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*Merry Christmas from our family to yours...*



## *Letter from Our Senior Director of Operations*



It is the most exciting time of the year. Everyone is busy finding those perfect gifts for their loved ones. Our homes are filled with the aroma of baked goodies and Christmas candles. People have lit up their homes with fancy lighting. On top of it all, snow on the ground makes this time of the year even more majestic. Our children will be home for the winter break and add more joy to our Christmas festivities. This is what a home is about – a place where we feel safe in the company of our loved ones and make everlasting memories!

In order to allow our hard working staff to spend some time with their families this holiday season, our head office will be closed from December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 through January 01, 2020. Our emergency phone line will remain active during this time and, like always, we will make sure all emergency calls are addressed

on a priority basis.

We will do our best to make your holidays the best time of the year by addressing any repair issues that you may encounter during this time. Again, we hope you enjoy the warmth of your home this winter!

On behalf of all of us at Métis Housing, I offer a sincere welcome to all the new families and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season! - **Bindu Bonneau**

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**AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE, PLEASE CALL 780-717-9005**

## *Holiday Tips*

### **Safety Tips**

- \* Keep your driveway and walkways clear of ice and snow
- \* Use the fireplace with care, whether natural or gas, keep kids away and be careful of decorations getting too close
- \* Use candles safely by placing them in low traffic areas, away from flammables
- \* Holiday plants and pets don't mix as coniferous trees, poinsettias, holly and mistletoe can be toxic to pets
- \* Reduce Christmas clutter by reducing original clutter before gifts, decorations and winter clothes add to it
- \* Pay extra attention to home security as the holiday season sees an increase in break-ins. Lock all doors and windows and make note of strangers lingering

### **Decorating & Hosting**

- \* When putting up decorations remember to use ladder safety
- \* If you choose a live tree, keep it well watered as dry trees are a threat
- \* Inspect all light strands before using
- \* Don't overuse extension cords
- \* Turn off holiday lights when leaving
- \* Do not leave cooking or baking unattended, even for a "minute" (which is rarely an actual minute)
- \* Practice safe food handling and preparation
- \* Keep an extra eye on kids and pets. With so much going on, it's important to know who is supervising the kids and keeping an eye on pets
- \* Drink responsibly by offering guests the option to stay over or have a designated driver to take people home at the end of the night



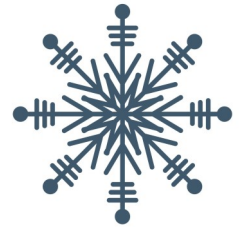
### **Winter Driving and Car Safety**

- \* Clear all snow and ice from your vehicle, this will give you maximum visibility
- \* Check road conditions before you drive
- \* Plan alternative routes as accidents and road conditions can create huge delays
- \* Give yourself extra time to travel
- \* Slow down

- \* Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you
- \* Get a winter survival kit including blankets, booster cables, a small shovel, a candle and matches

### **Shopping and travel safety**

- \* Stay alert and be conscious of what is happening around you
- \* Shop in familiar places
- \* Don't leave valuables in plain sight
- \* Park in well-lit areas
- \* Shop with friends
- \* Don't leave bags, purses or wallets unattended
- \* Shop online with care
- \* If you are going to be away, don't broadcast your plans on social media as you could tip off thieves



### **Reducing Holiday Waste**

We all have taken notice of just how much garbage and recycling we produce on Christmas Day, but did you know that one day creates twice the amount of waste as the first two weeks of December!?

According to Stats Canada, Albertans are the most wasteful in the country during Christmas. We each generate about 981 kilograms of waste per year, soaring above the Canadian average of 701 kilograms! If you want to start reducing the amount of waste and already recycle, here is another idea.

Give the gift of an "experience". Concert tickets, spa time, event tickets, attraction passes, classes, dinner – all of these things don't come with a packaging and you may get the added bonus of being able to possibly attend as well. There are also a lot of local stores that support local artisans and you could gift them a budget for a shared shopping date to one nearby.

Of course there is always the possibility of doing good deeds as gifts: baking, shovelling sidewalks or volunteering at an event. Whatever you do, keep the spirit of Christmas in your hearts and a greener planet in mind.







## Colouring Book Contest

We are collecting art for a children's colouring book that is made up entirely of art from our tenants' children who are aged 17 years and younger! Submissions must be **BLACK OUTLINE PICTURES**, (no colouring) of their favourite activity, game, family time, adventure, cultural activity or what they want to be when they grow up. First name, age and parents phone number, along with the title of your picture must be included. Submission sheets will be collected during our pancake breakfasts, BBQ's and can be dropped off at our various offices. We can also email submission sheets out to you/your parents.

## New! Home Programs for Métis Citizens



**Down Payment Assistance Program**  
**Home Repair Program**  
**Rental Supplement Program**  
**Rental Supplement for Students**



**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
 MÉTIS CAPITAL HOUSING CORPORATION  
 11923 121A STREET  
 EDMONTON, AB T5L 0A2  
 1-877-458-8684

EMAIL: [HOMEPROGRAMS@METISHOUSING.CA](mailto:HOMEPROGRAMS@METISHOUSING.CA)  
[WWW.METISHOUSING.CA](http://WWW.METISHOUSING.CA)

As of October 15<sup>th</sup>, Métis Nation citizens can apply for Rental Supplements, Home Repair funds, Down Payment Assistance and Rental Supplements for Students! All you need is a MNA card, meet the eligibility criteria and produce a few documents. Go to [www.metishousing.ca](http://www.metishousing.ca) or call our toll free number for more information 1-877-458-8684. These programs are amazing and can really make a difference, so apply today!

- ∞ **Down Payment Assistance Program**, providing up to 5% down payment to a maximum amount of \$20,000.00 per approved applicant.
- ∞ **Home Repair Program**, providing a maximum of \$20,000.00 per approved applicant.
- ∞ **Rental Supplement Program**, paying up to \$5400.00 per year, for a maximum of 24 months. MCHC will also pay applicants security deposit to a maximum of \$850.00 per application.
- ∞ **Rental Supplement Program for Students**, paying up to \$2400.00 per year, per approved applicant. MCHC will also pay applicants security deposit to a maximum of \$850.00 per application.

## Candy Cane Recipe

- 1 tsp butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- ¼ tsp cream of tartar
- 1 tsp peppermint extract
- Red and green food colouring



Grease two baking sheets with oil or margarine; set aside. In a large saucepan, bring the sugar, water, corn syrup and cream of tartar to a boil. Cook, without stirring, until a candy thermometer reads 280° (soft-crack stage).

Remove from the heat; stir in extract and food coloring. Immediately pour onto prepared pans in eight 8-in. strips. Let stand just until cool enough to handle, about 1-2 minutes.

Working quickly, roll each strip into a 10-in. log. Cut each into two 5-in. lengths. Curve the top of each to form the handle of a cane. Cool completely.

**To Apply for Housing go to [www.metishousing.ca](http://www.metishousing.ca)**

## Thumbprint Cookies

1 cup butter  
2/3 cup sugar  
2—3 tablespoons sugar for rolling  
2 large egg yolks  
1 tsp vanilla  
2 1/3 cups flour  
1/2 cup jam



Preheat oven to 350. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper or grease. In a bowl, cream sugar and butter. Add egg yolks and vanilla until fully combined.

Mix in flour. Using a tablespoon or cookie scoop measure cookie dough and roll into balls. Roll balls in sugar reserved for rolling. Place balls on lined or greased cookie sheet and, using your thumb, press an indentation into each cookie dough ball. Spoon 1/2 teaspoon of jam into thumbprint. Bake at 350 degrees for 12—14 minutes or until the cookies are lightly brown on the bottom.



## Join Our Efforts to Reduce Paper Waste

Help us reduce the usage of paper and save the trees!! There are many documents we would like to send you by email, to reduce waste, cost and exchange documents faster. Please **Send an email to:** [gopaperless@metishousing.ca](mailto:gopaperless@metishousing.ca) and we'll switch you to paperless, or you can let your TRO know.

This could include our quarterly newsletter, tenant surveys, leases, community events, consultations and other information you can now receive faster. *It's that easy!*

### Edmonton (Head Office)

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[www.metishousing.ca](http://www.metishousing.ca)



**To Apply for Housing go to [www.metishousing.ca](http://www.metishousing.ca)**