
Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum to offer free admission in 2020 as part of Manitoba 150 Celebrations

WINNIPEG, February 11, 2020

The Manitoba 150 Host Committee is proud to announce that individuals and families visiting Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum (MSBM) will receive free admission all year long in 2020.

“Manitoba is made of a rich chorus of voices and stories and Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum (MSBM) is one of the most important places in Manitoba to learn about Louis Riel and the contributions of the Métis and Francophone people to the Province,” said Co-Chairs of Manitoba 150, Monique LaCoste and Stuart Murray. “Manitoba 150 is pleased to provide free admission to the MSBM throughout 2020 to ensure these important stories from our diverse past will be explored more broadly.”

Manitoba 150 recognizes the diverse roots of Manitoba’s heritage, including Francophone and Métis influences and contributions. As part of Manitoba 150’s efforts to foster a profound connection with our diverse cultures during our province’s 150th anniversary, MSBM is offering free admission to individuals and families visiting from Manitoba and beyond.

“I encourage all Manitobans to take advantage of this incredible opportunity. Manitoba has such a rich Francophone history, it is important to appreciate and explore that part of what made this province such a great place to live and raise a family,” said The Honourable Rochelle Squires, Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs.

Thanks to a donation to Manitoba 150 from the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba, MSBM is able to provide enhanced opportunities to view this unique collection of artifacts that give voice to some of our province’s rich stories.

“We were created by pioneering women, who have entrusted us with their legacy of bringing people together of all faiths, traditions, and cultures who want to be signs of compassion and hope. It’s in this spirit that we support Manitoba 150, to make Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum accessible for everyone, to develop a better understanding of one another. Through learning about the past, we can build a brighter and bolder future for all,” said Dan Lussier CEO Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba

With exhibits that highlight First Nations peoples, the era of French exploration and ensuing fur trade, the birth of the Métis Nation, as well as the events that led to the Manitoba Act of 1870, MSBM is a must-see for anyone looking to learn more about (and celebrate!) the creation of the province. Featuring the largest collection of Louis Riel’s belongings, MSBM’s ‘Riel, Son of Red River, Father of Manitoba’ exhibit draws visitors from near and far.

Additional galleries tell equally important stories including the contributions of the Grey Nuns (the Sisters of Charity of Montreal) in health care, social services, and education; the great bison hunt and its role in the rise of Métis identity; the importance of self-sufficiency through textile works or subsistence farming; and the rapid socio-economic development and growth of Saint-Boniface following the creation of the province.

“MSBM believes that Manitoba’s 150th anniversary should include opportunities for as many Manitobans as possible to enjoy our community’s existing heritage treasures, those who serve by recognizing, preserving, sharing and celebrating the context, the people, the communities and events that shaped the province we know and love today. We recognize that many Winnipeggers and Manitobans are not aware that this community museum exists and are so happy that most first-time visitors value its discovery, are taken by its charm, and deeply enjoy their experience. We hope that this gift will



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allow for more people to visit – whether for the first time or repeatedly – throughout this anniversary year,” said Vania Gagnon, Executive Director of MSBM.

In addition to free admission for individuals and families, MSBM will also provide free programming on Sundays in July and August at two locations – the Cemetery & Cathedral site and MSBM. This Heritage Campus will feature a guest artist or artisan, costumed heritage ambassadors, and bannock and lemonade. The addition of two vibrant stops to the Winnipeg/Taché Loop on Sundays is a fitting way to celebrate Manitoba’s 150th.

Incidentally, MSBM is also a check in point on Manitoba 150’s Explore 150 app! In 2020, visit MSBM to learn more about the evolution of Manitoba’s Francophone and Métis communities.

About the Manitoba 150 Host Committee

The year 2020 will mark 150 years since Manitoba became Canada’s fifth province, the only province to enter Confederation through the leadership of the Métis Nation. The Manitoba 150 Host Committee Inc. (Manitoba 150) is an independent, not-for-profit organization overseeing commemorative activities in celebration of our province, its beauty, people, culture, and history throughout 2020.

Manitoba 150 supports initiatives and events that cultivate pride in our province, foster a profound connection with our diverse cultures and, above all, unite us in celebration.