

President's message

In the 1800's and 1900's the Métis struggle was typically centred on self-governance, free trade, land and resource rights. Where self-governance is concerned the drive was never to separate from Canada but to meet the objectives that motivated the resistances of 1869/70 and 1885. Land and resource rights to areas traditionally belonging to Métis people and misappropriated by the provincial and federal governments and their land deals with private partners, in support of said 'public government' need resolution and restitution.

Broad strokes indeed, we have seen in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and federally, recognition of the injustices toward an entire nation of people entirely native and unique to the world. A people that fought for the rights of all people including First Nations, early white settlers, and Métis settlers on both sides of the border. They fought for a right to a living, to homestead, to raise their families on the land they settled all while contributing to Canada's economic and social development as well as its military defence in wars stretching back to 1812 and including both World Wars.

Today our fight has changed. Although we still fight for the ideals that our leaders championed, the world has changed. Although still landless, today our struggle is more about an acceptance of a people, our rights to education and a level playing field to make a living, to live in an equal setting urban or rural, to be treated as equals with our unique heritage recognized. Our struggle is to provide the opportunities afforded to all Canadians to a people that have been marginalized and robbed of their land and culture, to be provided the same opportunity to prosper.

When the two Métis locals Regina Riel Métis Council and Queen City Local #34 got together in 2012 their goal was to bring the Regina Métis community together. Both locals had served the city and their constituents with vigor. The dual executive recognized the qualities they had would best serve the community if they combined. One was focused on cultural reclamation and overcoming general apathy in the community, while the other focused on political workings and building relationships with provincial and federal governments.

So where are we today? Well, we have many dedicated executive council and 'regular' members (these are Métis people that involve themselves in our activities, in no way 'regular') that are involved in cultural events, teaching the young and old, the new and uninformed about our history. We organize dancing, cooking, craftwork, language, community involvement and many other events year-round. We have executive council members who are actively pursuing business relationships and funding models with and from federal, provincial, civil governments as well as private companies.

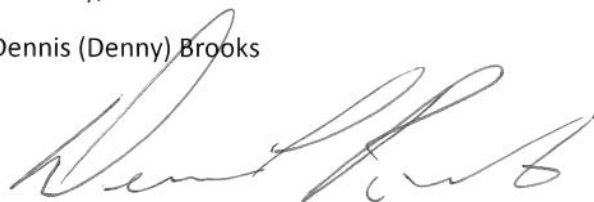
In short hand, we are open for business, we are fighting for our constituents and we need your help. Please involve yourself by; contacting the executive, sharing your ideas, if you are not a member, join, there are benefits personally and collectively.

Métis people make up a huge portion of the Regina community and we are vastly under-represented. Please join our local and/or the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, together our voice is stronger.

My commitment and the commitment of your Executive Council of Regina is to fight for every single opportunity that we can to improve your life, our cause, our stature as a contributing group to society in Regina. We encourage and welcome everyone's input and energy to help our cause.

Sincerely,

Dennis (Denny) Brooks



President, Regina Riel Métis Council #34