retirement for Russell meant another journey in his active life. A time to enjoy badminton, bowling, baseball, working with the Special Olympics and singing in the choir.
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)
- Donald Russell Linklater – Selkirk, MB (March 24, 2020)
On March 6, 2020, President Chartier introduced the new MNC database of Métis scrip records. The workshop took place at the Cameron Science and Technology Library at the University of Alberta.

The new MNC Historical Online Database is a web-interfaced database that contains textual information extracted from archival documents relevant to the historic Métis Nation.

“It is simply amazing the distance we have travelled since the mid-1990s in this field of research and the use of modern technology to preserve and present it” stated President Chartier. “This research on the Métis Nation and in particular the Manitoba declarations, the northwest scrip and the censuses will go a long way in assisting the Métis Nation in putting our claims forward in the political and legal arenas, and in educating our people about this part of our history” concluded President Chartier.

To access the MNC online database go to https://apps.srv.ualberta.ca/ns/mnc/. No login required.
April 2020

Background:

In 2007, MNC and University of Alberta launched The Métis National Council Historical Online Database. This project of the highest significance for the Métis Nation is a part of the Métis National Council’s National Research Initiative, a result of three years of extensive research by the Métis Archival Project (MAP) team led by Dr. Frank Tough and based at the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta. The project included developing a database of textual information extracted from numerous archival documents and high-resolution digital photos, as well as scans of various historical documents.

The MNC Historical Online Database is a state-of-the-art tool which enables researchers, and more importantly, Métis Nation citizens to access valuable historical information and reconstruct their genealogies, which is of vital importance to the ongoing clarification of Métis rights.
April 2020

Conference on Building Wealth for the Métis Nation Pushes Economic Development Strategy Forward

The Métis Nation’s conference on Building Wealth for the Métis Nation from March 3-5, 2020, in Vancouver concluded on a high note of optimism that the Métis Nation is moving ahead in the implementation of its economic development strategy. That strategy has centred on a number of key elements: promoting business development through enhanced access to capital and procurement opportunities; growing human capital through education and training to employment; and expanding Métis participation in major economic and resource development projects.

The conference focused on the progress being achieved and challenges remaining in these areas as well as on newer elements of the strategy such as closing the community

Continued on next page
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The conference focused on the progress being achieved and challenges remaining in these areas as well as on newer elements of the strategy such as closing the community infrastructure gap in Métis communities and participating in a clean growth economy. Métis Nation National Spokesperson and MMF President David Chartrand provided an overview of the work being undertaken across the homeland and the elements for success in achieving objectives in the various sectors of the economy.

In the area of major projects, the conference heard from the Chair of the Board of the new Canada Energy Regulator (formerly National Energy Board), Cassie Doyle, on how the Métis Nation will gain input into the approval process for these projects. Two Métis Nation members of the advisory boards for the Regulator and the Impact Assessment Agency, Marcie Riel and Kyle Vermette respectively, informed the conference on how Métis rights, claims and interests are being addressed in the approval process.
process.

The conference showcased Métis Nation entrepreneurship. Ron Quintal, President of the Fort McKay Métis Community Association, spoke on how his community in the Alberta oil sands had pursued and achieved success in partnering with industry through impact benefit agreements. A panel of women entrepreneurs – Danielle Erickson of Big Chill Mobile Cooler & Freezer Rental, Laura Mulvena of Freshii & Chicken Chef, Alexis Ibbotson of Canada Backcountry Services, and Karen Erickson and Carla Joseph of Hummingbird Creations – described the opportunities they saw and the challenges they faced in launching their businesses. They also acknowledged the important financial support they received from Métis Nation capital corporations.

A session on making procurement policy work for the Métis Nation looked at a best practice in corporate procurement. Catherine Pennington of Enbridge Pipelines Inc explained how Enbridge is striving to include Métis businesses more extensively in their supply chain. Jeff Provost of Bird Construction explained the challenges of partnering with mainline contractors who do the actual work on the projects. Tara Hartley of Public Services and Procurement Canada explained how her department was trying to facilitate bidding on federal contracts by Indigenous entrepreneurs and shed light on the recent commitment by the Liberal
government to award 5% of federal contracts to Indigenous business.

Homeownership is a key to building wealth and equity for Canadians and the Métis Nation capital corporations are engaged in incentivizing Métis to become homeowners. Paul Paradis and Tyler McKay of Louis Riel Capital Corporation provided an overview of their Métis Nation First Time Home Purchase Program and testimonials from some of the hundreds of Métis families who are taking advantage of their program.

Education and training are essential to success in the economy and the Métis Nation was able to showcase and discuss new directions for their successful institutions. Geordy McCaffrey presented on the 40 years of success of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Métis Nation’s pre-eminent education and training institute. The conference also heard from managers of Métis Nation Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Programs which have trained thousands of people for entry into the labour force.

Lack of economic and business infrastructure of Métis communities is a major impediment to economic development. Métis entrepreneur Jeff Klause of Voyageur Internet Inc., an internet service provider, and Matthew Kellison of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada spoke on current initiatives to bring high speed Internet to rural and remote Métis communities.
Dr. Eduardo Vides presented an overview of another component of community infrastructure needed in Métis communities, health hubs, and explained their health and economic benefits. Royal Bank of Canada’s Gabriel Branco presented on RBC’s involvement in providing financing for community infrastructure projects.

Adaptation to climate change and a clean growth economy is an element of increased importance within the Métis Nation Economic Development Strategy. John Coutris, CEO of the Métis Economic Development Fund, explained his equity capital fund’s investment in the clean growth space and two of his investees presented to the conference. Bruce Hardy of Myra Group is a leader in building intelligent and sustainable health solutions.

Todd Habitch of HD-Petroleum has developed a revolutionary micro-refinery technology that recycles waste oil into high-grade diesel fuel. The conference also heard from Salil Dhaumya of Green Mountain, an environmentally focused producer of medical cannabis products in which the MMF has a significant equity interest.

Jake Heron, Chief Negotiator for the Northwest Territories Métis Nation and Chair of the Northwest Territories Métis Dene Development Fund outlined a number of economic development initiatives of the Métis Nation north of 60 including a feasibility study into a hydro project as well assuming a co-management role in Wood Buffalo National Park. Will Goodon, Métis Nation representative on Parks Canada Indigenous Conserved and Protected Areas Committee, provided an overview of a number of initiatives currently unfolding which will provide the Métis Nation with environmental and economic benefits.

The conference proved to be a useful tool in advancing the Métis Nation economic development strategy, validating much of what has been attempted and pointing to new opportunity to be explored. Special thanks to Dale Drown who chaired the conference and Craig Gates of MNP who moderated the conference, framed all the sessions with instructive overviews and provided wrap ups and summaries that will be very useful going forward.

For Presentations, visit:

April 2020

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Refuses to Participate in Métis National Council Conference in Saskatoon March 9-10, 2020

Press Release
March 7, 2020

The Métis National Council (MNC) is proud to announce it will be holding its Métis Identity, Citizenship & Homeland conference on March 9-10, 2020 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The conference, which will host hundreds of Métis delegates from across the Métis Nation homeland in western Canada, was organized in response to the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MNS) President Glen McCallum’s request for a debate of the MNC’s suspension of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The suspension was triggered by the MNO’s failure to comply with a resolution of the MNC General Assembly requiring a review of the MNO registry to ensure that the MNC citizenship criteria or National Definition have been applied to all registered citizens, its long-standing abuse of our citizenship system including grandfathering of citizens and its unilateral attempt to extend the boundaries of the historic Métis Nation.

“Given the MNC fully complied with Mr. McCallum’s request and even organized the conference in his home province, we were surprised and disappointed to learn that he has since chosen to withdraw the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan’s attendance,” said David Chartrand, MNC National Spokesperson and President of the Manitoba Metis Federation “In fact, he’s gone as far as organizing his own competing meeting in Quebec in a desperate and expensive attempt to lure delegates away from the important national conference in Saskatoon.”

McCallum will be joined in Quebec by both the president of the MNO, Margaret Froh, and Audrey Poitras, president of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

“MNO is predominantly a non-Métis Nation citizen body; in fact, MNO representatives themselves have admitted a large part of their membership would not meet the National Definition,” said Chartrand. “The real issue here is the failure of these three presidents to fulfil their fiduciary duties as members of the MNC Board of Governors to enforce the bylaws and resolutions of the General Assembly.”

Chartrand says the Métis
Nation Identity, Citizenship & Homeland Conference in Saskatoon will provide members of the General Assembly and all who attend with the opportunity to discuss and defend the integrity of Métis Nation citizenship rules. The March public gathering will also be webcast, ensuring all Métis Nation citizens will have access to the important discussion.

“It’s unfortunate that this distraction has arisen at a time when the MNC is negotiating billions of dollars in funding for Métis Nation citizens across the homeland, including citizens in Saskatchewan and Alberta whose leaders refuse to join us for this historical discussion in Saskatoon,” said MNC President Clément Chartier. “We work hard and collaboratively with the federal government on the priorities under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord which is translating into concrete action and real results for our people.”

“Matters surrounding nationhood and protecting Métis Nation identity have never been more important,” continued Chartier.

The MNC’s ‘Citizens Forum on Identity, Citizenship & Homeland’ will be held at the Delta Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon from March 9-10, 2020. All media is welcome to attend.

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**Decade of the Métis Nation**

2011-2020

2020: Year of the Métis Nation
Citizenship and Identity Forum Sets New Direction for Métis Nation

Press Release
March 11, 2020

Citizens from across the Métis Nation homeland joined together in an unprecedented two-day session to share their views, concerns and give direction on where the Métis Nation needs to go. Over 400 grassroots Métis Nation citizens and leadership from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario were in attendance. “Our people have spoken; we have been provided clear direction that we must protect the territorial integrity of the Métis Nation and the historic identity of the Métis Nation” said Métis National Council National Spokesperson David Chartrand. “While there were different points of views expressed there was a clear consensus on what constitutes the Métis Nation homeland and who we are as a people.”

The Saskatoon conference was an opportunity for leadership and grassroots citizens to come together to discuss and learn more about the Métis, the homeland and the protection of
the inherent rights that come with that distinction. We have received clear direction to convene a special assembly composed of Governing Members from the four western provinces as soon as possible to address the threat posed by the non-Métis voyageurs and French-Canadians in the east appropriating our culture and identity."

“We are putting out a call to all Métis Nation leaders to come together to have an open dialogue on these critical issues,” added Spokesperson David Chartrand. “This is an urgent matter and I call upon our Métis Nation governing leaders from BC to Manitoba to set aside our differences and join in a healthy debate on one of the most important issues facing our nation.”

“It was heartening to hear the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Vice President Gerald Morin and other leaders in Saskatchewan reinforce his position on the need to address these important issues. Mr. Morin clearly stated that MN-S does not and will not recognize these new MNO voyageur communities and they are not a part of the Métis Nation,” continued Chartrand. “It is important to acknowledge that leadership across the western provinces agree with the findings of Dr. Darren O'Toole and Professor Darryl Leroux that showcased the clear evidence that the Métis Nation of Ontario’s research for the new so-called historical Métis communities in that province, shows the connection is with the Algonquin and Ojibway peoples and not the Métis Nation.”

“Make no mistake the grassroots have spoken and we will act and we will act decisively, preparations will be made and we will return to Saskatchewan to debate this openly and conclusively, we will not let our people down,” concluded Chartrand. “I will be asking President Chartier to write a letter inviting the four provinces to bring their elected provincial leadership to a Métis Nation Special Assembly to discuss this most important issue facing our Nation today.”

See Live Streamed Sessions and Presentations, visit:
Nature Based Solutions – Planting 2 Billion Trees Initiative

by Erin Myers, MNC Climate Change Advisor

On Friday March 13th, 2020, Natural Resources Canada hosted a half day workshop to discuss nature-based solutions to fight climate change with a focus on the new 2 Billion Tree initiative. The Government of Canada has committed to planting 2 billion trees over the next 10 years to use the power of nature to help fight climate change. This was acknowledged in the most recent Speech from the Throne from the Government of Canada, where the commitment to plant two billion trees was restated.

Successful implementation of the 2B tree initiative will require creative thinking, innovative approaches and collaboration. NRCan is working on a comprehensive plan to operationalize this commitment and it was imperative that MNC participate to ensure Métis views/thoughts were included on key considerations. Therefore, Minister Will Goodon and Erin Myers, MNC Climate Change Advisor, attended and provided insights.

This is an important initiative for the Métis Nation as it is an opportunity to help mitigate and support adaptation strategies to climate change, as well as provide new economic ventures through innovative ideas such as the development of bio products, bio heat, new building standards, “green” micro plastics, etc. As well, there is an opportunity for the development of new jobs and education strategies to engage youth.

These were all discussed in presentations and breakout sessions. Minister Goodon and Erin Myers emphasized the need for a distinctions-based approach, and that the Métis Nation needs to be included throughout all phases.

They also advocated that there be supports for the inclusion of youth, to ensure that this initiative will support diverse forest initiatives which will strengthen biodiversity, health, culture, food security and economic development for the Métis people.

The Government of Canada has a commitment to be Net Zero by 2050 and the way we manage the forest can support this. The Métis Nation has the opportunity to show great leadership in supporting this new initiative.
April 2020

National Aboriginal Languages Day

Since 1993, Indigenous peoples in Canada have celebrated March 31st to honour the strength and endurance of our languages and cultures. While National Aboriginal Languages Day is a single day to honour the legacy we have inherited, there are many Indigenous Language Champions creating and delivering Indigenous languages programs and traditional teachings every day including Michif teachers.

We celebrate the work of our Indigenous Language and Culture Champions to revitalize and seek ways to sustain survival of our languages. We acknowledge the difficult burden they have carried to reverse more than a century of attempts to erase our languages and identity.

Try a virtual tea with your Elders to stay connected in a safe way and learn your language. We must protect our speakers, and continue important revitalization and preservation work. We can learn so much through conversation on our own and share teachings with others online.

Together, let us agree that all learners will have equality of opportunity to live and learn in our Mother Tongue, Michif.

Join us in celebrating National Aboriginal Languages Day, every day!
### Upcoming Events

- Métis Nation Pathway Gathering  (to be rescheduled)
- Métis Nation-Canada Joint Table on Climate Change  (to be rescheduled)
- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  (Postponed)
- Michif Conference  (Postponed)
- Indigenous Language Conference  (Postponed)
- Special Sitting of the MNC General Assembly  (Postponed)
- MNC General Assembly and Presidential Election  (Postponed)
- 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands  (Postponed)