



integrity in our identity

2025
Annual
General
Assembly

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Gabriel
Dumont

President
Chartrand

Red River Métis
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Key highlights of the 2025 Annual General Assembly

Overall highlights:

- This year's AGA has already broken registration records, making 2025 the largest Assembly of the National Government of the Red River Métis.
 - Since emerging from the pandemic shutdown, the Annual General Assembly has consistently broken each previous year's record for attendance.
 - This year, we have satellite locations in Ottawa, Saskatoon, Calgary and Thompson, with many more Citizens participating virtually from home.
- **Note for media:** Final participation numbers – which include walk ins - are not tabulated until after the Assembly.

Friday, October 17:

- **Youth Gathering** – Located at an offsite venue and open to all Youth attendees (ages 15-29) of the Annual General Assembly, the 3rd Annual Youth Gathering is an evening meet-and-greet designed to help Youth attending the AGA connect, share open dialogue, and inspire collaboration and empowerment within our Red River Métis Youth.
- **Monster Bingo** – Open to all bingo fans – no Citizenship number or pre-registration required. Come to the Assiniboia Downs to play **Monster Bingo**. Ticket sales will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by Early Bird games at 7:00 pm and regular bingo at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$100 each, with \$50,000 in cash and prizes to be won.





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Saturday, October 18:

- **Opening Ceremonies** – Led by the Her Honour Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba Anita Neville, with senior representatives from other governments and leading officials from the RCMP, the Winnipeg Police Service and many others, the opening ceremonies feature greetings to the Citizens at the Assembly, as speakers renew their commitments to a positive, strong relationship between themselves and the National Government of the Red River Métis.
- **President Chartrand's State of the Nation address** – President Chartrand's annual address to the Assembly, this caps off the opening ceremonies, offers reflections on our progress, and delivers an important message on the President's vision of the MMF's future goals and plans. This year, the State of the Nation address will be streamed live on NCI during the Métis Hour x2.
- **Tribute to John Fleury, MMF Cabinet member and Minister** – Long-serving Minister, Southwest Region representative, Veteran and defender of the Red River Métis, the loss of John Fleury was felt by all. The Assembly will honour Minister Fleury and his contributions through this tribute.
- **Pickler contest** – Celebrating traditional canning and preserving techniques used by our Ancestors to see us through the cold winter months, this year the AGA will host the 5th annual Pickler Classic. Many competitors enter their pickles to be judged, with first, second and third prizes awarded. The judging will be taking place, Saturday, October 18th at 1:30pm. The winner will be announced on Sunday, October 19th.
- **Family Fun Night** – Starting at 7:00 pm, Family Fun Night includes a tribute concert to community member and musician Al Desjarlais, along with a whole host of activities for families to enjoy.





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Sunday, October 19:

- **Resolutions to be voted on by the Assembly:** There will be four Constitutional Amendment Resolutions to be dealt with by the Assembly at this year's AGA, including three Constitutional Amendment Resolutions regarding the MMF's Election By-Law. These resolutions deal with proposed changes to Articles IX 4., IX 5., and IX 6. of the Election By-Law, with respect to the qualifications of Candidates. The other Constitutional Amendment Resolution is with respect to the naming of MMF Assemblies within the MMF Constitution. Specifically, the resolution proposes to change the terms "Annual General Assembly" and "Extraordinary General Assembly" to "National Assembly" and "Extraordinary National Assembly", which better conveys the significance, scope, and scale of Red River Métis Assemblies.

The Assembly can also anticipate additional resolutions, not Constitutional in nature, which may come from the Floor at the Assembly, and which will be delivered to the Resolutions Committee for their approval and subsequent presentation on October 19th.

- **Presentation of King Charles III Coronation Medals** – Given to people who have made a significant contribution to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region or community of Canada, or have made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada. At the 2025 Assembly, the King Charles III Coronation Medals will be awarded by President Chartrand to deserving honourees for their contributions to the Red River Métis.





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The Red River Métis Assembly: Rooted in Our History

Since the time of the buffalo hunt, the Red River Métis have utilized the three governance institutions of President, Council (also called Cabinet), and the Assembly. These three institutions have provided the structure for our collective and democratic decision-making since the ethnogenesis of our People.

These pillars of our democracy also played a key role when John Bruce as President and Louis Riel as Secretary formed the National Committee of the Red River Métis in 1869. This led to the formation of open-air assemblies, called the Convention of 24 and Convention of 40, and what is known as the Riel's Provisional Government, where Red River Métis and other representatives within the Red River Settlement came together to determine a path forward. The Red River Métis government drafted a list of rights, which becomes the basis for negotiations between the Red River Métis and Canada leading to the establishment of the province of Manitoba – the only province created by an Indigenous People. For this reason, we become known as the Manitoba Métis, in honour and celebration of our Ancestors' achievement in creating the province.

In more recent history, it was by bringing together various community groups and associations through it's collective that the MMF was founded in 1967, by a group of forward-thinking Métis leaders to promote the political, social, cultural and economic interests and rights of the Red River Métis. Through the subsequent decades, the MMF continued to grow into one of the most robust Indigenous governments in Canada.

Today, the MMF's Annual General Assembly (AGA) is a fundamental and traditional component of our governance system, continuing the legacy of Cuthbert Grant, John Bruce, Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, and the countless other Red River Métis leaders who shaped Canada.

It is with our past in mind that we continue to use the Assembly as a forum for our Citizens to come together to receive updates, set priorities, and provide direction to the MMF's elected officials. The importance of the AGA is echoed by our Local Leaders, and our Citizens who dedicate themselves to make the MMF's AGA the largest Indigenous assembly in Western Canada.





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The Red River Métis - Who We Are

The Red River Métis are a distinct Indigenous People from west-central North America, with our own collective identity, language, culture, way of life and government, located in the heart of the Homeland – Winnipeg, Manitoba. Our Homeland includes the Great Plains in what is now Western Canada, and the northern United States of America.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is the National Government of the Red River Métis - Canada's negotiating partners in Confederation and the founders of the Province of Manitoba.

Over the past several years, the MMF and the Red River Métis people have reemerged as economic leaders as a government and across a variety of sectors.

Our distinct Red River Métis cultural heritage is well known to Canadians: The Red River Jig, the Red River Cart, the poems, songs and music of our artists, our language Michif and our Red River Beadwork, so renowned that we were given the name "the Flower Beadwork People" by our Cree relatives. Our political history includes our national infinity flag and the struggles of our ancestors as they fought for our rights in battle and in the courts.

Through what is called the Red River Resistance – a major event in Canadian history – the Red River Métis formed a democratically elected government to prevent Canada from taking control of the Red River Settlement without consultation with the Red River Métis, who were the majority population.

In 1870, we successfully negotiated our entry in the Canada's confederation and became known as the Manitoba Métis, after the newly created province. We remain the only Indigenous people to bring a province into Confederation.

At times called half-breeds, mixed blood, country born, Bois-Brûlés, Lii Michif and eventually Otipemisiwak – the people who own themselves – we are the Red River Métis.





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L'Assemblée des Métis de la Rivière Rouge : Enracinée Dans Notre Histoire

Depuis l'époque de la chasse au bison, les Métis de la Rivière Rouge utilisent trois institutions de gouvernance : la Présidence, le Conseil (également appelé Cabinet) et l'Assemblée. Ces trois institutions ont fourni la structure de notre prise de décisions collective et démocratique depuis l'ethnogenèse de notre peuple.

Ces piliers de notre démocratie ont également joué un rôle clé lorsque John Bruce, à titre de Président, et Louis Riel, en tant que Secrétaire, ont formé le Comité national des Métis de la Rivière Rouge en 1869. Cela a conduit à la formation d'assemblées en plein air, appelées Convention des 24 et Convention des 40, et à ce qu'on a appelé le Gouvernement Provisoire de Riel, où les Métis de la Rivière Rouge et d'autres représentants de la Colonie de la Rivière Rouge se sont réunis pour déterminer la voie à suivre. Le gouvernement des Métis de la Rivière Rouge a dressé une liste de droits qui a servi de base aux négociations entre eux et le Canada, lesquelles ont abouti à la création de la province du Manitoba – la seule province du pays créé par un peuple autochtone. C'est pour cette raison que nous sommes connus sous le nom de Métis du Manitoba, en hommage au rôle décisif de nos ancêtres dans la fondation de la province et pour célébrer cet événement historique.

Plus récemment, c'est en rassemblant divers groupes et associations communautaires par l'intermédiaire de son collectif que la FMM a été fondée, en 1967, par un groupe des dirigeants Métis avant-gardistes, afin de promouvoir les intérêts et les droits politiques, sociaux, culturels et économiques des Métis de la Rivière Rouge. Au cours des décennies suivantes, la FMM a continué à se développer, jusqu'à devenir l'un des gouvernements autochtones les plus forts du Canada. Aujourd'hui, l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle (AGA) de la FMM est un élément fondamental et traditionnel de notre système de gouvernance, qui perpétue l'héritage de Cuthbert Grant, John Bruce, Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont et des innombrables autres dirigeants Métis de la Rivière Rouge ayant façonné le Canada.

C'est en gardant notre passé à l'esprit que nous continuons à utiliser l'AGA comme un forum permettant à nos citoyennes et à nos citoyens de se réunir pour recevoir des mises à jour, fixer des priorités et donner des orientations aux représentantes et représentants élus de la FMM. L'importance de l'événement est attestée par nos dirigeantes et dirigeants locaux et nos citoyennes et citoyens qui se dévouent pour faire de l'AGA de la MMF la plus grande assemblée autochtone de l'Ouest canadien.





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Les Métis de la Rivière Rouge – Qui Nous Sommes

Les Métis de la Rivière Rouge forment un peuple autochtone distinct qui vit dans le centre-ouest de l'Amérique du Nord et est doté de sa propre identité collective, avec sa langue, sa culture, son mode de vie et son gouvernement, lequel est basé au cœur de la patrie, à Winnipeg, au Manitoba. Notre patrie comprend les grandes plaines de ce qui est aujourd'hui l'ouest du Canada et le nord des États-Unis d'Amérique.

La Fédération Métisse du Manitoba (FMM) est le gouvernement national des Métis de la Rivière Rouge – les partenaires de négociation du Canada dans la Confédération et les fondateurs de la province du Manitoba.

Depuis quelques années, la FMM et les Métis de la Rivière Rouge sont redevenus des chefs de file économiques, tant en matière de gouvernance que dans différents champs d'activité.

Le patrimoine culturel distinct des Métis de la Rivière Rouge est bien connu de la population du Canada : la gigue de la Rivière Rouge, la charrette de la Rivière Rouge, les poèmes, les chansons et la musique de nos artistes, notre langue, le michif, et notre art du perlage de la Rivière Rouge, si réputé que nos cousins cris nous ont surnommés le « peuple du perlage floral ». Notre histoire politique comprend notre drapeau national orné du symbole de l'infini, et les luttes de nos ancêtres qui ont défendu nos droits sur le champ de bataille et devant les tribunaux.

Dans le cadre de ce qu'on a appelé la Résistance de la Rivière Rouge – un événement marquant de l'histoire du Canada – les Métis de la Rivière Rouge ont formé un gouvernement démocratiquement élu pour empêcher le Canada de prendre le contrôle de la Colonie de la Rivière Rouge sans les consulter, alors qu'ils constituaient la majorité de la population.

En 1870, nous avons négocié avec succès notre entrée dans la Confédération canadienne et nous sommes devenus les Métis du Manitoba, du nom de la province nouvellement créée. Nous restons le seul peuple autochtone à avoir fait entrer une province dans la Confédération.

Parfois appelés Métis, sang-mêlé, *country born*, Bois-Brûlés, Lii Michif et finalement Otipemisiwak – « le peuple qui se possède lui-même » – nous sommes les Métis de la Rivière Rouge.

