

OTIPEMISIWAK

March 2017

Express



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my honour to welcome you to the Métis Nation of Alberta. Our strength comes from our community which is why we strive to keep our members informed about news, events, and opportunities. As a member, you can stay connected by browsing our website (www.albertametis.com), visiting our Facebook page (bit.ly/AlbertaMetis), or opting in to receive email newsletters by emailing communications@metis.org. Our quarterly magazine, Otipemisiwak, is available on our website and in print. Print copies of the publication can be picked up at our provincial head office in Edmonton as well as at our regional offices located in Lac La Biche, Bonnyville, Calgary, Edmonton, Slave Lake, and Peace River.

Kind Regards,

Audrey Poitras
President, Métis Nation of Alberta

News

MNA PRESIDENT PLEASED ABOUT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FORT EDMONTON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EXPERIENCE



On March 3, 2017, Métis Nation of Alberta President (MNA), Audrey Poitras, and dignitaries from all levels of government joined the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, for an important announcement regarding federal funding that will expand the historical living museum, Fort Edmonton Park. Participating dignitaries included the Honourable Brian Mason, Minister of Infrastructure; His Worship Don Iveson, Mayor of the City of Edmonton; Lyndon Decore, Chair of the Fort Edmonton Foundation; Bill Demchuk, Executive Director of the Fort Edmonton Management Company; and Chief Billy Morin, Chief of Enoch Cree Nation.

The Government of Canada pledged up to \$47,794,500 for the expansion of Fort Edmonton Park, which includes the Indigenous Peoples Experience. The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, states that the "funding will support Fort Edmonton Park in celebrating this city—and Canada's—diverse heritage and creativity, including the experiences of local First Nations and Métis people." Métis people have a rich heritage in the Edmonton region and have played a significant role in the development of the city as intrepid entrepreneurs, fur traders, merchants, craftsman, voyageurs, and diplomatic intermediaries.

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MNA President Audrey Poitras said, “in the past few years, Métis Nation of Alberta has been greatly encouraged by the efforts of Fort Edmonton and the City of Edmonton in ensuring the gaps in their representations of Métis history is filled with accurate and comprehensive information. With this new commitment from the federal government, I am positive that the park will become a very important site in facilitating understanding about Métis culture and the history of Fort Edmonton.”

The Fort Edmonton Park expansion has a total estimated cost of \$165,353,500. In addition to federal funding, the park expansion is being financially bolstered by the Government of Alberta, City of Edmonton, and Fort Edmonton Foundation. On behalf of the Provincial government, The Honourable Brian Mason states “The Alberta government is proud to support this project, which will honour our past and entertain and educate generations to come.” His Worship Don Iveson feels that the strong commitment from leadership across governments will “allow [Edmonton] to move a project forward that honours Edmonton’s past, present, and future, including our journey in reconciliation.”

The project will focus on three key sections of the park: an expansion of the Indigenous Peoples Experience, encompassing a new facility to showcase the First Nations and Métis Nation cultural heritage, along with camps, trails, classrooms, and an outdoor amphitheater. The 1920’s Johnny J Jones Midway will add several new attractions including a roller coaster, a maze and a revue theatre.

Finally, a new front admission area will allow for improved visitor services and shopping opportunities. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2017 with completion by 2020. Executive Director of the Fort Edmonton Management Company, Bill Demchuk, is very pleased with the funding, asserting “With the generous support of the federal government, as well as the Province and the City, we are thrilled to be able to enrich the visitor experience at Fort Edmonton Park and continue to celebrate our shared past.”

Upcoming Events

MNA BUSINESS MIXER

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Sustainable Development and Industry Relations (SDIR) Team is thrilled to announce our 4th Annual Provincial Business Mixer to take place on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre at 11834 Kingsway Ave NW in Edmonton, AB.

Thursday March 23, 2017
BUSINESS MIXER ADMISSION IS
FREE TO MNA MEMBERS!

Seminar: 9 am - 11:30 am

Trade Show (\$250 Table): 1 pm - 5 pm

Banquet (\$65 per person or \$500 Table): 6 pm

Trade Show Booth Deadline: March 10, 2017

Business mixer admission is free to all MNA members, but due to limited seating, members are encouraged to RSVP to:

Katie Suvanto
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 780-455-2200 ext. 235



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