



MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

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David Chartrand, LL.D. (hon), O.M.
President

October 11, 2022

Minister Denise Thomas
dthomas@mmf.mb.ca

Dear Minister Thomas,

Thank you for continuing to serve the Red River Métis as Minister of Sixties Scoop, Minister of Engagement and Consultation, and Associate Minister of Land Claims.

In 2022 the Red River Métis elected to continue the historic progress being made by the MMF, the National Government of the Red River Métis, through the acclamation of our elected officials. The MMF has seen unprecedented success and growth under the leadership of the MMF Cabinet and these triumphs were recognized by our Citizens.

Since 2018, we have signed landmark agreements that enabled our government to expand at never-before-seen rates. This includes the Housing, Early Learning Child Care, Post-Secondary Education, and Employment and Training Sub-Accords. These agreements have helped our People in ways that the Red River Métis have never experienced before. Thousands of Citizens can set their future generations up for success by purchasing their first homes, placing their children in affordable Child Care centres, and furthering their education and employable skills

The future success of our Government relies on building relationships with other governments and knocking down silos and building bridges with your fellow Cabinet Ministers within our Government. Indeed, we have an ambitious slate of objectives that can only be met if we continue to work together and keep communication flowing between Ministries. It is with this in mind that I am mandating all Members of Cabinet to meet regularly with your colleagues in order to further the broader objectives of our Government.

Part of working closely with other Ministries includes working with the Minister of Finance & HR to establish budgets in a timely manner that meets the timeframes set by Cabinet.

I am also mandating all Cabinet Ministers to work with their fellow colleagues and senior staff to identify and apply for funding opportunities announced by Canada and other levels of government as they are announced. In order to continue expanding, we need to ensure that we are actively pursuing new opportunities of growth.

One of the areas of substantial growth we have seen since the last Mandate was handed down in 2018 was the signing of the *Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement* on July 6, 2021. This agreement with Canada, among other things, recognizes the MMF as the sole National Government of the Red River Métis regardless of where they reside. As we continue to negotiate the contemplated Treaty and Land Claim, it is critical that all portfolios work with their fellow Ministers and staff to create a plan for how you will deliver services to our Citizens living Beyond Borders.

To help fulfill your Government's objectives of continued and sustainable growth to the benefit of the Red River Métis as well as building lasting partnerships between portfolios, I ask that you deliver on the following action items for your portfolios:

Sixties Scoop:

- Support the Manitoba Métis Federation Sixties Scoop Legal Strategy, which continues to seek reparation for harms done to Red River Métis children who were illegally removed from their homes and communities;
- Engage with Red River Métis Sixties Scoop Survivors to pursue a federal apology that includes concrete actions which will further reconciliation;
- Seek funding to develop programs and provide supports to our Red River Métis Sixties Scoop Survivors;
- Seek funding to develop a plan for a national inquiry that seeks to uncover the truth of Red River Métis Sixties Scoop experiences and provides concrete direction towards advancing systemic change; and
- Seek funding to revive the Lost Moccasin Program as well as the funding to construct a permanent home for a Wellness Centre.

Engagement and Consultation:

- Protect the rights, interests and claims of the Red River Métis through vigilant enforcement of the duty to consult through reactive and proactive monitoring;
- Work with MMF departments undertaking Consultations to ensure that the collective voice of our Red River Métis Citizens is elevated and accounted for as we develop policies and laws;
- Educate governments and other stakeholders on Resolution No. 8;
- Maintain the "single-window" approach to Consultation with our Red River Métis Citizens;
- Work with the Policy Unit to further develop and refine Resolution No. 8 based on our experiences in recent years.

Land Claims:

- Conclude negotiations with Canada to settle the MMF's 2013 Land Claim by the end of 2025; and
- Work with the Minister of Natural Resources to engage in discussions with Canada with respect to disposal of federal surplus properties and Additions to Reserve which impact the settlement of the Land Claim.

And finally, I am asking that all Cabinet Members work together with your fellow Regional Executives to support your existing Locals; revitalize non-active Locals; and assist our Citizens to continue to establish new Locals. As you know, the grassroots have always been critical to the development of the Red River Métis and I ask that you, as leaders in your Region, find new and innovative ways to support the growth of our grassroots leadership.

With all that you do, it is critical that we ensure that your portfolio supports the participation and inclusion of Red River Métis youth and the next generation of leaders.

I encourage every Cabinet Member to rely on each other for support in your important roles to fulfill this mandate. As always, you will be able to also seek support from me and my team to assist you in fulfilling your Mandate and meeting the objectives of our Government.

Our Citizens have placed their trust in us to lead by example as we walk on a path of unprecedented growth together as a Nation. By executing and fulfilling this Mandate that I give to you today, I believe we will meet the expectations that our Citizens have placed on us.

Meeqwetch,

[Original Signed]

David Chartrand LL.D(hon.), O.M.
President, Manitoba Métis Federation