

OTIPEMISIWAK



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to open this Spring 2016 edition of Otipemisiwak on a high note by mentioning our victory in the Supreme Court Daniels Case, which was won on April 14, 2016. This monumental victory has provided the key to unlocking future opportunities for our Métis citizens including Métis harvesting and consultation policies. I extend my deepest thanks to everyone who attended our Daniels Case Celebration at Fort Edmonton Park on April 30th; it was deeply inspiring to witness the massive outpouring of public support for Métis rights. I am also pleased to announce the release of the report, *A Matter of National and Constitutional Import*, by Ministerial Special Representative, Thomas Isaac. I am confident that recommendations presented in this report will help pave the way toward reconciliation with the Federal Government.

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The spring quarter has also brought on a fair share of hardship for our Métis citizens living in Fort McMurray. I would like to express my deepest condolences to those impacted by the devastating Fort McMurray Wildfire and want evacuees to know that we are here to offer our most earnest support.

Over the past few months, we hosted community workshops to garner input into the MNA Governance Review and Métis Judiciary Council (MJC) Review. These workshops took place in each of the six regions. We additionally hosted a workshop in partnership with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate to integrate a Métis perspective into the reformation of Alberta's Child Intervention System. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who took part in these important events.

I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's Annual General Assembly that will take place from August 4-7 at our 100% owned and operated historic site, Métis Crossing. Métis Crossing is a historically significant site for Métis in the region and it is my hope that this will become a wonderful new tradition for our Annual General Assemblies moving forward.

Kind Regards,

Audrey Poitras
President, Métis Nation of Alberta

