



## REPORT

Les Filles de Madelaine Secretariat/Metis Women of Saskatchewan Incorporated has been very busy. The following is a list of responsibilities and undertakings:

1. Finances – LFDM staff and Treasurer Bonnie Vandale have worked diligently to bring finances up to date. Staff has been working closely with the Auditor to ensure an unqualified audit for the fiscal year 2023-24.
2. Audits – Audits have been provided to the Metis Nation-Saskatchewan for the fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23, September 26, 2023.
3. LFDM submitted a proposed budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 as well as a carry over request for the \$160,000.00 capacity funding not received in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.
4. LFDM has been strengthening and updating the Governance and policy documents in preparation for the Ad-hoc Committee meeting and the pending Annual General Assembly of the corporation.
  - a) Creating an election article for the bylaw to include LFDM in the 2025 Metis Nation-Saskatchewan Provincial General Election to elect the provincial representative to sit at the Provincial Metis Council and further, the regional representatives to sit at the regional councils.
  - b) Creating a transition plan to ensure a smooth transformation of Metis Women’s representatives becoming the jurisdiction of the MN-S.
5. LFDM has met twice with D. Myo, Deputy Chief, Self Government, MN-S Inter Nation Relations Office and her team to discuss the MNLA concerning the process of women representatives within MN-S, leadership selection and related issues.
6. LFDM has been preparing for the “Be the Voice of the People!”, MN-S proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Metis Nation-Saskatchewan by reviewing the documents provided by D. Myo and S. Shacter. LFDM has participated in 2 engagements as of April 22, 2024.
7. Bi-elections in the regions that do not have regional representation on the LFDM Board of Directors. To date LFDM had a successful bi-election in Eastern Region 3 and welcomed Kim Blanchard to the board. Pending are bi-elections in NR2, WR2 and WR3.
8. LFDM is preparing for the 2023-24 audit as well as preparing the 2023-24 Annual Report.
9. LFDM has discussed convening an Annual General Assembly and is in the process of planning an AGA that will be fair, democratic and accessible to any Metis Women in the province. The hope is to adopt or mimic the AGM process utilized by the MN-S.
10. **Saskatoon WR2A Les Filles-de-Madelaine Inc. Regional report**, presently proposing a Metis Women’s retreat in Batoche 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August, 2024. Cheryl Reed inquired for Batoche to MNS and they said we would have to charge for the use of Batoche grounds. Still having difficulty getting women to come to monthly mtgs and we still haven’t been able to fill the vacant

position of VP. I mention to the WR2A council board to see if they could inform the Metis women in their locals to see if there is interest to participate as a board/VP position, but I also said that we have no financial support for them to come to our regular meetings. It was suggested maybe they could participate virtually. Discussion was talked about at the WR2A Council that they could assist by providing an OWL communication so we could have regional Metis Women join us virtually. The WR2A council will let us know once they purchase the communication tool for virtual participation.

**Presented by Beverley Laliberte April 27, 2024 at WR2A Regional Council meeting in Bigger, Sk.**

# Regional Meeting April 27

Edmond Hupé

- lives in Saskatoon, married for 30 years, two adult children
- teacher for 30 years, present position is a French and math teacher at Evan Hardy collegiate
- both my parents come from La Coulee (Saint Annes) Manitoba, my father was from a michif family
- I have been a hunter, harvester and fisherman for over 40 years
- I am a certified hunting, angling and firearm safety instructor
- I am in my second year of the Harvesting Advisory Working Group (HAWG)
- I am the only urban member of the HAWG group

## Harvesting Advisory Working Group

### Summary

- the government of Saskatchewan and Metis Nation of Saskatchewan both agreed that there was a disconnect and waste of resources with Metis people harvesting and in violation of government: trespassing, hunting and fishing laws
- 2019 the conversations started, naturally covid pandemic slowed the work for years
- 2022 negotiations began between Gov't and MNS to work out a harvesting agreement
- 2023 MNS put out a call to all metis citizens of the province to participate in the Harvesting Advisory Working Group (HAWG)
- metis citizens from all over the province were chosen: all members have unique perspectives

-2023 till present: 3 in person meetings and 3 zoom meetings

-the function of the HAWG group is to: advise the MNS negotiation team; create a Metis Harvesting Agreement document, and participate in the future look of harvesting (conservation, enforcement and community)

-Negotiations were slowed by the change of minister of environment (summer of 2023), both sides are to meet in early May 2024

-there is a willingness from both parties to have an agreement in place as soon as possible