



MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

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

October 11, 2022

Minister Darrel Ferland
dferland@mmf.mb.ca

Dear Minister Ferland,

Thank you for agreeing to serve the Red River Métis as Minister of Traditional Economies.

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 portfolio:

- Develop a strategic plan for the growth and future goals of the Traditional Economies portfolio;
- Work with our Trappers to develop and grow the new Red River Métis fur trading initiative;
- Engage with our commercial fishers to discuss the current state of the commercial fisheries;
- Conduct habitat restoration practices and spawning studies in various high risk areas within the Homeland;
- Support the resurgence of Red River Métis traditional cultural practices and improve the financial well-being of those participating in Traditional Economic Activities; and
- Work with Natural Resources, MEDO and LRCC to develop programs and initiatives to help support our trappers, timber farmers, and commercial fishers through direct purchasing of products and providing access to new and growing markets.

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