



# Métis Nation



August 2019

## Métis Nation Second World War Heroes Honoured at Ceremonies in BC and Saskatchewan

— Order of the Métis Nation bestowed on Métis Nation veterans who are among first to receive benefits from the Métis Veterans Recognition Payment Agreement.



MNC President Chartier and Minister of Veterans Affairs David Chartrand visited three Métis Nation veterans of the Second World War from July 15-17, 2019, and joined with the veterans, their families and communities in ceremonies

honouring the contributions of these Métis Nation heroes. Each was awarded the Order of the Métis Nation and provided with a cheque for \$20,000, making them among the first to receive these benefits under the recently concluded \$30 million Canada-

Métis Nation Métis Veterans Recognition Payment Agreement.

On July 15, the MNC leaders and MNBC's President Clara Morin Dal Col and Vice-President and Minister of

Continued on next page



# August 2019

Veterans Lissa Smith honoured 97 year old Clifford Swain at his seniors home, the Glacier View Lodge, in Courtenay, BC. His son Milt Swain and daughter Valerie Santinelli joined the Métis Nation leaders for the ceremony.

Originally from a farm near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Mr. Swain served in the Royal Canadian Corp of Signals 2nd Infantry Division that landed on Juno Beach in the second wave in 1944. His powerful recollection of events during the five week campaign to clear Normandy of German occupation forces is captured in the following video.

[https://youtu.be/sa\\_3zfOB-WE](https://youtu.be/sa_3zfOB-WE)

On July 16, the MNC leaders, together with MNS President Glen McCallum, Secretary Lisa McCallum and Regional Director Tex Bouvier honoured veteran Louis Roy in Beauval, Saskatchewan. The Mayor of Beauval, Nick Daigneault assisted the MNC in organizing the ceremony as a community event at the GDI building in Beauval with the MNS Local

preparing a lunch to honour the veteran. Many Métis Nation citizens attended along with Mr. Roy's family members.

Born in Ile-a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan in 1920, Louis Roy joined the Canadian Army in 1942. He served in the Saskatoon Light Infantry in England, Africa, Sicily and Italy. He suffered hearing loss in one ear during the Italian campaign due to the close range gunfire and bombing. With the end of the war, he returned to Saskatchewan and took up trapping and fishing as his main way of life. He then worked for more than 20 years as a carpenter for Northern Housing and for the Northern Lights School Division until his retirement in 1985. Mr. Roy recollects his wartime experiences in the following interview with Métis Nation elder Jim Durocher.

<https://youtu.be/p5arSxa2oXQ>

On July 17 the MNC honoured George McKay at the seniors'

home in Tisdale, Saskatchewan. Originally from Cumberland House, Mr. McKay joined the army when he was 16 years old. He served in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders in Normandy and Italy. After the war he worked in Vancouver for a few years before returning to northern Saskatchewan to pursue an independent life in fishing and trapping.

His niece Helen Deschambeault participated in the ceremony along with MNS Regional Director Sherry Soll, Jeff Gallant from Veterans Affairs Canada and the MNS Local President Brent Digniss.



*Continued on next page*







# August 2019



Group photos with  
WWII Métis Veteran  
Clifford Swain



*Continued on next page*







# August 2019



Group photo with WWII  
Métis Veteran Louis Roy



Group photo with WWII  
Métis Veteran George  
McKay







# Métis Nation



August 2019

## Message from the President

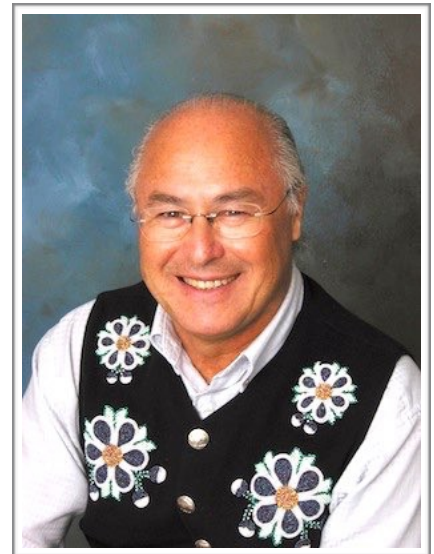
The month of July witnessed numerous cultural events throughout the homeland, testimony to the deeply ingrained culture, traditions and political and social consciousness of Métis Nation citizens. Gathered at openings of events, participating in music and dance-competitions or simply sitting around campfires visiting and enjoying traditional Métis foods, the sense of Métis nationhood and identity was very much present.

From Batoche to St. Madeliene, Manitoba to Palmbere Lake, northwest Saskatchewan, the Métis gathered in large numbers: in the case of Batoche, to honour the Métis who fought and died during the Battle of Batoche in 1885; in the case of St. Madeliene to honour the Métis Elders who were forcefully expelled from that settlement and their homes burned to make way for a PFRA cattle pasture; and at the regional Métis community gathering in Palmbere Lake to

honour past community leaders Louis Morin, Philip Chartier and Armand Murray.

Traditional music, dance and food were in large supply, with smiles of gratitude by those participating. While this largely overshadowed all else, there were still lingering undercurrents of unease over the potential threat to the weakening of the Métis Nation as a collective through recent federal government-Governing Member agreements which some view as a potential further dismembering of the Métis Nation along provincial lines, thereby weakening the Métis Nation as a whole.

Hopefully this will not happen and that the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and the Métis Nation of Alberta - although their respective Governance Agreements provide them the potential for defining who are Métis within their jurisdictions through new Constitutions which the federal government



may recognize- will continue to abide by the national definition adopted by the government of the Métis Nation in 2002 through a General Assembly resolution.

This definition has served us well, and all of our Governing Member Constitutions or Bylaws contain this one, common definition by which we have been registering and/or re-registering our people for the past 15 years. It would make no

*Continued on next page*



# Métis Nation



August 2019

## Message from the President

sense for the four Governing Members from Manitoba to British Columbia to opt out of the Métis Nation's definition and hopefully they will not.

For the province of Ontario, where the vast majority of the Métis Nation of Ontario's registered members are not citizens of the Métis Nation, the situation is quite different. Those Métis from northwestern Ontario, and those Métis Nation citizens in other parts of Ontario who have moved to that Province from their homeland in western Canada, hopefully will continue to be registered by using the 2002 definition. For

the other 6 MNO self-declared Métis regional communities, it is quite possible that they will each have their own definitions or perhaps only one which the MNO may adopt, thereby having two definitions: the 2002 Métis Nation definition and the MNO mixed-ancestry definition.

Only time will tell what our destiny will be! One nation, one people united with one national government and component governments within the provinces, or, a nation/people, divided by provincial boundaries through their own governments?

Whatever happens in the end, surely the citizens of the Métis Nation who believe in one Nation – one People will oppose any attempts to further divide our people by provincial boundaries. We must always remember; our language (Michif), our culture, our heritage, our history, our military struggles, our identity, our music, our dance, our political consciousness, our flag and the sacrifices of our ancestors, including President Riel's ultimate sacrifice know no boundaries. Let's keep it that way.

DECADE OF THE

*2011-2020*

MÉTIS NATION

2019: Remembering Métis Nation 60s Scoop Survivors







# August 2019

## July a Month of Many Gatherings

Across the Métis Nation Homeland a number of cultural, ceremonial and social gatherings took place in order to pay tribute to our past leaders/heros/martyrs, celebrate our continuing existence as a rich and vibrant people with deeply rooted culture and sense of being and to simply share our sense of camaraderie around campfires.

### **BATOCHÉ:**



From July 18-21, with the opening ceremonies on the morning of July 19<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of Métis from far and wide participated in the activities offered. This included fiddle music, dance competitions and cultural games. From the federal government, Ministers Goodale, O'Regan and Bennett were present and a number of MOUs were signed.

President Chartier spoke at the opening ceremony and then travelled to Russell, Manitoba to join President Chartrand and his Cabinet at the former site of the St. Madeleine settlement.

### **ST. MADELEINE:**



President Chartrand and the Cabinet of the Manitoba Métis government joined hundreds of Métis citizens from July 19-21<sup>st</sup> in honouring several Métis Elders who were children in 1939 when they witnessed the complete destruction of their village, with the burning of all of their homes and being chased off the land with what little they could carry.

The federal government had recently passed the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act (PFRA) which was for the purpose of creating pastures for the use of prairie farmers. Unfortunately for the Métis of that community, after first being forced out of the Red River,



*Continued on next page*





# August 2019

## July a Month of Many Gatherings

they were now sacrificed for livestock and forcefully uprooted. The Elders who were mere children at the time, vividly remember that shocking experience.

Each of the Elders who were able to attend were presented with plaques and gifts by President Chartrand and his Cabinet. The ceremony held on July 20<sup>th</sup> was quite solemn and well attended by several hundred people.

Following this, there were two days of cultural celebrations with music, dance, traditional food and a lot of visiting amongst the trailers, RVs and tents which formed a Métis settlement of happy campers.

The weekend was capped off by a Catholic church service at the cemetery which is the only physical remains of the former Métis settlement of St. Madeleines.

### **PALMBERE LAKE:**



From July 26-28<sup>th</sup>, a large number of Métis from the Clearwater-Clear Lake Métis Region of the MNS gathered at Palmbere Lake for their annual cultural weekend, as well as a brief meeting on the evening of August 26<sup>th</sup> to start the celebrations, and give an update of developments to their constituents. Presidents Chartier and McCallum were

present and spoke, followed by lawyers from Cassells Brock of Vancouver who spoke on the Canada-MNS Governance Agreement, the Canada-MNS/Ile a la Crosse Boarding School Committee MOU and the discussions with NexGen for an MNS/Clearwater-Clear Lake Métis Region IBA.

Regional Director, Leonard Montgrand and Regional Local Presidents also unveiled a sign for the newly renovated meeting structure in honour of former leaders Louis Morin, Philip Chartier and Armand Murray.







# August 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |   |            |                      |
|---|------------|----------------------|
| • International Indigenous Day                        | Aug 9      |                      |
| • Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Annual Meeting | Aug 12-14  | Elk Ridge, SK        |
| • Métis Nation Health Committee meeting               | Aug 13-14  | Saskatoon, SK        |
| • MNA AGA   | Aug 17-18  | St. Paul, AB         |
| • MNO AGA   | Aug 22-25  | Sault Ste. Marie, ON |
| • Minorities Conference                               | Sept 3-5   | Ottawa, ON           |
| • MNBC AGM  | Sept 13-15 | Prince George, BC    |
| • MMF AGA   | Sept 20-22 | Winnipeg, MB         |
| • Rv. Poitras, Rv. Boyer, QB Appeal                   | Sept 25    | Meadow Lake, SK      |







Office of the President  
Métis National Council  
#4 - 340 MacLaren Street  
Ottawa, ON K2P 0M6

(800) 928-6330

[www.metisnation.ca](http://www.metisnation.ca)

[info@metisnation.ca](mailto:info@metisnation.ca)



FACEBOOK



TWITTER

