

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PRUDEN*

Tânisi / Taanishi / greetings,

As we transition through the changing seasons and into the cooler months of fall, I find myself looking back on the many moments of gathering, progress, and significant events that occurred this past month.

This fall marks a deeply significant anniversary in Métis history - 150 years since the Métis were first recognized as a distinct collective. In 1875, Métis in Rainy Lake signed the “Halfbreed” adhesion to Treaty 3. While the adhesion represented formal recognition, the federal government ultimately failed to uphold its promises and later pressured the Métis to identify as “Indians” instead.

I had the honour of attending a commemorative gathering on September 12 in Fort Frances Ontario to mark this milestone. Surrounded by Métis citizens, Knowledge-Keepers, and leaders, I was moved by the strength of our Métis Nation and the enduring spirit of those who stood up for recognition and inclusion generations ago. The failure of Canada to uphold the promises of that adhesion remains a source of pain, but also a reminder of how long and how fiercely the Métis Nation has fought for our rightful place. I would like to acknowledge the work of community leaders and volunteers in bringing the physical pages of this treaty to the museum in Fort Frances, as well as the significant opportunity to bring allies, the community, and descendants together in support of the movement to fulfill the commitments in the treaty that remain unmet to this day.

September 16 - 17, I attended the 12th session of the Goose Moon Table on Climate Change. This year’s gathering brought together elected leadership from the Métis Nation and senior federal officials to advance our Métis Nation Climate Leadership

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## MOMENTS IN HISTORY

**October 22, 1844:** Our leader Louis Riel was born in the heart of the Red River Settlement - what is now Winnipeg, Manitoba. Raised in a vibrant Métis community and grounded in both Catholic and Michif traditions, he would grow to become one of the most influential figures in our Nation's history.

Riel stood for our rights when it mattered most. He led the Red River Resistance of 1869-70, securing the Manitoba Act and ensuring Métis voices were heard as Manitoba joined Confederation. Fifteen years later, he again answered the call of his people, leading the Northwest Resistance in defence of our lands, our governance, and our way of life.

Though Canada condemned him, we remember him as he truly was; our champion, our founder, and a defender of Métis self-determination. His legacy lives on in the continued strength of our Nation and in every step we take toward justice, recognition, and sovereignty.

**October 3, 1875:** The Métis at Rainy Lake (present-day Fort Frances) successfully negotiate a "Halfbreed" adherence to Treaty 3, which is originally signed by "Indians" in the Northwest Angle in 1873. This is the only time Métis are dealt with as a collective in one of the historic treaties. After signing, Canada fails to fulfill the adherence terms by attempting to make Métis in the region identify as "Indians."

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Agenda. For the first time ever, our technical experts met with non-profit and non-governmental organizations to explore partnerships that support the goals outlined in the Métis Nation Climate Change Strategy. These conversations mark an important step forward as we strengthen our role in shaping national climate solutions that reflect the knowledge, priorities, and voices of Métis citizens. Later this year, the Goose Moon Table will release its second annual report, highlighting key achievements and areas for future action.

September 19 was Powley Day, a time to reflect on the monumental Supreme Court decision that affirmed Métis harvesting rights. I was delighted to visit with Mrs. Powley and her daughter, Kim Powley, again at the MNO General Assembly in August and express my gratitude for the contributions and sacrifices that the Powley family have made over many years in support of the Métis Nation. The Powley decision changed the landscape of Métis rights in Canada and continues to benefit Métis people and Métis governments across the Homeland and beyond. The courage and resilience of the Powley family continues to shape the path forward for Métis rights and recognition across the Homeland and continuing to honour their roles past and present is so important.

On September 25, I had the pleasure of attending Métis Crossing Day in Alberta, hosted on the traditional territory of the Otipemisiwak: "the people who own themselves." I want to acknowledge the incredible work of the Métis Crossing Board of Directors, Management and staff, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government within the Métis Nation of Alberta is doing to showcase our Métis spirit and culture at the crossing. I also want to congratulate Métis Crossing on the launch of their wellness spa and new stargazing cabins. I look forward to our next opportunity to visit Métis Crossing and congratulate all on the 20-year milestone we celebrated together.

On September 30, we participated in the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, remembering and honouring Survivors of Residential and Day Schools, survivors of the 60's scoop, intergenerational survivors, and the children who never returned home. We recognize and stand in support of our families and communities who are still impacted and forever changed by Canada's colonial institutions and systems, both past and present. For the Métis Nation, Truth and Reconciliation means recognizing the distinct experiences of Métis children and families within these systems of harm. It means continuing to push for justice, access to records, healing supports, and spaces for Métis citizens to grieve, remember, heal and reclaim.

I joined many friends and relatives in celebrating the recent signing of an Agreement in Principle by the survivors of the Île-à-la-Crosse Residential School. This agreement marks a key step in the long-overdue recognition and a path toward long-fought for justice. For decades, survivors and their families have been fighting to have their voices heard, to receive recognition and restitution, and to have their experiences and pain acknowledged formally. This Agreement in Principle marks an important step toward healing, reconciliation, and restoring dignity to those who endured so much. While no amount of compensation can erase the generations of harm caused, I am hopeful that this recognition brings encouragement to survivors and their families; and sets the stage for further action in support of the community of Île-à-la-Crosse.

As I joined survivors, allies and communities in ceremony and reflection, I was reminded that reconciliation is not a single event or a one-day affair; it is a long journey that requires all of us to walk together with compassion, openness, honesty, and commitment.

At the Métis National Council, we continue to support the objectives of healing across the Métis Nation as we continue to advocate for Métis-specific inclusion in all national efforts toward reconciliation and Métis wellness. We are deeply committed to amplifying Survivors' voices, addressing intergenerational impacts, and working with our Governing Members to ensure culturally safe, community-led solutions are at the forefront.

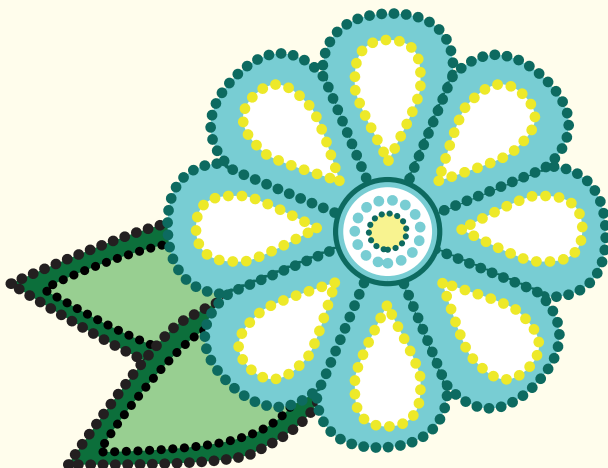
I would also like to acknowledge the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit+ people. On October 4, communities across the Homeland and beyond gathered to recognize those we have lost, those who remain missing, and the vulnerability of those at risk across this country. This is not just a day of remembrance, but also a day of action. I would encourage all Métis citizens to participate in this day in a way that is meaningful to you, whether that means attending a local vigil, lighting a candle, wearing red, supporting a grieving family, or having conversations within your circles about safety and justice in our communities.

The crisis of MMIWG2S+ is ongoing, and we must remain steadfast in our pursuit of safety, culturally safe policing services, justice, and access to healing and supports for families and survivors.

As always, I am deeply proud of the work being done across the Métis Nation by Métis Governments, youth, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, and citizens. Collectively, we are building a future that honours our past, reflects our values, and advances justice, sustainability, and sovereignty.

Have a wonderful October, everyone. I hope you are enjoying the fall and have the opportunity to gather with family and friends as we celebrate Thanksgiving.

-President Victoria Pruden



## TRADITIONAL PLANTS CORNER

### Horsetail (Scouring Rush)

Horsetail is a prehistoric plant and has been used throughout the world in the treatment of kidney and bladder ailments like kidney and bladder stones and urinary tracts infections.

It has been used to treat edema and lumbago and it stems heavy menstrual bleeding. Its ashes when applied externally were used as disinfectant and poultices were made to help heal wounds.

It can also be used as a foot bath for aching feet by steeping two fresh handfuls of fresh or dried plant to hot water and place feet in back to soak.

In Michif Horsetail is called...  
La krayaeñ - Southern Michif  
Miscanikwacàs osòs -Northern Michif

*Source: Medicines to Help Us,  
Christi Belcourt*



# Michif Monday

Follow along every Monday, as Monok Samson teaches us a new word in Michif!

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# KOKUM'S KITCHEN RECIPES

## Fish Fry

- 1 fish (pickerel, jackfish or whitefish)
- 2 cups of flour
- 1 tbsp of salt
- ½ tbsp of pepper
- oil or lard
- ½ tsp of milk
- ½ tsp of baking powder
- Lemon juice

Use the desired amount of oil or lard. Remove scales with a spoon. Cut fish from neck down to the tail. Slice cutting knife through the side. Remove spine and head and clean meat. Mix fish with flour mix. Use ½ tsp. of milk and baking powder. Fry fish with desired heating until golden brown. Cool off before serving. Add lemon juice if desired.





OCTOBER

English

**Kaskatinawipîsim**

Northern Michif

**Oktobr**

Southern Michif

**Awktob**

French Michif

METIS  
NATIONAL COUNCIL

**Pumpkin**

English

**Oshâwipak**

Northern Michif

**Enn sitrooy**

Southern Michif

**Aen pomp**

French Michif