Good morning everyone who are joining us here and online.

I am Alfred Buck Anderson, the Vice-President for the Interlake Region and Minister of Culture and heritage in our Metis government.

First I want to say how completely humbled I am to receive recognition for my work with Metis Music Van. This is a total surprise and I am honoured!

Being the Minister of Culture and Heritage, part of my mandate is to create and support opportunities to share Metis Culture. I never imagined this music van to become so popular!

I first started going around playing music on May 12 2020, Manitoba’s 150th

Birthday. Brett Michael from the Selkirk Record stopped me in the parking lot at Canadian Tire and asked me what the hell I was doing? I told him my mission and low and behold I was on the front page of the paper! This gave me inspiration!

Because of the COVID 19 lock down, our Metis citizens missed out on all our summer and fall celebrations such as: Indigenous Day, Canada Day, Metis Days, Selkirk Fair and Rodeo Parade, etc. So, I decided to bring the music to the people.

I followed my heart seeing the smiling faces both young and old. The clapping, the dancing and the waving gave me more inspiration and motivation. That’s what it’s all about!

Lifting their spirits in this COVID lock down!

Now I am getting calls to do drive byes: Birthdays, school events, seniors homes, Hospitals; the music brings joy!

I would like to thank P.A.S.S. for nominating me for this award. It is something I will cherish for ever.

I would also like to thank:

The Manitoba Metis Federation and our President David Chartrand for coming on board moving this project forward, and believing in me.

The Interlake Metis Association board of directors and my colleagues, Jack

Park and Mona Bours for thier support.

And most of all, the citizens that show support by waving, dancing, clapping,

and smiling! That’s what makes this all worth while!

In closing, I want to say follow your Heart and Bring Joy to others.

Meequis.

Alfred Buck Anderson