



Métis Nationalist Voice

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Métis Nation Issues and Interests

Métis Veterans By Lorna Ledoux

Inside this issue:

Senator Martin Klyne

Crescent Lake History

Métis Post Secondary Students

Southern Métis Harvesting

Métis Veterans

Riel Day

Editorial

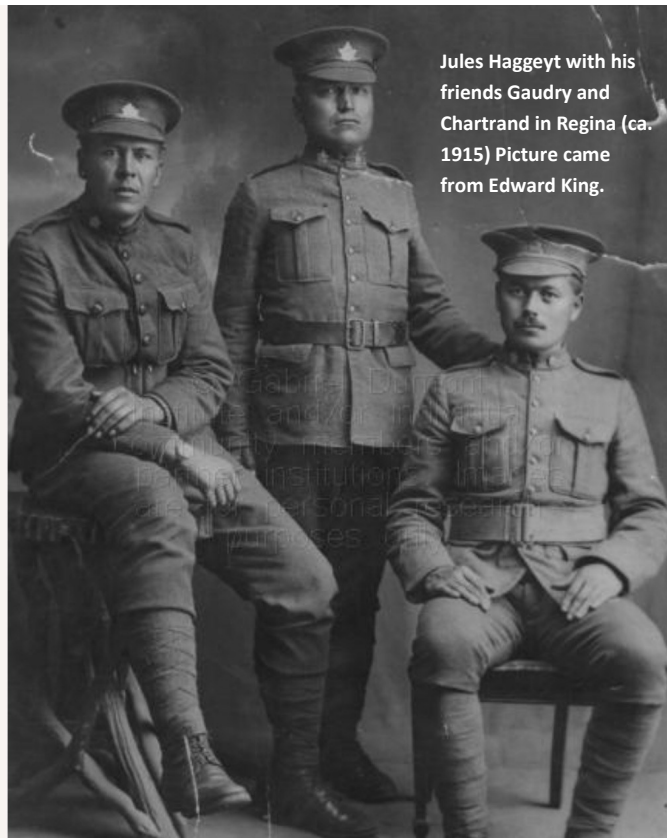
Each November, those of us old enough to remember veterans of the world wars, remember and sometimes trade stories of relatives that we knew who went off to war. Born in the 1960s I am one of those people. I have vague memories of people like the store owner close to home who never spoke much and seemed to be a bit shaky. I was told that it was "shell shock". Today that would fall under PTSD. I remember visiting Uncle Jules Haggeyt who is seated on the left side of this picture in a veterans home in Calgary. There were elderly soldiers with various afflictions who I never wondered much about.

My Uncle Edward King had some great stories about his time in the army and serving his country on the front lines in WWII. I could sit and listen to him for hours. It was an honor to know such a hero. His depiction of the people he met overseas really put it into perspective for me. He spoke of Canada's French Allies and German enemy in human terms. I had never thought of it like that before. Young men and women fought for whichever side they happened to land on with conviction and often made the supreme sacrifice. Soldiers like Uncle Ed saw the horrors of war

close up, as they did the gratitude of those they fought to free.

The bravery and sacrifice of everyone who served amazes me to this day, as does the sacrifice of the families of these courageous individuals. I

This is because Métis returning from war did not receive any compensation. The Métis National Council has been working diligently to right these wrongs and some of our veterans have since received cheques for \$20,000 in recognition of this fact.



Jules Haggeyt with his friends Gaudry and Chartrand in Regina (ca. 1915) Picture came from Edward King.

The names on the Veterans monument at Batoche SK contain some of the names of our Métis veterans. I feel pride when I see family names etched in the shiny finish for all to see. I am proud of and grateful for those who fought for the freedom I enjoy today. I am also proud of the ancestors who fought the oppressive forces of the Canadian Government and its Northwest Mounted Police in 1885 at Batoche.

Our young Métis continue to enlist and serve in the armed forces to this day. They deserve

have never known that level of sacrifice and hope that I never do. Our Métis veterans fought alongside every other Canadian soldier, however, they did not receive the appropriate level of compensation for their valour. While places like Saskatoon's Montgomery neighborhood were built through the redemption of army scrip, there was no such redemption and development in Métis communities.

credit for their bravery in facing conflicts around the world as do the veterans of the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and any I may have missed. I had an uncle who served in peacekeeping missions in Germany and Egypt that regaled us with his stories of those tensions when he returned. Our peacetime troops certainly deserve recognition as well.

Métis Senator Martin Klyne Profile

By Lorna Ledoux



MN-S Regional Representative Wendy Gervais states that "Senator Martin Klyne is an excellent ambassador for the Métis of Canada, most specifically his home community of Regina that is part of MN-S WRIII. He is a fine example of what can be accomplished with a good work ethic and strong desire to succeed!"

Martin "Marty" Klyne is a Canadian senator and former corporate executive. Klyne was appointed to the Senate of Canada in September 2018. He is a proud Cree Métis citizen who was born and raised in Regina. After obtaining his degree from the University of Regina ('86) in business administration with a major in finance, he became immersed in the world of business.

Klyne has received multiple recognitions from various individuals and organizations. Additionally, he has served and currently serves on many boards. Klyne was an instructor and sessional lecturer for the First Nations University of Canada from January 2013-May 2015. He taught many courses, notably ADMN 406 and ADMN 100.

From 2008 to 2013, Marty was the Publisher / CEO of The Star Phoenix and Leader-Post, divisions of Postmedia Network Inc. During that period he led these two major daily newspapers through a period of tremendous change, successfully transforming them into one modern integrated organization that is able to succeed in the constantly evolving world of digital media. With 400 employees, revenues for the two multi-media publishing entities approached \$90 million.

Prior to Postmedia, Marty was President and CEO of the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation (SGC) which operates Casinos Regina and Moose Jaw, employing 1,000+ employees. SGC's fiscal 2007/08 revenue hit an all-time high of \$128 million achieving \$42MM profit.

Before joining SGC Marty served as: President & CEO of the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority; Executive Vice-President of MAACO Systems Canada; and, President & CEO of SaskNative Economic Development Corporation following management positions with Royal Trust Corporation of Canada and the Mercantile Bank of Canada.

As part of his commitment to the community, Marty serves on a number of committees and boards including Saskatchewan's Labour Market Task Force and the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Entrepreneurship & Small Business Program Advisory Committee.

Marty's past commitments include: the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board; and, SaskPower's Board of Directors. He also served on the Lieutenant Governor's Centennial Gala Board and was President of Grey Cup 2003, Inc.. He served as the chief executive officer for the RCMP Heritage Centre from March 2017-August 2018, where he focused on the further development of the centre to continue the legacy of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



This beautiful beaded poppy was made by Minnie Beaudin of Minnie's Métis Creations.

Province Responds to MLREF Letter on Métis Hunting & Fishing Rights in Southern Saskatchewan

by Clem Chartier

On October 5, 2020 P. Mitch McAdam, Q.C., the Director of the Constitutional Law Branch of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General responded to the September 16, 2020 letter sent to the Hon. Don Morgan, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Saskatchewan.

The response letter basically restated the statement issued to the media on September 17, 2020: "To my knowledge, the Government has not prosecuted any person asserting Métis hunting or fishing rights in the Qu'Appelle Valley region since the decision was released" wrote Mr. McAdam. He goes on to state that the province is prepared to examine every assertion of Métis hunting and fishing rights made in the province "on a case by case basis" and "is guided by court decisions, including the Belhumeur decision".

With respect to the Saskatchewan Treaty and Aboriginal Rights for Hunting and Fishing Guide 2018, Mr. McAdam stated that the Justice lawyers will be reviewing it and eliminating any confusion it may have caused. Currently, as written in the previous Newsletter, the Guide clearly states that no Métis hunting and fishing rights are recognized outside of northern Saskatchewan, or stated differently, no Métis hunting and fishing rights are recognized in southern Saskatchewan, regardless of the Belhumeur decision.

It will certainly be interesting to see the next version of the Guide and how it does deal with the Belhumeur decision which unequivocally recognizes and affirms the fishing rights of the Métis in the Qu'Appelle Valley and environs, including the City of Regina.

See www.metisnationalists.ca for letter from the Department of Justice.

Website Honours Métis Veterans

By Lorna Ledoux

The Métis National Council has a very informative website that is part of the ongoing efforts to keep citizens throughout the Métis Nation Homeland and others, informed on developments and initiatives at the national and international level concerning Métis Nation Veterans. The goal is to honour Métis Veterans by being the leading source of information regarding Veterans affairs, and to provide Canadians with a better understanding of the contributions and sacrifices made by Métis Nation Veterans in service to their country and their people. To access the website, copy the URL below:

<https://metisveterans.ca/about-our-metis-veterans/>

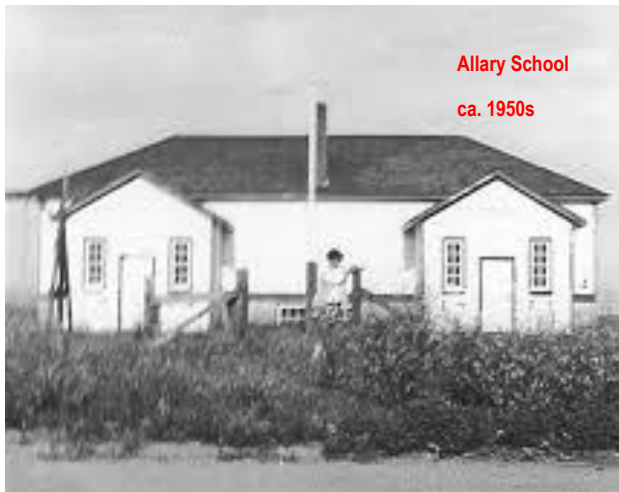
The website is part of the Métis Veterans Legacy Program which is the result of a \$30-million Agreement negotiated by the Métis National Council to honour Métis Veterans of the Second World War including the payment of compensation. According to the website, during the First World War, the Second World War and

the Korean War, Métis enlisted in the Canadian military in large numbers. Many of those who volunteered during the First and Second World Wars were descendants of Métis who fought for Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont in 1885. Further, traditional Métis skills such as trapping, hunting, scouting and guiding were in high demand by the military and made the Métis very successful soldiers.

After the Second World War, Métis Veterans were often unable to obtain their veterans' benefits for their military service and were turned away by Veteran Affairs Canada. They did not receive the same supports, resources or benefits promised to them that were routinely given to other non-Métis Veterans. The website states that as these Veterans aged and their immense contributions to Canada's war effort continued to be ignored by Canada, the Métis Nation launched a campaign to right the wrongs of the past and ensure that our Métis heroes were accorded the honour and compensation they so justly deserved.



Crescent Lake - The Heartland of The Métis



Métis families with names like Pelletier, Henry, Brazeau, St. Pierre, Allary, Martineau, Lafontaine and Flamont had once raised families in log shacks, with big gardens at the back and some families had chickens.

Just off Highway 9 down an old gravel and dirt road between the stands of maple and aspen trees are the old family plots of land that had once been occupied by the Métis of Crescent Lake. Métis families with names like Pelletier, Henry, Brazeau, St. Pierre, Allary, Martineau, Lafontaine and

Flamont had once raised families in log shacks, with big gardens at the back and some families had chickens.

MN-S Regional Director Derek Langan has a great love for Crescent Lake and the passion of the Métis people of Crescent Lake for their history and for who they are as a people. He works to hold "Tokyo Days" each year which is a homecoming for the families of Crescent Lake. It is a community that has had a hard history but as a collective they have maintained their Métis identity and they have passed that legacy down to their children and their grandchildren. This year, some families had come weeks early and staked out their family plots and settled in with tents and RV's and makeshift camps.

It has always been that leaders from Crescent Lake who have influenced Métis politics and it has always been Métis from Crescent Lake who have been on the front lines of protests and demonstrations for Métis rights. On the Provincial level leaders like Philomene Allary, Bruce Flamont, Edwin Pelletier, and Earl Pelletier have all come out of Crescent Lake and locally leaders

like Francis Pelletier, Edwin St. Pierre, Henry Pelletier, Mary St. Pierre, and Elizabeth Pelletier have all made their mark on Métis politics.

The old school is still there, an old two room school house painted white with green trim. The paint has long faded and flaked off leaving a dull weathered look. It has two rooms, the big room and the small room. The small room was for Grades 1 to 4 and the big room had grades 5 to 8. At its heyday it hosted over fifty Métis children with a few of the children coming from Little Bone Reserve a sub-reserve of Sakimay First Nation.

The wood rot has set in and inside the small room the floor has collapsed in the south east corner. The pigeons have been using the classrooms to roost and the rooms are filled with pigeon feces and snow that has drifted in through the broken windows. In the basement the furnace door is left open and wet, frozen rotting paper that used to be student records lay scattered. The school has been closed now for over 34 years but the Métis people from Crescent Lake still come to view it, to pay homage to its history and the road allowance people that settled a strong, independent Métis community.

Crescent Lake known by the Métis people of the area as Tokyo or little Tokyo was a thriving Métis community with over forty families living within its district from the 1920's to the 1960's. It was historically a summer camp that was one of many stop off points for Métis and First Nations traveling the trading route between Turtle Mountain Indian Reserve in North Dakota and Fort Qu, Appelle, Saskatchewan, and points between, like Boggy Creek, Manitoba, Crooked Lake, Marieval, and Lebret.

In the mid 1920's after a couple seasons of poor hunting and trapping a few Métis families living at the south end of Crooked Lake decided to settle in Crescent Lake. They were soon joined by relatives, and cousins with their families. The men in large part were displaced Métis or descendants of those Métis who had gone south to North Dakota after facing persecution from the 1870 Red River resistance in which the Métis fought for their rights and Louis Riel negotiated the entrance of the Province of Manitoba into confederation.

Métis families fled south to North Dakota to protect their families after Canada sent in the militia to Red River to assert military control of the area. However, in the United States there is no Métis designation so the Métis of the day were granted treaty status and provided with Métis land allotments on the edge and as part of the Turtle Mountain Indian Reserve. The Métis of Turtle Mountain also joined the 1885 Batoche Rebellion in which Métis rights were again being ignored the Canadian government. After the loss at Batoche the Métis from Turtle Mountain waited

until the early 1900's before they began to follow the trading routes back to Canada and settle in southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Within a few years there was a large number of Métis families in Crescent Lake. The core group of families were an integration of men from Turtle Mountain Indian Reserve in North Dakota, and Métis men from Boggy Creek and the women they married were largely from Cowessess, and Starblanket, and in time women from Sakimay First Nation.

In 1932 the first Métis local was formed in Crescent Lake with the first meeting of Philomene Allary, Mary St. Pierre and Dan Pelletier. The community worked together to advocate for basic services including health, education and work programs. Their efforts paid off first in health programming and then in their advocacy for education for their children. In 1946 the Tommy Douglas government using a work program built Meadowview School. The name was changed later to Allary School to acknowledge the work of Philomene Allary in her continuous advocacy for the Crescent Lake community.

The Roman Catholic diocese in Yorkton built a church in Crescent Lake to compliment the school and the CCDF government of the day granted the Métis of Crescent Lake a 99 year lease on the land and provided each family with a calf and a cow to ensure entry into mixed farming.

Métis families in Crescent Lake lived in one and two bedroom log shacks. The men hunted and trapped in the winter and the women and children picked Seneca roots and tended large gardens in the summer. The men hired out as farm laborers in the summer. Families who worked hard tended to do well and had horses, cattle, pigs, and chickens but there were some hard years.

The Métis from Crescent Lake were feeling economic pressure from the farmers in the area. The farmers in the area were not happy with the Métis settlement. They lobbied the government for access to the community pasture where they could put in their cattle effectively preventing hunting and trapping in the area. Father Dale, the Roman Catholic priest assigned to Crescent Lake encouraged the men to find work in Esterhazy at the Potash mine or in Yorkton.

As the families left, their homes were destroyed. By 1966 there was only four families left in the area and the Métis community was abandoned. In the 99 year lease on the land was a provision that the school be occupied by at least 9 children. With the abandonment of the community and no children to attend school

the 99 year lease on the land was declared null and void and the land was leased to private interests.

The land had been part of the treaty land entitlement settlement with Sakimay First Nation. The Province of Saskatchewan with the acquiesce of the Federal government took possession of the land and provided a lease to the Crescent Lake Métis. Sakimay First Nation had disputed the lease arrangement the Province provided the Métis and are slowly regaining title to portions of the land.

Different government legislation has impacted the community of Crescent Lake and its people. With the implementation of Bill C-31 Crescent Lake half its Métis population. Many previous Métis were now eligible for lost First Nations status and took advantage of their rightful heritage. And now with Bill S-3 Crescent Lake continues to lose its Métis citizens to status.

But every year they still come back, the Métis of Crescent Lake. They bring their tents and their campers and their RV's and they set up camp. They still come back to the school and the old brown house that used to host the teachers.

The prairie grass has grown over the playground, and outdoor toilets long fallen over but Crescent Lake still holds a lot of memories for the Crescent Lake Métis and each year they return and they bring with them their children and their grandchildren and every year there is a celebration.



Lack of funding for post secondary Métis students

By Bonnie G. Marwood B.Ed, LL.B., LL.M

The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan is facing turbulent times. I was never one to pay much attention to the politics of the day. In truth, I find myself immersed in day-to-day living giving little consideration to my Métis brethren. I am a proud Métis woman and think it might be time to live up to a few of my convictions. It has recently come to my attention Métis students like myself and others are encountering difficulties securing funding for post-secondary education. This year I learned that I was denied funding through the Saskatchewan Métis Sponsorship Program. It was stated that students were selected by using a blind adjudication process. The rejection letter stated that the sponsorship denial was due to a "lack of funds" as there were 600 applicants. The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan was recently awarded \$89 million dollars for the next 10-year period specifically for Métis students. In various media posts, Dr. Earl Cook, the Minister of Education acknowledged the racial disparity evident in education.

The minister stated, *"We know that there is a significant gap in post-secondary education attainment levels between Métis and non-Indigenous populations in Saskatchewan. We have heard from grandparents, parents, students and youth that this is a priority and we raised the issue with our federal government partner that included our solution and we have achieved that."* I suggest that we have not achieved this goal. I have been pursuing my post-secondary education since I was 17 years old; I am now 51 and am currently completing my Master's in Law at the University of Saskatchewan. I have a Bachelor of Education (Honours) and a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Calgary. It has become nearly impossible to pay for my graduate studies; graduate students are only allowed to work a maximum of 12 hours per week. The University demands strict adherence to this rule to ensure that graduate students complete their theses and don't get bogged down with matters other than their studies. There is a lack of scholarships for graduate students as most bursaries and scholarships are for students entering post-secondary. Numerous degrees do not mean that the student is financially secure (actually the opposite is true, several degrees usually means thousands of

dollars in student loan debt). In my case the number of years I have spent in post-secondary has ensured that I have no reserves. I have survived by taking every job I can get. I have taken on extra research, been a teaching assistant and invigilated exams during midterms and finals. I am the sole provider in my home, my husband passed away when my daughters were 10 & 11. I am ineligible for student/bank loans. I was desperately hoping that the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan would select me as a worthy candidate for sponsorship. My area of study centers around Saskatchewan's Indigenous offenders. I volunteer my time with the Elizabeth Fry Society, Str8Up and the Saskatoon Correctional Centre. I am sincere in my efforts to better Métis peoples encounters with the criminal justice system. Despite my high grades, community involvement and level of study, I was not selected for sponsorship by MN-S or Indspire and yet, if financial need is a prerequisite, I qualify without exception.

The rejection letter from the Gabriel Dumont Institute stated that should the applicant hold 2 or more degrees; their application would be the last to be chosen if funds were available. While sponsorship is determined via a blind adjudication the selection committee stated that resources were to be distributed with 1st priority given to students pursuing a 1st degree. If we are indeed concerned with the educational disparities that Métis students face, we ought to acknowledge that this selection process effectively discriminates against older students and those who have made a life-long commitment to education. There are students who enter University and find the workload is too daunting or beyond them, successful completion of a degree is not guaranteed. It is unfortunate that the selection process for sponsorship denies students that have proven successful in their educational endeavors; effectively shutting out those who have exemplified a commitment to learning.

It is imperative that the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan fosters opportunities for those just beginning their University studies. However, it is equally important to support the students that have achieved academic excellence and have moved beyond an undergraduate degree. Dr. Earl Cook, the Education Minister and chair of Gabriel Dumont Institute Board said that, *"there is so much research that correlates post-secondary education as a critical factor in closing the socio-economic gap between Métis and non-Indigenous populations."*

There are far fewer financial resources out there for students embarking in professional colleges like Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Engineering etc. My daughter is in her third year of Medicine and was also denied due to lack of funds. Effectively, the descending priority policy fails to encourage and assist Métis scholars that are at the top of their game. It would seem logical to award a percentage of the funds available to those starting their studies and a portion to those who are long-time scholars. This split would ensure that everyone has an equal chance of support. To simply exclude the high achievers makes no sense as we as a Nation require doctors, dentists, lawyers, and engineers.

President Glen McCallum said, *"as a government we remain committed to prioritizing the needs of Métis students. The funding announced today is key to building the diverse professional educational levels required by the citizens of the Métis Nation."* It is apparent that the current selection process will only serve to hinder these "diverse professional educational levels" referred to by President McCallum. Further, the inequality fostered by the MN-S selection process, only serves to exasperate the socioeconomic gap.

Métis Across the Nation Honour Riel on November 16th By Lorna Ledoux



Across the Métis Homeland, the contributions and sacrifice of Louis Riel are celebrated on November 16, the day that Riel was hanged in Regina SK for his role in the 1885 Métis Resistance at Batoche. Many of us have gathered at the statue of Gabriel Dumont in Saskatoon's Kiwanis Park on cold and frosty November 16th mornings over the years and in various locations across the nation. This year will be no exception, though events are modified to allow for safety during the global Covid-19 pandemic.

One of my sons once remarked that Louis Riel was a real hero when he surrendered knowing that he could very well face a death sentence. He went on to say that everyone thought Gabriel Dumont was the tough one as he was a soldier, but he escaped to the United States, so Riel had his vote. I feel that Dumont was a hero, but that observation by a 10 year old really made me think! Riel certainly had conviction in his beliefs and followed it up by his actions. In today's terms, "he walked the talk".

I often think of those Métis who sacrificed so much in 1870 and then again in 1885. Not only were there brave Métis soldiers on the front lines, there were families behind the lines who believed in the cause and stayed to support Riel, Dumont and the leaders of the Métis Resistance. They endured cold, hunger and fear that I have never known.

The Métis who fought and died at Batoche in support of Riel and Dumont were brave and not all in the prime of their life. The oldest casualty was 93 years old when he passed in his rifle pit. The aftermath of the 1885 resistance was one of suffering for the families who participated. Later Father Vegreville reported that the Métis loss was not as high as the Mission first reported to Middleton. There were 16 Métis killed and between 20 and 30 wounded. Nine of the Métis killed in the battle were buried in the cemetery of Batoche. Eight were in a common grave.

First Nations allies received drastic punishment for their role in the 1885 resistance. Twenty-eight reserves were deemed "disloyal" and over 50 individual First Nations individuals were charged with various offences. This number was nearly double the number of Métis who were convicted. Pitikwahanapiwiyin and Mistahimaskwa were both convicted of Treason-Felony and were sentenced to three years in the Stony Mountain Penitentiary in Manitoba. They would both die within a few years. Seven First Nations warriors were executed for their role in the Frog Lake killings and one for having earlier killed a non-Aboriginal farm instructor (March 29, 1885) on the Mosquito Reserve. Many First Nations individuals fled to the United States with their extended families.

While his followers had killed people in battle, Riel had not. He had raised an insurrection, and ultimately was charged with treason under an archaic 1352 statute. Riel was convicted and sentenced to death, even though the jury recommended mercy. He was hanged on November 16, 1885, at Regina.

While many of us would be looking for ways to stay alive, Riel went quietly to his grave with the most pious of intentions and good wishes for his family as well as his allies and enemies. Such a man deserves recognition.

Check with your Métis local president or regional representative for some ideas of how and where the life of Riel will be honoured. There are options for online November 16th celebrations. One such event is that of Gabriel Dumont Local #11 who will be on Facebook that day from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. You must register with beaconnectr@gmail.com for that event. I personally look forward to some online gatherings and perhaps a visit to the Dumont statue in the park.

Métis Nationalist Voice Editorial

The month of November marks at least two major milestones in the life of the Métis Nation. The first one we all know marks the month that our leader, President Louis Riel was killed by the Canadian State. On November 16th Métis Nation citizens pay our respects to President Riel and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by this great man in the promotion and defence of the rights of the citizens of the Métis Nation.

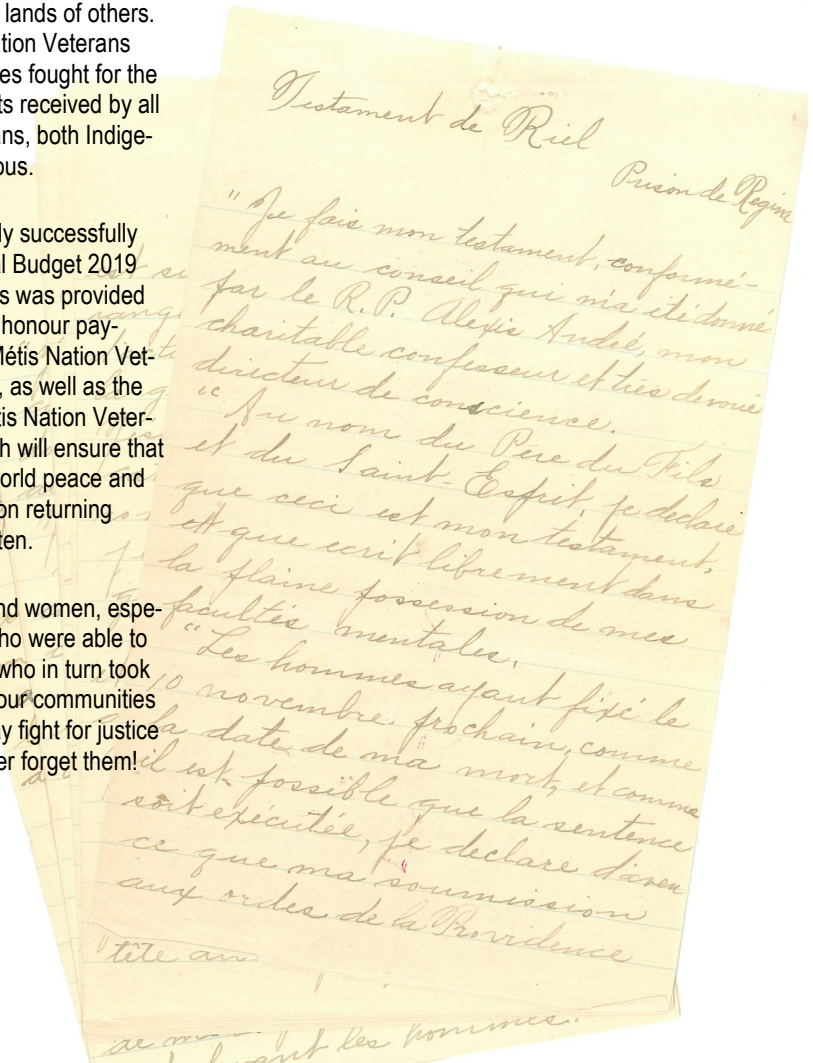
The other major milestone is November 11th. This day witnessed the end of a World War which decimated a large part of Europe. Although the war was many miles away across the ocean, and for many Métis who witnessed the aggression at Batoche in 1885, or at least bore the effects of that aggression, many joined the First World War effort to save the world from Nazi domination. This also happened in the 1940s where again many brave Métis women and men joined the Second World War effort to once again stop Germany's aggression.

The other common story interwoven into the wars of 1885 at Batoche and the two great world wars was the marginalization of the Métis patriots who gave their best to, first in 1885 defend their own land, and secondly, to the two

world wars to save the lands of others. For decades, Métis Nation Veterans and their representatives fought for the recognition and benefits received by all other Canadian Veterans, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

This struggle was finally successfully concluded with Federal Budget 2019 where 30 million dollars was provided to the Métis Nation for honour payments to living WWII Métis Nation Veterans or their spouses, as well as the establishment of a Métis Nation Veterans Legacy Fund which will ensure that their contributions to world peace and their own struggles upon returning home are never forgotten.

To these brave men and women, especially the lucky ones who were able to return home safe and who in turn took on leadership roles in our communities and led the modern-day fight for justice and rights, we will never forget them! How could we?



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