

May - June 2016



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Supreme Court Decision

Daniels v. Canada

(Indian Affairs and Northern Development)

The recent Supreme Court Ruling on the Daniel's case is a historic decision that will deeply impact all Metis communities. This is simply the first step - the establishment of a proper framework for the Metis people to move forward. In these early days, it's hard to truly estimate the depth of impact this decision will have over the long term.

For the OMFRC - Painted Feather Woodland Metis, a community of over 10,000, this decision allows us to move forward and continue the work we have been doing to advocate for our people on multiple fronts. We join in celebration with all of our brothers and sisters from all the Metis nations across Canada.

Birth of rare white bison calf draws visitors to western Manitoba First Nation

New calf believed to be 1 of just 3 white bison in Manitoba

"a symbol of birth for the First Nation Culture- this could signify the recent recognition of metis as members of our Indigenous culture"



Rare white bison calf draws visitors to western Manitoba First Nation 0:41

[Read more with video](#)

Duane Howard, Revenant actor, shines light on suicide crisis in Attawapiskat

'It takes a community to come together as one,' says Nuu-Chah-Nulth actor

The actor who played Elk Dog in the Academy Award-winning film The Revenant says the suicide crisis in Attawapiskat and other Indigenous communities has inspired him to take action.

"When this happened in Attawapiskat I was just like, 'I need to go there. I need to address this,'" Nuu-Chah-Nulth



[Read the full ruling](#)



to go there. I need to address this," Nuu-Chan-Nuun actor Duane Howard told CBC Radio's Ottawa Morning on Tuesday.

First Nations people are "literally crying out for help," he said, "and it's something that we can't ignore anymore."



A Hard Fought Inclusion

On Thursday, April 14, 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada handed down a landmark decision in which it declared that Canada's 600,000 Metis, and non-status "Indians", are to be included within the definition of "Indian" under the Constitution Act, 1867. In so doing, the S.C.C. ruled that Canada has a constitutional and jurisdictional responsibility for Métis under s. 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867. In short, the Metis are indeed "Indians" and, as such, fall within federal jurisdiction and responsibility. Further they must be considered, and treated, as such by all levels of government.

Submission: Christine and Trevor Schoniker
Photo Source: Wikimedia

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Duane Howard, who starred alongside Leonardo DiCaprio in The Revenant, is trying to raise more national awareness about the suicide crisis in Attawapiskat and other First Nations. (The Associated Press)

[Read More](#)

Michael Enwright speaks about Attawapiskat

The real tragedy of Attawapiskat is that we do care, but just not enough - Michael's essay

[Click here to Listen to Michael](#)



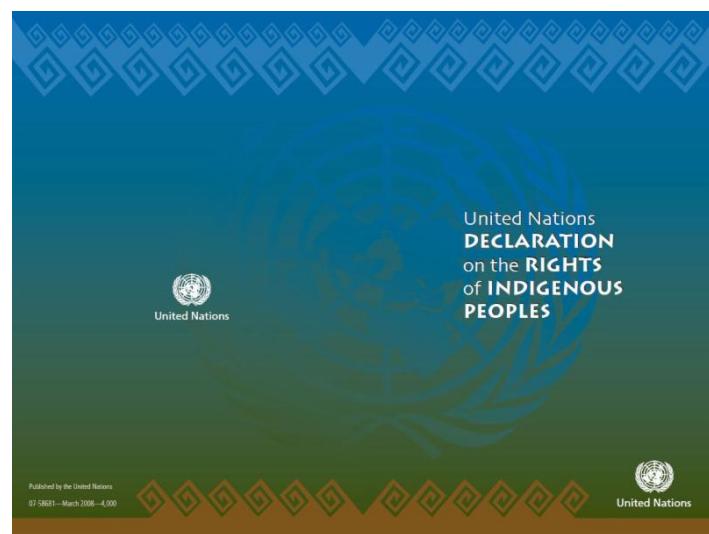
The federal budget lacks long-promised First Nations education reform.

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Continuing To Be An Inspiration



United Nation's Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



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What a landmark ruling means - and doesn't - for Métis, Non-Status Indians

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that tens of thousands of Métis and non-status Indians are now the responsibility of the federal government.

- Unanimous ruling says Ottawa has jurisdiction over all indigenous people

Immediately, questions swirled about exactly what this landmark decision means. Métis writer and educator Chelsea Vowel breaks it down and helps us make sense of the ruling.





The first ENNS Aboriginal (Indigenous) Culture Celebration was such a success!

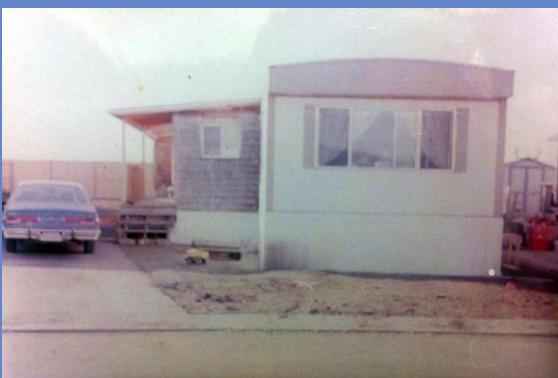
Our school community and visitors are very fortunate to have received a snap shot of the authentic of the land and Indigenous Worldviews. Moreover, it was a good day for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together and become more aware of valued cultural experience.

The grade 8 classes from Brighton Public, Grafton Public and Northumberlnd Hills Schools were part of our Celebration. Twenty two presenters gave workshops on Wampum Belts, Healing Blankets, Native American Flute, Batoch Bell, Life on the shores of Lake Ontario in the 1700's for First Nation, Drumming, Turtle Sanctuary, Water Teachings, Metis Beading, Rock Art, Seven Grandfather Teachings, Hoop and Jingle Dancing, Storytelling, Franklin Expedition from the Inuit Perspective, Talking

Feathers, etc.



Source: Pamela Vanderburg



Before the closet

A faded dream of what we once were

It was a rough journey to this golden place

Fresh moose hide draped over the hood of a car like a table cloth

Nothing but the beautiful blue sky



What a landmark ruling means — and doesn't — for Métis, non-status Indians 2:57

Author: Chelsea Vowel (BEd, LLB) is a Métis writer and educator from Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta who currently lives in Montreal. She teaches Plains Cree language and is the author of a popular blog called *âpihtawikosisân*.

[Read More](#)

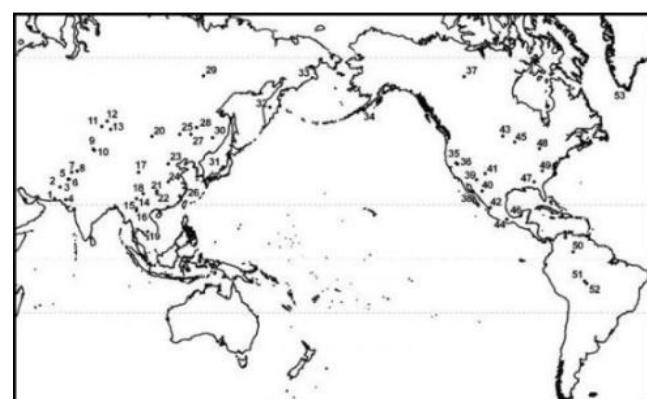
Dr. Sébastien Malette, Assistant Professor - Department of Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University speaks about the ruling - in plain, constructive language for the everyday Métis.



Supreme Court Decision in Review
April 15th, 2016

Native Americans Descended From A Single Ancestral Group, DNA Study Confirms

For two decades, researchers have been using a growing volume of genetic data to debate whether ancestors of Native Americans emigrated to the New World in one wave or successive waves, or from one ancestral Asian population or a number of different populations. Now, after painstakingly comparing DNA samples from people in dozens of modern-day Native American and Eurasian groups, an international team of scientists thinks it can put the matter to rest: virtually without exception, the new evidence supports the single ancestral population theory.



Original Source: University of California, Davis

Nothing but the beautiful blue sky
And grasses waving in the wind
Dandelions smiling
Potatoes and yarrow growing

My children playing and learning unhindered.

Toys, books n'junk everywhere

Their faces to the sun

Little feet covered in mud

Our home was child centered

Full of fearless love

We had the freedom to roam

The security of this home base

Smell of fresh bannock and stew.

Listening to the songs of frogs and crickets at dusk

Then they came...

Stole our colours

Vigilant in their quest of erasure

The city nearby grew closer

It enveloped us by their coercion

Time to paint a new dream

Add the colours of our reality

Make it vivid and bright

Ascend out of the darkness of the closet

It's alright to be angry

We have a right to be

Redirect it to positive energy and action

Fearless love come again this way

Rising pushing against the white boot

Author: Sirena

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New Submissions

Our editors are always looking for original submissions that would be of interest to our community. Do you know of any upcoming events that you would like to share either through the Newsletter or Facebook?

If you have something you would like to add to future issues we would be happy to consider it; please call or email putting Facebook or Newsletter material in the subject line!

omfrcinfo @ gmail.com

613-332-4789

Ontario Metis Family Records Center



We're on the web!

See us at:

www.aboriginalstatus.org

www.omfrc.org



The OMFRC would like to thank everyone that is standing with us to support the Ontario Metis Family Records Center Community Facebook Page.....your response is nothing short of incredible!

Stay connected and celebrate your heritage! Share that you're a member of the OMFRC Community with your family members on Facebook. It has never been more important to stand up and be counted!

Have you visited our Facebook page? We welcome you to join our OMFRC Community - we want to hear from you.

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