



# Métis Nation



December 2017

## Métis Nation and Finance Minister Morneau Hold Pre-Budget Consultations



On November 21, 2017, President Chartier and Vice-President David Chartrand met with the federal finance Minister in Ottawa to look at Métis Nation priorities for the upcoming federal budget.

“The meeting was a timely opportunity for the Minister and the Métis Nation to see how the priorities under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord can be translated into

meaningful action”, said President Chartier. “In addition to Métis Nation social and economic programs and services we wish to see addressed in the federal budget, we also had a chance to discuss a new government-to-government fiscal relationship.”

The Canada-Métis Nation Accord identifies housing, early learning and child care, skills development, health,

scholarships and bursaries, and Métis Nation educational institutions as first-year priorities. These have been the focus of much of the work at the ministerial and officials level since the Métis Nation leadership and Prime Minister Trudeau signed the Accord in April 2017. They are also the focus of most of the Métis Nation proposals for funding under Budget 2018 expected in March of next year.





# December 2017

## Métis Nation's Economic Plan and Gender Equity Discussed at Minister Morneau's Roundtable in Toronto




As part of the federal government's consultations for Budget 2018, Minister of Finance Bill Morneau held a roundtable at University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management's Institute for Gender and the Economy on November 23, 2017. Participants discussed how the Government can take further action to ensure that all Canadians—men and women—have an equal opportunity to thrive and succeed in Canada's economy.

President Chartier participated in the roundtable a few days after he and MNC Finance Minister Chartrand met with the federal Finance Minister in Ottawa to discuss the Métis Nation's Budget 2018 investment proposals. President Chartier told the roundtable:

“A critical factor in ensuring budgets and economic planning work toward reducing gender disparities is representation of women in governance structures.

We in the Métis Nation have been fortunate in that respect because that representation occurred naturally... A majority of the members of our national assembly have been female as are three of our five provincial presidents. The priorities we have set for the Métis Nation in our dealing with other governments are meant to improve the quality of life of all Métis but are particularly important for addressing the needs of women.”

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President Chartier observed that the priorities being pursued under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord and the proposals put forward to the Minister of Finance for budgetary consideration reflect the interests of the Métis Nation as a whole and will have a particular impact on women. These include federal investments in Métis Nation early learning and child care, health, education, housing, employment and training, and child and family services.

One of the Métis Nation institutions that would benefit from the Métis Nation's

proposal for investment in education, the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatchewan, has graduated 1,238 students with university degrees in education under its SUNTEP program, the vast majority being women and many of them single mothers. Of the SUNTEP graduates, 978 have become teachers. Thus far in their careers, they have provided a total of 14,187 person years of teaching and a total social benefit of \$7.0 billion to the province. Without this program, many of these women faced limited opportunities and prospects in life.

According to President Chartier:

“Our Métis Nation strives to replicate this success in other areas and is very conscious of persistent income inequalities between males and females.... We are hopeful that our work with the Prime Minister and Minister Morneau will bear fruit and enhance opportunities for Métis women and the Métis Nation as a whole.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |  |           |               |
|--|-----------|---------------|
| • Métis Nation Environment Committee Meeting | Dec 5-6   | Vancouver, BC |
| • FPT Ministers Forum on Human Rights        | Dec 11    | Ottawa, ON    |
| • MNC Special Sitting of General Assembly    | Dec 12-13 | Ottawa, ON    |





November 2017

## Message from the President

The era of reconciliation, including compensation for wrongs and public apologies, appears to be gaining more and more traction, and rightly so.

For the Métis Nation though, the question remains: when will it be our turn? The list of horrors and inequities faced by our people can fill a book in itself: the trauma of being dispossessed from our lands and marginalized in our homeland; making outlaws of us when we practice our traditional harvesting practices to feed and clothe our families; having our homes burned down; being forced to move from place to place within our homeland; denial of recognition and compensation for our World War II Veterans; exclusion from the residential schools settlement agreement, Canada's apology, the mandate of the TRC and its outcome recommendations and 94 call to action; decades of continuing exclusion from federal government programs and services available to First Nations and Inuit peoples; exclusion from Budgets 2016 and 2017 amongst others. What about us?

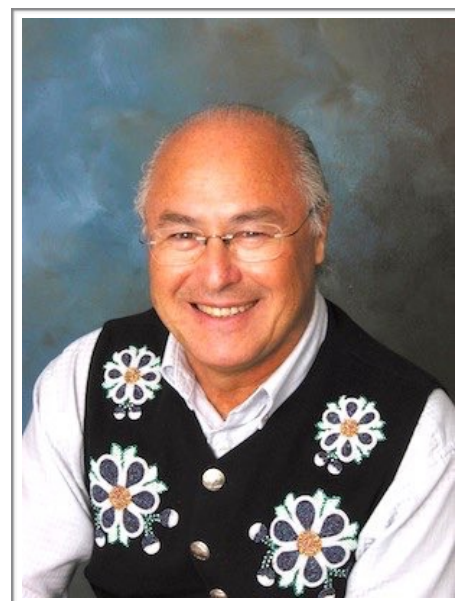
Over the past few days, apologies have been issued to former Inuit and Innu students of residential schools in Newfoundland and

Labrador and to the LGBTQ community. These are good, yes, and we support that. But for all the good that Canada does for others, it deepens the pain for Métis Nation citizens.

Compensation has also been provided to a number of individuals who Canada feels have been wronged. Again, this raises questions in the Métis community of why not us, and when will Canada not only address the past wrongs against us both individually and collectively, but when will they compensate for those past egregious actions perpetrated against us?

True we now have a federal government which is dealing with the Métis Nation on a distinctions-based, nation-to-nation relationship coupled with Métis Nation-specific processes. We also have a Prime Minister and Ministers of Cabinet who are open to addressing our issues. This is all well and good as far as processes and relationships go, but when will these translate into concrete measures?

Budget 2018 is fast approaching and, in the final analysis, the test of this new relationship and promises for change will be evidenced by the



details of that budget and whether the work of the past two years with the federal government and the inclusion at last of the government's commitment to fulfill the Kelowna Accord is met for the Métis Nation.

If Budget 2018 is not the Métis Nation's turn, that will cast a very dark shadow on the sincerity of the federal government's commitment to the Métis Nation and the value or lack thereof of the new nation-to-nation relationship, including the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism and the Canada-Métis Nation Accord signed between the Métis Nation leadership and Prime Minister Trudeau in April of this year.





## December 2017

# President Chartier Defines Key Elements of new Canada-Métis Nation Relationship at Policy Conference in Ottawa

At a policy conference exploring the characteristics of the nation-to-nation relationships being established by Canada with the Métis Nation, First Nations and Inuit, MNC President Clément Chartier defined the characteristics and how they evolved from the perspective of the Métis Nation. President Chartier presented his ideas, along with National Chief Perry Bellegarde and President Natan Obed of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, on the first day of a Summit hosted by the Institute on Governance and Canadians for a New Partnership at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, November 27-28, 2017.

The Summit is the culmination of a series of four dialogue




forums held across the country in 2017 with thought leaders and practitioners with a vested interest in a renewed relationship to discuss the progress and impediments to date, with a view to drawing conclusions for all of the parties

moving forward. Earlier discussions focused on the following topics: nation building and nation re-building; jurisdiction; intergovernmental fiscal relationships; and wealth creation.

See President Chartier's Presentation on Characteristics of a Nation-to-Nation Relationship.

<http://www.metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Métis-Nation-Presentation-on-Nation-to-Nation-Relationship-.pdf>





December 2017

## Métis Nation rights recognition seen as foundation for inclusive economic growth

Métis Nation leaders and legal experts examine economic reconciliation at Public Policy Forum in Winnipeg on November 8, 2017.

In partnership with the National Indigenous Economic Development Board, the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the Public Policy Forum presented a conference focused on what reconciliation and inclusive economic growth can mean for the Métis Nation and Canada. The event was the second in a three-part series of conferences focused on Reconciliation and Inclusive Economic Growth. The first, held in Ottawa in February, focused on First Nations. An Inuit-centred conference is planned for March 2018 in Inuvik.

The University of Winnipeg was the site of the Métis Nation focused conference. MNC President Chartier and MMF



President David Chartrand each presented ideas on how rights recognition and reconciliation can stimulate economic development and growth for the Métis Nation. They were joined by lawyer Tom Isaac, the former Ministerial Special Representative on Canada-Métis Nation reconciliation, and Métis lawyer Jason Madden who explained the legal concepts and cases that are helping to shape the foundation of economic reconciliation for the Métis Nation.

MMF Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Jack Parke presented on how the MMF has leveraged Métis Nation rights recognition into significant procurement opportunities with Manitoba Hydro and pipeline giant Enbridge through joint ventures with major contractors on projects like the Bipole III transmission line and Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement Program. The conference also featured panel discussions with insights and ideas from Métis women business leaders and Métis Nation youth leaders.





December 2017

## MNC at UN Climate Change Conference in Germany

*by Dawn Pritchard, Advisor, MNC*

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place November 6-17 in Bonn, Germany, presided over by Fiji. Representatives of the Metis Nation were invited to be part of Canada's delegation. Will Goodon attended on behalf of President Chartier, in addition to Al Benoit and Dawn Pritchard as the technical expert.

The MNC team worked to help launch the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. This Platform was established at the Paris Conference of the Parties and can be found at paragraph 135 of the Paris Decision1/CP.21.

The Platform can be a vehicle for the voices of Indigenous peoples to be heard. Indigenous people, including the Metis live and work on the land. Our cultures are rooted in the land.




Indigenous people see the results and the impacts of climate change sooner than many living in urban centres.

The MNC delegation attended caucus meetings with the International Indigenous

Peoples Forum on Climate Change, worked to develop negotiating positions and observed informal negotiating sessions. The MNC and Canada worked together to develop negotiating positions and Canada worked hard to

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represent the Metis Nation's interests.

In addition to working on launching the Platform, Will Goodon and Al Benoit met with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada to address important issues impacting the Metis Nation. These included reinforcing the government to government, nation to nation relationship between Canada and the Metis Nation; building capacity in order for the Metis Nation to address climate change, as well as updating the Minister on the Pathways Program.

In addition, to the Nation to Nation meeting, the Metis representatives participated in a multilateral parties meeting with the Minister.

Finally, Canada hosted a side event at the Conference entitled, "Indigenous Leadership in Climate Action in Canada". The multilateral panel included Minister McKenna and Indigenous peoples' representatives. Dawn Pritchard, on behalf of

President Chartier, noted that the Metis National Council represents the Metis Nation across its traditional homeland in the heart of North America. She noted that the Metis Nation is prepared to do its share in addressing climate change and clean energy in the spirit of reconciliation. She also stated that President Chartier signed an Accord with Prime Minister Trudeau and that the Metis Nation will work with the federal government on a nation to nation, government to government basis through the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism. As for means to address climate change, she gave one example in which the Metis Nation is bringing innovative green housing to Indigenous communities. Finally, she said that the launching of the Indigenous Peoples Platform is a first step and sets the stage for continuing participation of the Metis Nation in climate change discussions.

The decision to begin operationalizing the Platform was approved by COP23. It will be a means to deliver knowledge

and promote the exchange of experiences and best practices respecting traditional knowledge and climate change. The Platform references UNDRIP and takes into account the free, prior and informed consent of the knowledge holders, and their innovations and practices. It should be a means to engage Indigenous peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process. It is a first step towards greater engagement not only with the Metis Nation, but with Indigenous peoples across the globe.







December 2017

## Dr. Frank Tough Honoured



On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the York University, Department of Geography at its annual awards presentation and reception honoured Professor Tough with its 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

In his acceptance speech Frank spoke of his many experiences and particularly stressed his

positive working relationship with the Métis Nation from research collaboration to acting as an expert witness in a number of Métis rights test cases.

In an emotional conclusion, Professor Tough stated that his most memorable moment was when Clem Chartier called him

and informed him that we had won the *R. v. Morin and Daigneault* fishing rights case in 1996, in which he was an expert witness. A case in northwest Saskatchewan which was won at great odds he felt, as it was all done on a volunteer basis with no budget and at a time where Métis rights had not yet been established.





December 2017

## President Chartier Attends Indigenous Meeting in Peru




President Chartier attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Inca/Andean Indigenous peoples in Tinta, Peru which was initiated by leaders of CONIAP (a national Indian organization in Peru) who attended the Batoche Days in

2011 where they signed a Treaty with the Métis Nation.

These leaders were so impressed with the thousands of Métis Nation citizens attending the Batoche Days celebrations and the Sunday commemoration at

the mass gravesite that upon returning home decided to organize a similar initiative and chose November 4<sup>th</sup> as their day to gather their Andean Nation living throughout Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and other surrounding countries. That day was

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selected as it was the date several centuries ago that Tupac Amaru II called for expelling the Spanish from their lands, a call to liberation.

The following May, Tupac Amaru, his wife Micaela Bastidas and their five year old son after capture were publically executed in the public square in the nearby city of Cuzco. This, they say is similar to the Métis Nation resistance and defence of our lands and the battle of Batoche and the execution of our national leader, Louis Riel.

President Chartier was present at their first gathering in November 2011 and this was his fourth time participating in their event. The participants arrive early and participate in a

meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to discuss issues confronting them, as well as discuss the potential for getting organized at the Americas-level.

The Assembly of First Nations and the Métis Nation have been participating in these discussions and we are moving closer to organizing an American Council of Indigenous Peoples composed of leaders from South, Central and North America and the Caribbean. This we are hopeful will happen in April 2018 in Lima, Peru where the Organization of American States is holding their next Summit of the Americas composed of Prime Ministers and Presidents from all countries within the Americas.



*President Chartier and Victor Machaca*

At this gathering on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Indigenous leaders of the Andes formed an organization to represent their peoples, and going forward they plan to include other Indigenous leaders from the Amazon areas of their countries as well as Indigenous peoples from other South American countries.

They have also agreed to participate in the Americas-wide Indigenous leaders organization and will host the meeting in Lima next April.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the ceremonies included speeches from dignitaries and a parade of marching bands and numerous organizations and school children.





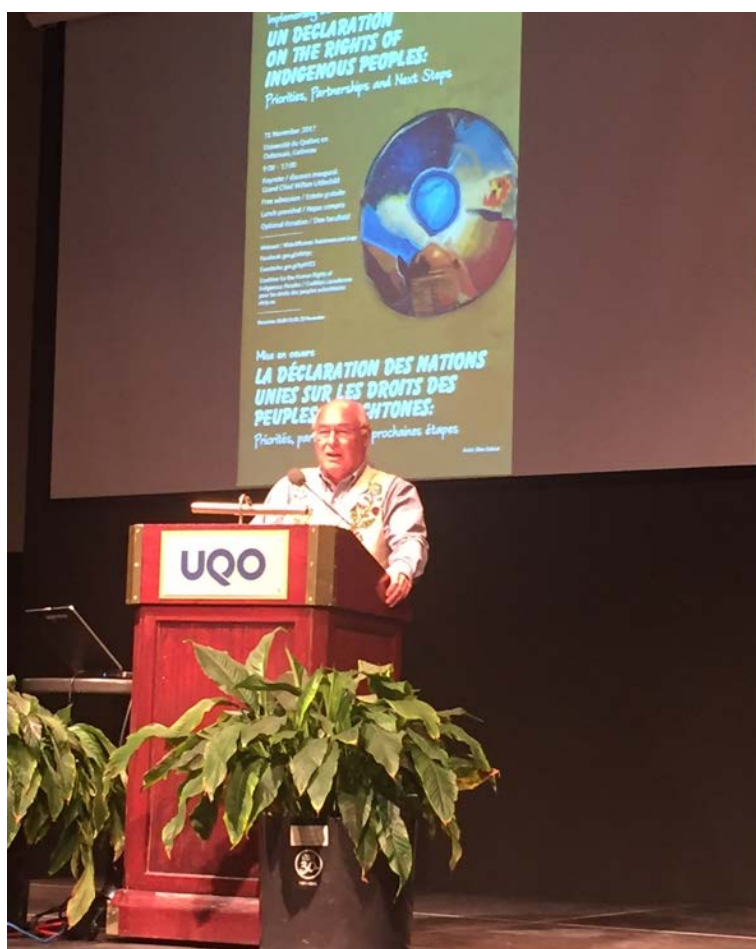
December 2017

## Forum Held to Mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

On November 20, 2017 President Chartier attended the event to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration, as did National Chief Perry Bellegarde and President Natan Obed.


Also at the session were Ministers Jody Wilson Raybould and Carolyn Bennett. Minister Wilson Raybould in her address to the forum announced that the federal government has decided to support the private members bill put forward by Romeo Saganash of the NDP dealing with the implementation of the Declaration by the federal government.

In his speech to the participants President Chartier spoke to the long journey it took to finally have the Declaration adopted in 2007, a journey which began in 1982 with the decision by the UN to establish a Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The creation of the Working Group was prompted by the first meeting ever of Indigenous peoples at



the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland in 1977 where a call was made by Indigenous peoples for the UN to deal with the rights of Indigenous peoples.

In his address, President Chartier also called upon the two ministers to endorse the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the Organization of American States in June 2016.





# December 2017

## President Chartier attends MNS PMC Retreat

On November 28, 2017 President Chartier attended the second day of a two retreat on governance at Manitou Beach held by the MNS Provincial Métis Council. Also in attendance for the two days was Dale LeClair, MNC Chief of Staff.



meetings with Finance Minister Morneau, the current asks based on this years priority items in the PBM process and the hopes that Budget 2018 will be the Métis Nation budget year, coupled with the Kelowna Accord 2005 commitments which eluded us in Budgets 2016 and 2017.



*Dale LeClair, MNC Chief of Staff*

leadership of the Métis Nation an Accord which sets out the process and the negotiations agenda.

President Chartier also provided an overview of the recent

President Chartier also stayed for the PMC meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> and spoke to the PMC leaders on a number of critical issues which will need to be addressed over the next few months including matters to be raised at the December 12-13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Ottawa.

President Chartier made an hour and a half presentation on the history of the Métis Nation, the challenges facing the Métis Nation and the current nation-to-nation relationship, based on a distinctions-based approach with the federal government.

President Chartier also spoke about the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism, the signing in April by the Prime Minister and the





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# Lest We Forget: Métis Veterans Remembered at Ile a la Crosse



were made, a luncheon was held at the high school gymnasium.

Here the invited dignitaries, village leaders and students were able to speak to the great contributions made by their Veterans and express hope for a better future which these veterans sacrificed so much to help us achieve.

President Chartier while in northwest Saskatchewan to continue the Poitras, Myette and Boyer trial in Meadow Lake once again had the opportunity to participate in the village's annual November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day tribute to the many WWI, WWII and Korean War Veterans who served their country and the world.

Veterans. Following the outdoor ceremony where brief speeches

Unfortunately, all Veterans from Ile a la Crosse who served in those wars have now left this world. Nevertheless, despite the cold, many turned out carrying pictures of their family member





December 2017

## Hunting and Fishing Trials Continue in Meadow Lake



*Left to right: Oliver Poitras, Clem, Warren Boyer, Kathy, Billy Myette, Dwayne, front guy, Johnny Poitras (witness)*

On November 14-15, 2017 the combined trials of Oliver Poitras, Billy Myette and Warren Boyer continued with the Crown calling their expert witness and two resource officers to rebut the evidence but in by the defence, including that of our experts.

The case was adjourned to December 15<sup>th</sup> for a brief appearance by phone to finalize a few technical matters which will end the cases for the Crown and the Defence. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the dates for exchanging written briefs of law and for final argument will be set.

The Defendants are represented by the Métis Legal Research and Education Foundation lawyers Kathy Hodgson-Smith and Clem Chartier, joined by Dwayne "Trudeau" Roth of the Fort McKay Métis Community in Alberta.





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