

GUEST EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION



I am happy to say that I am past the time in my life when “history” was just a school subject that I needed to study. I can remember learning about Fort Grant and the fur companies in history class in the sixties in Deloraine. It really meant nothing to me at the time, as I had no personal connection to it, or so I thought.

In my thirties, I decided to research my genealogy and learn about the history of the Métis. I gathered the family tree together and to my surprise Cuthbert Grant Sr. was one of my 5th Great Grandparents. I spent two years researching and reading every community history book in Southwestern Manitoba looking for those personal connections. Through it all, I came to have a true understanding and appreciation for the land and the people.

I truly enjoyed *Vantage Points I*. I picked it up one evening and never put it down until I finished the entire booklet. I have had the privilege of reading *Vantage Points II* and I can assure you that it is just as engaging as the first edition. I would like to thank Teyana Neufeld for her professionalism, great writing ability and for giving the Metis Elders in Turtle Mountain the opportunity to share some of their stories.

In my own journey, I have come to believe every person needs that personal connection to the world around them in order to live a good healthy life. Sharing our stories and our history, with more commonalities than differences, allows us to go through life with a deeper understanding of each other.

Thank you to the Turtle Mountain-Souris Plains Heritage Association for seeing the value in doing these historical booklets. We can only hope there are more to follow.

Leah LaPlante

Vice-President
Manitoba Métis Federation Inc., Southwest Region