



# Métis Nation



April 2017

## Message from the President

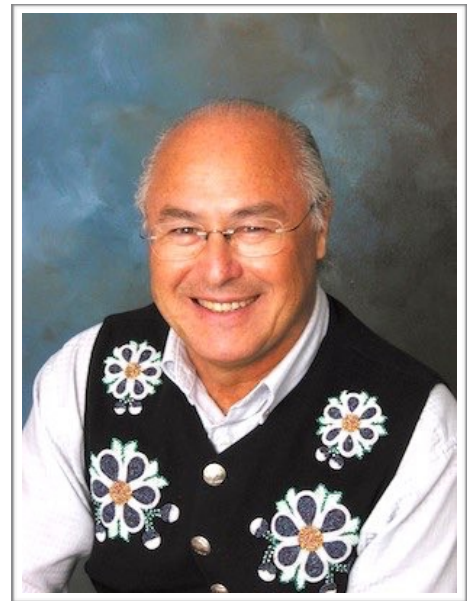
April 14<sup>th</sup> will mark the first anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada's *Daniels* decision. Throughout my travels across the homeland many citizens and leaders ask me: "what does the decision mean and what impact will it have"?

This remains a very relevant question. So are the questions surrounding the Prime Minister's familiar quotes on relations with the Métis Nation: "what does the nation-to-nation relationship with the Métis Nation" mean and "what does Canada-Métis Nation reconciliation" mean.

I hoped that the federal Budget 2017 would help provide answers since Budget 2016 did not have the benefit of the *Daniels* decision. I hoped that the old statements of the 1980s - that even if the Supreme Court ruled that Métis fell within s.91 (24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* the federal government would not have to act on it - would carry no weight with the Trudeau government.

All of the above questions from our people remain unresolved. There remains a big question mark looming over the Trudeau government in regards to its intent in dealing with the Métis Nation. Through Budgets 2016 and 2017, the Trudeau government is making progress on its stated mission to redefine the relationship with Indigenous peoples but that is with regard to its dealings with First Nations and Inuit peoples. The same cannot be said in reference to the Métis Nation.

The Liberal Party 2015 campaign was encouraging for the Métis Nation as there was a commitment to honour the spirit of the Kelowna Accord of 2005. I recall the many hours, days and months which we devoted to achieving the Kelowna Accord. It was a true collaborative effort by Indigenous peoples and the federal and provincial/territorial governments. Its dismissal by the Harper government in 2006, characterizing it as written on the back of a napkin, was truly insulting and marked the beginning of a lost decade in



relations between Canada and the Métis Nation.

Budget 2016 far surpassed the \$5 billion committed in Kelowna by \$3.4 billion for a total of \$8.4 billion for Indigenous peoples. It did include \$25 million for the Métis Nation Economic Development Strategy but little else for the Métis. When I spoke to Minister Morneau about this after Budget 2016, he admitted that he was not made aware of the Kelowna commitments to the Métis Nation.

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Over the intervening months, Finance Minister David Chartrand and I met with Minister Morneau and other Ministers, and also raised the issue with the Prime Minister, and we believed that Budget 2017 would be the Métis Nation's turn to get our fair share of the Kelowna commitments.

Indeed, we were greatly encouraged by the Prime Minister's announcement on December 15, 2016 of a permanent bilateral mechanism on shared priorities with the Métis Nation. This process of engagement of the Métis Nation with the Prime Minister and his Ministers, which will formally begin with a Métis Nation-Crown Summit on April 13, held out hope to address past injustices and resolve our section 35 rights. Indeed, the Trudeau government has signed a Framework Agreement with the MMF and MOUs with other Governing Members toward these ends.

We were also buoyed that this new Canada-Métis Nation bilateral process was characterized by the Prime Minister as a "Kelowna-like process" in its approach to

overcoming entrenched social and economic barriers and establishing new government-to-government fiscal relations with Indigenous governments.

But on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, sitting in the Public Gallery, Minister Chartrand and I were shocked by the almost total absence of Kelowna commitments to the Métis Nation, except for an increase in governance capacity fiscal funding which itself fell far short of what federal government officials told us we would be getting. Out of the \$11.8 billion in federal Indigenous peoples investments in Budgets 2016 and 2017, less than 1% has been allocated to the Métis Nation, which comprises 32% of the Indigenous population.


Moreover, Budget 2017 is sending a strong signal that the federal government does not recognize the governments of the Métis Nation. I find this very discouraging particularly because I have been pushing hard over the past several years that, when dealing with intergovernmental matters, the federal government should only engage with the Métis National Council, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and the

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) as the representatives of their respective peoples, nations or governments.

Budget 2017 recognizes the AFN and self-governing First Nations and the ITK and self-governing Inuit groups. However, for the Métis Nation it simply refers to the Métis National Council and its governing members, and that its budget allocation to the MNC and its governing members is to build our "governance capacity" which will "support collaborative work with the federal government on moving toward Métis self-government and self-determination". In point of fact, it does not even refer to the "Métis Nation" which Budget 2016 did, instead moving back to the general use of the term "Métis". My letter to the Prime Minister dealing with the Budget's failings follows this message and I hope will prompt some remedial action in the lead-up to the Métis Nation-Crown Summit on April 13.

We certainly have been starkly reminded of the challenges we have faced for generations with the Canadian government, sometimes making progress, other times not. Canada appears

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to forget, or perhaps, simply ignores the fact that the Métis Nation through its First Provisional government in the Red River (current day Winnipeg) negotiated, under the leadership of Louis Riel, the entry of the Métis Nation into Confederation through the *Manitoba Act, 1870* and the *Rupert's Land Order, 1870*. It also appears that it has forgotten the Second Provisional government, again led by President Louis Riel, which in 1885 defended its rights against the armies of Canada, leading to the eventual military defeat to superior force both in numbers and equipment. This last battle at Batoche between the Métis Nation and Canada in May 1885 led to the subsequent illegitimate trial of President Riel and his illegal execution on November 16, 1885.

Today, at the site of the former Métis Nation government headquarters and which includes a mass gravesite of Métis patriots killed in battle, sits Parks Canada's Interpretative Centre on sacred Métis land. The Centre's architecture, predominantly glass, appears to be a trophy case for the victor over the vanquished. Occupying land that should rightfully be returned to its rightful owner,

the Métis Nation and its governments.

Pure and simple, the Métis Nation since the late 1800s is no different than other occupied peoples, and in any new relationship with the Canadian state, these historical wrongs must be righted.

We have a lot of unfinished business ahead of us. Whatever the failings of Budgets 2016 and 2017, the political reality is that if we are ever at a point in our history where progress can be made, it is now.

We have the process, some fiscal capacity to participate in it, and close to 2 ½ years left in the Trudeau government's mandate. After that, it is uncertain. We can always hope that the Liberal Party will secure a second mandate, but we must proceed on the basis that all we have is this two-year window of opportunity.

Ultimately, it rests upon our shoulders to negotiate the best accommodation for our people, nation and governments (national and governing members). It is incumbent on our leadership to clearly articulate and define our

existence as a nation, our governments and their jurisdictions.

We must clearly, distinctly and definitively delineate our geographic homeland boundary. The time for pussy-footing around this issue is over. We must move forward and establish the national registry we have been discussing since 2001: one nation, one people, one citizenship.

We must capture our existence as a nation, with its inherent rights of self-government, setting our respective jurisdictions in a Constitution which has been eluding us since 1983.

We must repatriate significant amounts of our traditional territories (land and resources), which will be sufficient to ensure our economic self-sufficiency and independence.

Finally, we must re-establish our national government at the Red River and loudly and proudly declare our self-government through our own inherency and self-determination reflected through a political document of our own choosing. Truly, the time for action is now.





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correspondence from Métis National Council President to Prime Minister

March 27, 2017

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on a matter of utmost importance and urgency. That matter is the failure of the federal Budget to meet the commitments of your government to the Métis Nation.

With record “Indigenous” spending in the past two budgets, we the Métis find ourselves pushed to the margins once again. Out of the \$11.8 billion in federal investments in those budgets, less than 1% or \$138 million has been allocated to the Métis Nation, which comprises 32% of the Indigenous population.


We have heard repeatedly that there is room for the Métis in that broader “Indigenous” spend but the fact remains that out of the \$8.4 billion in 2016, the Métis Nation was allocated \$25 million for economic development and that is almost all we are getting. Out of the \$3.4 billion in 2017, we have been allocated \$113 million for governance support.

That support will help our governments build capacity but what about the resources they need for programs and services to deal with the pressing needs of our people. The language in Budget 2017 gives little hope for these resources to be found. Nowhere are the “Métis Nation” or “Métis communities” referenced or recognized; instead the “Métis” in the document are for the most part lumped in with a wide array of “off-reserve” groups who are to compete for access to limited resources.

Your Ministers will assure us that there is room for the Métis Nation within these broad “off-reserve” programs but we believe the Budget means what it actually says. There are no distinction-based set-asides for the Métis Nation in critical program areas like housing, health, urban and early learning and childcare. How does this square with a nation-to-nation relationship? How does this make sure the Kelowna Accord – and the spirit of reconciliation that drove it – is embraced, and that its objectives are met? How does this reflect the *Daniels* decision? How does this advance reconciliation?

Prime Minister, if we are to have a true nation-to-nation relationship based on trust, respect and cooperation for mutual benefit, we should have an honest discussion on where the Métis Nation stands in Canada’s relationship reset with Indigenous peoples. The Métis people waged two great resistances against Canadian aggression, in 1869-70 in Manitoba and in 1885 in Saskatchewan. For these acts of resistance we were vilified at the time but history has come to recognize them as

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legitimate responses to the unwarranted denial of our fundamental rights by distant governments in Ottawa.

Today, our people confront a new fundamental injustice, the injustice of taxation without representation. Our people work hard, with labour force participation levels not only reaching that of the general population but, among some age cohorts, exceeding that of the general population. And we pay taxes at all levels. We are, by far, your largest source of tax revenue from within the Indigenous population.

We are also a constitutionally recognized Indigenous people with an inherent right to self-government. We have our own governments yet not a dime of our people's tax dollars has ever gone directly to them. Instead our governments must go to federal and provincial governments cap in hand and plead for the resources needed to address the unique challenges faced by our people. And when our governments prove, as they have done repeatedly in matters such as training and employment or business development that they can deliver programs more cost-efficiently and with the best outcomes for their clients, the success of the Métis is used against us.

This situation is simply not acceptable. Since the Métis people and Métis section 35 rights were recognized in the patriated Constitution in 1982, we have been waiting for that recognition to translate into meaningful action. We have waited a long time for our day to come. Now it is the time for our section 35 rights and the nation-to-nation relationship sought by your government to translate into meaningful action in the federal budget for the Métis Nation.

And that, Prime Minister, is what I hope we can discuss at our upcoming Summit on April 13. In the four priority areas for the first year's work - human resources and social development, housing, health and new fiscal relations - we wish to have an honest discussion with you and your Ministers on ways of ensuring that the Budget works for the people of the Métis Nation.

I, and my colleagues on the Métis National Council's Board of Governors, look forward to having that discussion with you.

Yours sincerely,

Clément Chartier QC  
President

c.c.: The Hon. Dr. Bennett, Minister of Indigenous Affairs  
Members of the Métis Nation Board of Governors and General Assembly





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## MRP Resumes Work on Métis Nation Rights-Related Issues

The Métis Rights Panel met in Ottawa on March 14, 2017, to resume work on Métis Nation right-related issues in advance of a Special Sitting of the General Assembly. They covered both internal governance documents as well as examined the unfolding work with the federal government on rights and reconciliation.



Following up on a resolution of the MNC General Assembly in June 2016, the MRP reviewed a draft Declaration on Métis Nation Rights that encompasses the aspirational components of the draft Métis Nation Constitution that has been under review for some time. Its adoption would represent the first step in the adoption of the constitution. The MRP also examined the Acceptance Process, the prospect of integrating the citizenship registries into a national registry, and what remains to be done in this important area of constitutional reform.

The MRP also assessed MNC's work on establishing a Permanent Bilateral Mechanism with the federal government in advance of April 13, 2017 Métis Nation-Crown Summit and looked at the initial terms of reference of the federal Working Group of Ministers on the review of laws and policies related to Indigenous peoples. The Prime Minister announced the establishment of this group of six ministers headed by Minister of Justice Wilson-Raybould in February. It will review relevant federal laws, policies, and operational practices to help ensure the

Crown is meeting its constitutional obligations with respect to Aboriginal and treaty rights; adhering to international human rights standards, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and supporting the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

As chair of the MRP, President Chartier reported on the findings of the MRP meeting at the Special Sitting of the General Assembly on March 18, 2017.





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## Métis Nation Assembly Defines Nation-to-Nation Relationship



On March 19, 2017, the governments of the Métis Nation concluded three days of policy and planning discussions at an economic development forum and a special sitting of the General Assembly in Vancouver.

The Métis Nation Economic Development Forum on March 17 enabled the MNC, its Governing Members and their economic development corporations to review progress

on the Métis Nation Economic Development Strategy since it was funded in the federal budget of 2016. Delegates heard from the MNC on economic policy priorities and from the senior management of capital corporations and economic development funds.

Susanna Cluff-Clyburne of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce spoke to the critical issue of access to capital for Indigenous entrepreneurs which

is identified as one of the top “Ten Ways to Build a Canada that Wins 2017”, a recent report of the Chamber. Murray Rowe, Jr., the President of the Forrest Green Group of Companies and JP Beupre, Sr. Manager Global Partnerships BlackBerry, addressed the topic of big data and its use in solutions for some of the key social and economic challenges facing the Métis Nation.

The conference also focused on

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a “New Way for Doing Major Resource Development Projects”. Kathy Hodgson-Smith and Kyle Vermette of the Métis Nation and Brian McGuigan, Manager Aboriginal Policy, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers spoke on Duty to Consult and Major Projects Approval. Al Benoit of the Manitoba Metis Federation set out the consultation and economic accommodation plan that is being advanced by the MMF in its dealing with the Province and industry.

The forum identified a number of critical issues and related solutions which are expected to be taken up as resolutions of the MNC General Assembly. This approach encourages the Metis Nation to work with Canada and through the whole-of-government approach of the federal government to:

- reset the relationship of the Métis Nation and its economic development corporations with the Business Development Bank Canada (BDC) to ensure an equitable part of BDC Aboriginal Business funding is invested in Métis Nation economic development corporations;

- extend federal small business loan guarantees to loans made by Métis capital corporations and economic development funds to their clients;

- expand the capital base of Métis Nation equity capital providers;

- expand and strengthen the federal procurement strategy and tools to include mandatory minimum Indigenous content requirements in larger federal procurements;

- establish a federal policy framework to encourage companies in the federally regulated sector to adopt Indigenous procurement policies to support Métis Nation business development; and

- expand the scope of work under the Strategy to include Métis Nation initiatives on clean growth and housing.

Delegates also considered the prospect of convening a fourth Métis Economic Development Symposium (MEDS IV) including the five westernmost provinces and industry

representatives to advance development of the Métis Nation Economic Development Strategy.

The Special Sitting of the General Assembly, March 18 – 19, 2017, took up the task of defining the nation-to-nation relationship being pursued by the Trudeau government with the Métis Nation. MNC President Chartier elaborated on the critical elements of this new relationship in his keynote address. Delegates also reviewed the draft Canada-Métis Nation Agreement to Advance Reconciliation which is expected to be signed by the Prime Minister and Métis Nation leadership at the upcoming Métis Nation-Crown Summit on April 13, 2017. The MNC Governing Members provided updates on their regional tables on section 35 rights and claims resolution.

Delegates also reviewed another key part of the new relationship with Ottawa, the inclusion of the Métis Nation in climate change and clean growth planning with the federal and provincial governments. Kathy Hodgson-Smith and Kyle Vermette provided delegates with an update on activities

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since the Prime Minister and President Chartier signed a joint statement following the meeting of First Ministers and leaders of the MNC, AFN and ITK on December 9, 2016, and launched a process for ongoing engagement on clean growth and climate change.

The Assembly adopted a resolution to jointly establish with Canada a Canada-Metis Nation Table on Climate Change for the purposes of ensuring full, meaningful and leadership engagement in the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Strategy on Climate Change.



President Chartier also informed delegates that the MNC Board of Governors has set the date for the MNC General Assembly for April

28-29, 2017 in Winnipeg, with the election of national President on April 28.

Download Métis Nation Economic Development Policy Forum Presentations:

<http://www.metisnation.ca/index.php/news/metis-nation-assembly-takes-steps-to-define-nation-to-nation-relationship>





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## Métis Nation and Minister of Health Philpott Discuss Métis Health Issues

On March 8, MNC Health Minister Clara Morin Dal Col, joined by President Chartier, met with federal Health Minister Jane Philpott in Ottawa today to discuss a number of Métis Nation health priorities in advance of the Métis Nation-Crown Summit with the Prime Minister in the weeks ahead.

Health care is one of the priorities of the Métis Nation as it heads into the first of the Métis Nation-Crown Summits anticipated under the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism announced by the Prime Minister in December 2016. The Métis Nation has been working with Minister Philpott's officials in the past few months on a plan to renew the relationship of the Métis Nation with Health Canada and develop a plan for cooperation on critical Métis health issues in time for the Summit with the Prime Minister.

The Minister responded positively to a strategic health sector plan advanced by the MNC and expressed the wish to



pursue a whole-of-department approach to work on Métis Nation health issues. This would involve the department itself as well as agencies under its authority such as Public Health Agency of Canada collaborating with the Métis Nation to get a handle on problems such as chronic diseases through research, surveillance and treatment.

The Minister and Métis Nation leaders also discussed the potential for action under the national health accord talks

between the federal and provincial governments in which the Métis Nation, First Nations and Inuit have been engaged. Those accords provide for new federal investments in mental health, home care, pharmacare and innovation. Minister Philpott said she would be interested in seeing Métis Nation models for home care. She was also open to a suggestion by President Chartier to engage the five westernmost provinces in discussions on health issues with the Métis Nation.





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## MMF Prepares for Self-Government

Having recently entered into negotiations with the federal government to settle the historic Métis Nation land claim in Manitoba further to the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *MMF v Canada* in 2013, the Manitoba Metis Federation held an important MMF Government Summit in Winnipeg on March 10-12, 2017. The Summit, bringing together the leadership of the Manitoba Metis from the local, regional and provincial levels, comprised a series of presentations and workshops that will further the understanding of delegates of the issues involved in the next step in the construction of Métis government in Manitoba.

After an overview of the Summit by MMF President David Chartrand, Métis lawyer and author Jean Teillet presented on the historic evolution and boundaries of the Métis Nation. MMF Chief of Staff Al Benoit and lawyer Murry Trachtenberg addressed




David Chartrand, MMF President

the current government structure and the MMF constitution which are expected to be strengthened by self-government arrangements that will be part of the land claims agreement. Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, Past President, University of Winnipeg and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, approached the topic of Métis government in Manitoba from a national and international perspective,

advising delegates on the challenges and opportunities they will face in the development of their self-government system.

MNC President Chartier spoke on the implications of the Daniels decision on Canada-Métis Nation relations and Métis self-government. MNC policy advisors John Weinstein and Marc LeClair focused on

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how federal responsibilities for dealing with the Métis Nation are being approached and clarified through the permanent bilateral process that the Prime Minister has established with the Métis Nation. Métis lawyer Jason Madden and Al Benoit spoke on the negotiations process that the MMF has entered into with Canada through the Framework Agreement that was signed by INAC Minister Bennett and President Chartrand in November 2016 and the next steps toward reconciliation. Much of the three day conference was spent in breakout sessions in which delegates explored the concepts and issues on the table as MMF



l-r: Clément Chartier, John Weinstein, Marc LeClair

advances in its talks with the federal government. The findings of these sessions were summarized and will definitely find their way into the process as the Métis Nation in Manitoba moves toward self-government.



Al Benoit



Jean Teillet





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## Métis Nation and Federal Justice Minister Begin Discussions on Federal Laws and Policies


MNC President Chartier and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, met in Ottawa on March 21, 2017, to begin the dialogue on how the Métis Nation will participate in the federal government's review of laws and policies related to Indigenous Peoples.

In February, as part of the government's commitment to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the establishment of a Working Group of Ministers responsible for the review who will examine relevant federal laws, policies, and operational practices to help ensure the Crown is meeting its constitutional obligations with respect to Aboriginal and treaty rights; adhering to international human rights standards, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and supporting the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Minister of Justice Wilson-Raybould is chairing the Working Group, which will comprise six ministers who have significant responsibilities for the relevant statutes and policies to be reviewed. Supported by the Privy Council Office, the working group will comprise:

- ♣ The Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
- ♣ The Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
- ♣ The Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada (Chair)
- ♣ The Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Health
- ♣ The Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
- ♣ The Hon. James Gordon Carr, Minister of Natural Resources

As its first order of business, the Working Group is developing a work plan and principles, which will reflect a whole-of-government approach that addresses all Indigenous Peoples. In this context, the Minister and President Chartier had a broad discussion of the many statutory and policy areas where Métis Nation interests and rights had been overlooked in the past and where remedial action is needed.





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## National Parks Focus of Talks with Federal Environment Minister and Indigenous Leaders



AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Minister Catherine McKenna, MNC President Clément Chartier and ITK President Natan Obed

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna met with leaders of the Métis Nation, First Nations and Inuit in Ottawa on March 21, 2017 as part of the Minister's mandate under the Parks Canada Agency Act to hold a roundtable every two years to seek input from

Canadians on matters for which Parks Canada is responsible. President Chartier was joined by AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde and ITK President Natan Obed in the discussions.

Parks Canada is seeking to strengthen its relationships with First Nations, Inuit, and

the Métis Nation to enhance the protection of Canada's national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas and also enable the presentation of Indigenous cultures in ways that greatly enrich visitor experiences and empower Indigenous Peoples to share

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their stories with Canadians and visitors from around the world. It sees this work contributing to the government's approach to reconciliation by helping to strengthen Indigenous connections with traditionally used lands and waters, expanding presentation and commemoration of Indigenous histories and cultures, and increasing economic opportunities related to Indigenous tourism.



However, it became evident at the meeting that this vision of Parks Canada is far from being realized for the citizens of the Métis Nation and that, in some cases, Parks policy toward the Métis has worsened. Citizenship cards of some Governing Members that had at one time secured admission into national parks without admittance fees are no longer being recognized.

President Chartier called on the Minister to end Canada's occupation of the Métis Nation's sacred historic site of Batoche. Ministerial Special Representative Tom Isaac in his report on Métis section 35 rights and reconciliation highlighted the injustice of

Métis being forced to pay a fee to visit this sacred site:

*While in Batoche attending the Back to Batoche Days celebration in July 2015, I also visited the mass gravesite of fallen Métis fighters of the North-West Resistance at the Batoche Historical Site which is an impressive and historically significant site. It is disturbing that Métis must pay an admittance fee to get into the very historical site where their ancestors perished defending their rights and way of life. This is something that Canada should correct.*

The displacement of Métis from traditional lands in national parks has not been addressed and remains one of many contentious issues that

hampers relations between Parks Canada and the Métis Nation. Parks Canada has been receiving substantial amounts of funding out of Powley funds that are meant to be used for the Métis Nation registries and its cultural programming has been developed without the input of the Métis Nation. Furthermore, while there have been isolated instances of Métis Nation participation in economic opportunity in the national parks, such as the involvement of the Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis subcontractors in the twinning of the Trans Mountain pipeline through Jasper National Park in 2004, these opportunities have been few and far between.





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## President Chartier attends Métis Nation Governing Assembly

On March 24-26<sup>th</sup>, President Chartier attended the Métis Nation British Columbia MNGA for the first time. Vice-President Chartrand was also in attendance for the first day and brought greetings on behalf of the Métis government in Manitoba of which he is the President. The message was one of hope and that hard work, cooperation and dedication worked well in Manitoba with phenomenal success from the low points in the mid-90s to a thriving government today. The same it was said could take place with the Métis in British Columbia under the leadership of MNBC.

At the start of the session, the Senate along with President Morin dal Col presented the new youth representatives with the sash previously adopted for the youth council members.

In President Chartier's address on the morning of March 25<sup>th</sup> he stressed the existence of the Métis Nation as a deeply rooted fact in western Canada and through generations of persistence we are now at a crossroads in finally achieving



our rightful place in Canada. That it was only because of this strength and determination that we are even at the table in a distinctions-based approach.

President Chartier also informed them on Budget 2017 and the disappointment flowing from the continued marginalization of the Métis Nation in federal government budgets and the negative signal it gives for the pending negotiations with the federal government.

Finally President Chartier spoke about the role that Métis Nation

Veterans played in the Two World Wars and the outstanding recognition and compensation Canada owes to the few remaining WWII Métis Nation Veterans and a recent letter sent to all Members of Parliament and Senators on this outstanding matter.

He also announced that he and Finance Minister Chartrand have committed to assist MNBC in its fundraising to get several Veterans to the Vimy Ridge ceremony in Ottawa on April 9<sup>th</sup>.







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## Métis Nation Hosts United Nations Body



From March 2-4, 2017 the Métis Nation hosted the Expert Mechanism of Indigenous Issues (EMRIP) at the Métis National Council's boardroom.

Five members of EMRIP were present as well as two support personnel. On the first day, President Chartier provided some welcoming remarks as well as an overview of the Métis

Nation and some of the issues faced and some of the aspirations and goals of the Métis Nation.

EMRIP holds two weeks of hearings/sessions at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland from both Indigenous peoples and governments. As part of its work, EMRIP makes

recommendations to the United Nations Social and Economic Council on Indigenous rights and engagement within the United Nations system.

Chief Willie Littlechild from Alberta who has been on the EMRIP body for the past few years was also in attendance as he finishes his term.





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## Métis Nation Rights Addressed by UN Body During Visit to Ottawa



On March 3, 2017, MNC President Chartier briefed members of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at a meeting today in the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec.

The engagement with the Métis Nation is part of pre-session planning of the agenda for the 16th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which involves all UN member states and is scheduled to take

place at United Nations Headquarters in New York (April 24-May 5, 2017).

The Permanent Forum is a high-level advisory body to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It has the mandate to tackle Indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. The member states of the Permanent Forum meet annually in New York for a

two-week period with an agenda that covers a wide scope of Indigenous issues.

Prior to each full session, a member state agrees to host a pre-session planning meeting. The pre-session involves the participation of the 16 members who oversee the Permanent Forum and its secretariat. Last year, Canada offered to host this 2017 pre-session.





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## Open letter

March 21, 2017

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and members of the Senate and Commons.

Former Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Senator Murray Sinclair, spoke in Toronto yesterday on the progress being made by the federal government on the 94 Calls to Action of the TRC Commission in 2015. Unfortunately, there was no reference to progress being made by the federal government in addressing the exclusion of Métis residential schools from the residential school settlement agreement.


We are approaching the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada's public apology to former Indian Residential School students made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper on June 11, 2008 in the House of Commons. On that day, I witnessed the apology on behalf of those Métis students who were "fortunate" enough to have attended an Indian residential school as opposed to a Métis residential school. In my address to the Commons, I made it explicitly clear that the Métis Nation had not been included and that our situation also needed to be dealt with.

Therefore, I call on you at this time to respond to two modest "Calls to Action" of the Métis Nation: accord the same respect, recognition and compensation to the survivors/victims of Métis Residential Schools as was done for Indian residential schools' survivors; and deal fairly and honourably with our World War II Métis Nation Veterans. These are two legacy issues of our time of great moral importance that call out for redress and it is within your power to act.

### Métis Residential Schools:

While we have been excluded from the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (2006), Canada's apology and the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its subsequent 94 Calls to Action, we continue to "call" on Canada, and this Liberal-led federal government to do what is right and just for all Indigenous residential schools, and in our case Métis Nation residential schools. Rampant physical, psychological and sexual abuse extant in these institutions did not discriminate on the basis of whether one was Inuit, First Nations or Métis.

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The federal government, Canada's national representative authority, is ultimately responsible for whatever takes place within its borders, and its policy of assimilation did not stop where it's funding stopped. In the final analysis, it does not matter which level of government may have paid the churches to enforce this federal assimilation policy, it was a federal policy and the federal government must take responsibility.

In my travels across the Métis Nation, I often get asked if the federal government is waiting for us, the survivors, to die so the problem goes away. I pass this question on their behalf to you. Only you can provide the answer.

#### World War II Métis Nation Veterans:

They answered the "call" of their time; many made it home, many didn't. They served their country. They made their sacrifices. Many made the ultimate sacrifice- their lives. They made their families and people proud. They helped liberate millions of citizens from the ravages of war and occupation.

Tragically, the country they served has not served them well. All Second World War veterans except the Métis have been dealt with. By the hundreds, Métis Nation WWII Veterans have died while seeing their campaign for redress from Canada ignored or outright denied. Not many more dozens are still alive today. They are still waiting. The families of those who have left us are still waiting.

Please don't wait until the last Métis Nation WWII Veteran dies to take corrective action.

#### Conclusion:


While the Métis Nation can articulate many other "calls to action", which we may in the future, these two are the most pressing. The land and most of our natural resources will last but the vast majority of Métis residential schools survivors are entering their 70s, 80s and 90s and the lifespan of our WWII veterans is rapidly coming to an end.

While it is commendable that action is being directed at issues like name changes to buildings, hopefully at least one member of the Commons or Senate will take action on these two "Calls".

Yours sincerely,

Clément (Clem) Chartier QC  
President  
AKA, 46, Ile a la Crosse Métis Residential School

c.c. Members of the Métis Nation Board of Governors and General Assembly





April 2017

## Mary JEDDRY

### *Obituary*



Mary Adele Johnson Jeddry  
December 9, 1941 – March  
14, 2017

In a quiet room filled with love, a woman of great intellect, compassion and courage passed away peacefully. Mary, our mother, our grandmother, our friend, our hero passed as she lived; on her terms, with great

courage and quiet dignity. Our beautiful memories are filled with summer days, stories of the North, walks in the woods, tea, books, baked bread, laughs and quiet times together. She taught us to be generous with our time and that the physical is so very temporary. Be good to people, show compassion for those hurting or lost, have courage, don't be afraid of being spontaneous, love your family with all you have, see beauty all around us and find peace there. She joins her loving husband Luke Jeddry, her beloved sisters Irene, Malvina, Julia, dear brothers Norman and Paul, her parents Margaret and Napoleon and especially one of her closest friends, Moz.

Heaven is truly a more beautiful and brighter place. In lieu of flowers, her children request, you honour her by doing things within your influence to support and promote the important work towards the inclusion of the Ile a la Crosse School in the Canadian Residential School acknowledgements. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Paul's Co- Cathedral, 720 Spadina Crescent East, on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. To share condolences and memories, visit [www.parkfuneral.ca](http://www.parkfuneral.ca) "Obituaries-Contribute". Arrangements are entrusted to Kari Peters, Park Funeral Home, 306.244.2103.

Source: Saskatoon StarPhoenix

[http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thestarphoenix/obituary.aspx?  
page=lifestory&pid=184534061](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thestarphoenix/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=184534061)





April 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge April 9-12 Vimy Ridge, France
- Métis Nation-Crown Summit April 13 Ottawa, ON
- Opening Performance of Louis Riel Opera April 20 Toronto, ON
- Hearing Riel - An Interdisciplinary Symposium April 21 Toronto, ON
- United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues April 24-May 5 New York, NY
- MNC General Assembly and Election April 28-29 Winnipeg, MB



**2017: Promoting Métis Nation Families**





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