

integrity in our identity



Infinity Flag



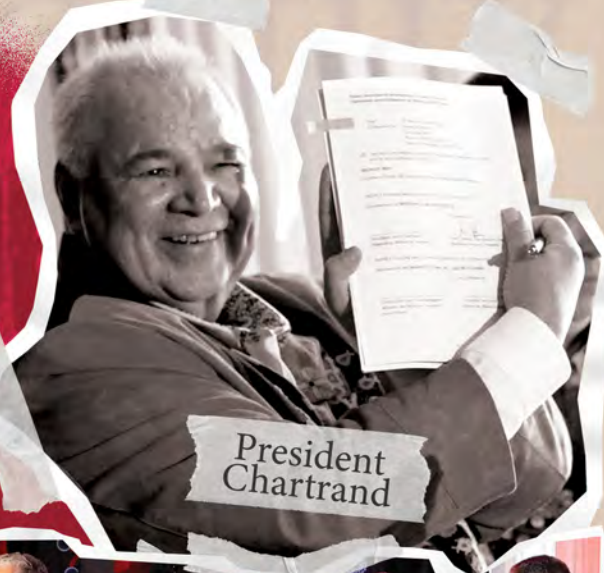
Beadwork



Fiddle



Gabriel Dumont



President Chartrand



Red River Métis
Self-Government
Treaty



2025
Annual
Report







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ANNUAL GREETINGS - PRESIDENT DAVID N. CHARTRAND, LL.D. (HON), O.M.



DAVID N. CHARTRAND, LL.D. (HON), O.M.
MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION PRESIDENT

Thank you to everyone for your prayers.

To our Elders, our Veterans and our Citizens.

On behalf of Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) - National Government of the Red River Métis, welcome to your 2025 AGA – PROTECTING OUR IDENTITY.

This year's AGA guide will provide you with an overview of the work accomplished by each department in your Red River Métis Government under the guidance of your Cabinet Ministers. I am incredibly proud of the dedication and energy each Minister brings to their portfolios and the ever-expanding range of support and services they provide to Citizens.

In the last year, MMF has continued to go from strength to strength while recognizing that we are living in uncertain times. 2024 concluded with the historic signing of the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty with Canada. For everyone in that room and watching the livestream, it was a moment we will never forget. While we await the Treaty's introduction to Parliament this fall, your Red River Métis Government has been building relationships with a new Government of Canada – our Partners in Confederation.

Since the start of 2025, there have been significant changes to the world around us. We congratulated Mark Carney on becoming Prime Minister of Canada and are closely engaged with his new government as he introduces an ambitious agenda to counter the economic threats from the South. With changes to the stability of long-time trading partners and economic uncertainty on everyone's mind, we have all had to start thinking about doing business differently.

Your Red River Métis Government recognized the need for this was immediate and we stood up to support bill C-5 *The Building Canada Act*. Following this, I was proud to stand next to Grand Chief Jerry Daniels to sign a historic Memorandum of Understanding in July of this year. This way of working together to align our interests where proposed major projects present opportunities and to prevent the consequences of poorly regulated developments of the past, will determine our shared future.

Remember that our own history taught us these lessons long ago – Red River Métis and First Nations once stood united to protect economic territory on the Plains at the height of the fur trade. It taught us then what we must revisit today – when we combine our collective strengths as like-minded partners for a common interest, we can build a stronger, more resilient, and more secure economy and territory.

While this moment has demonstrated it is a time for National unity, we must never forget that it cannot come at the expense of Red River Métis rights, identity and Canada's obligations to us. We must never take these for granted and we must always put our integrity before short sighted political gain. There are times when our partners in Confederation need a strong reminder of who we are – we have a responsibility to them and to ourselves to ensure they are on the right path.

You can read more about the strong partnerships we are building with our allies in my annual State of the Nation report.

Over the next three days, I hope you will take every opportunity to fully participate in the events of our Annual General Assembly.

Never forget that you are here to take your place as a local executive and Citizens to continue the democratic traditions of our Ancestors. Our Locals are the grassroots foundation of our government and a living testament to our identity and legacy, as well as being a strong, collective voice to the Region and on National issues. Your service to Red River Métis is critical to the continuation of our traditions and the protection of our identity.

As always, I extend my deepest respect and gratitude to our Elders and each of our Ancestors whose wisdom and sacrifices have led to the success we have today. To our Beyond Borders Citizens, your commitment to stay connected to your Red River Métis identity and to participate in our National Government is also critical to the preservation of who we are.

Never forget that all your efforts allow us to build a solid foundation for our Youth – for our future leaders who will remain proud of their Nation and one day take their place in the strong National Government of the Red River Métis you have helped to build. Thank you again for your commitment to serving Red River Métis Citizens.

Believe in Yourself Believe in Métis!

Meeqwetch,

President David N. Chartrand, LL.D. (Hon), O.M.

ANNUAL GREETINGS - INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT SPOKESWOMAN ANITA CAMPBELL



INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT SPOKESWOMAN ANITA CAMPBELL.

MMF MINISTER OF FINANCE

HUMAN RESOURCES

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY (IT)

strong network. Standing together, the MMF and IWS are at the forefront of creating meaningful change within our Red River Métis communities, all throughout the National Homeland.

Cherish your Red River Métis heritage. Be proud of who you are, and share your stories of our culture and traditions, especially with our youth, for they are the true leaders of tomorrow.

I wish you much happiness and good health, now and always.

In Métis Sisterhood,

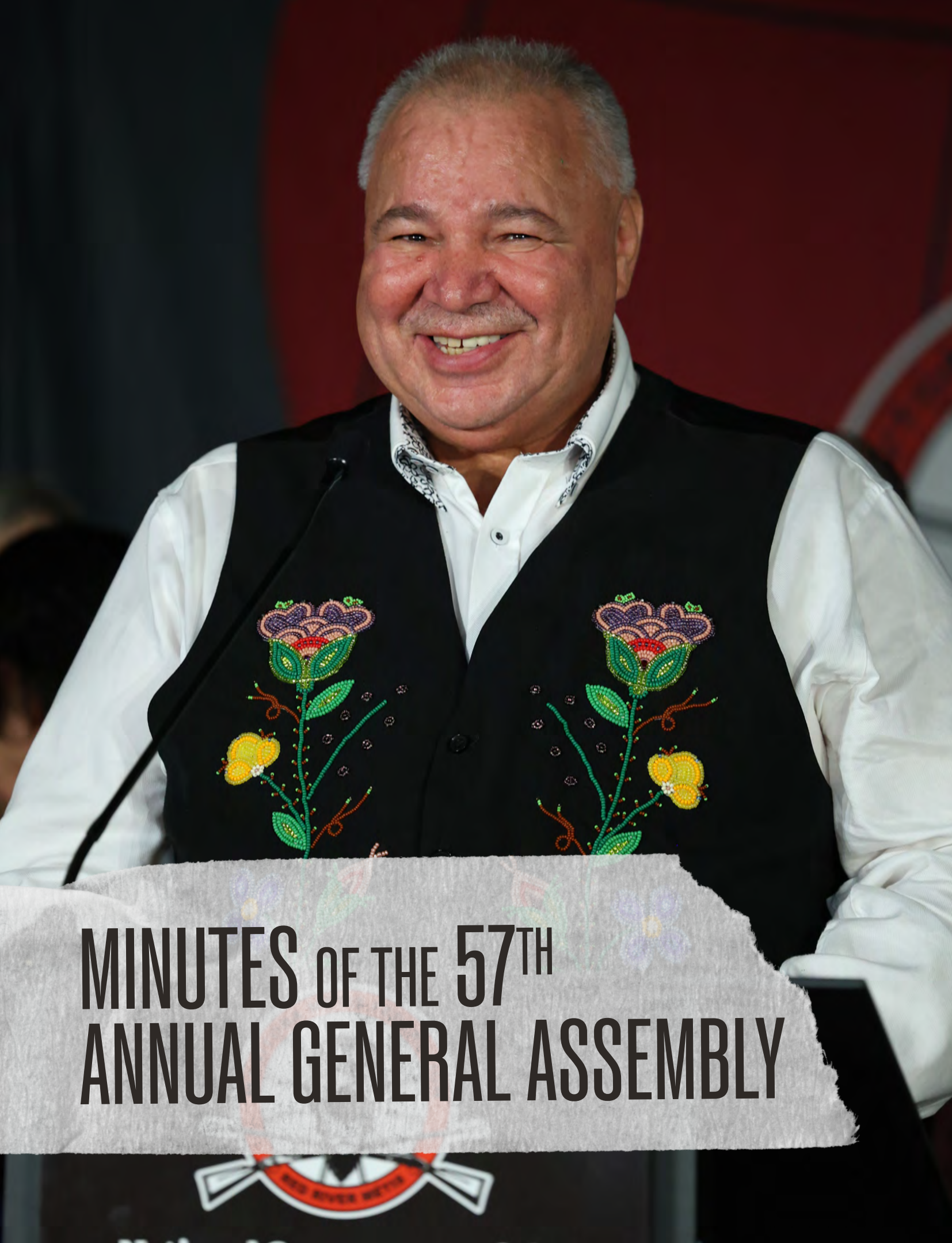
Anita Campbell

Welcome Elders, MMF Cabinet, Red River Métis Women, Delegates, Youth and Special Guests. On behalf of Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS), it is with great honour that I extend greetings to all attendees at this Assembly.

This year's MMF theme *"Integrity in our Identity"* speaks to who we are as a well-known and respected Nation. The Red River Métis Nation matters for our families, our communities and our relations.

The Red River Métis could not persevere without the hard work and dedication of the Manitoba Métis Federation – the National Government of the Red River Métis. Advocating for the protection and preservation of our rights, language, culture, and heritage. Their leadership and governance are paving the way forward, through reconciliation. There is no doubt that the MMF is making a difference in the lives of all Citizens. In recent years we have seen a surge of new Red River Métis applying today for their Citizenship, and it is an honour to welcome them home. To embrace them with intention and accountability, we are reconnecting them to their roots and helping them discover what it means to be a proud Red River Métis.

Infinity Women Secretariat is built on the foundations of culture, values, and kinship. Our matriarchs lead with wisdom, share their voices and experiences, impacting the lives of members. As a very proud Affiliate of the Manitoba Métis Federation – the National Government of the Red River Métis, we are very grateful for their ongoing support and backing. IWS will continue to support the monumental work of the MMF, and in return, our members are backed by this



MINUTES OF THE 57TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



MINUTES OF THE 57TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly (AGA), at the Assiniboia Downs, 3975 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, prepared by Christel Guenette, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

DAY ONE – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

AGENDA VARIED

The order of the agenda was varied throughout the AGA. Items are presented in these minutes in the order in which they were considered.

Master of Ceremonies Minister Will Goodon, Housing and Property Management, welcomed Delegates to the AGA at 9:38 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric provided an Opening Prayer accompanied by Elder Oliver Boulette on fiddle. On behalf of the National Government of the Red River Métis, Master of Ceremonies, Minister Will Goodon presented Elder Linda St. Cyr Saric and Elder Oliver Boulette with a gift.

1. APPOINTMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRS

Minister Anita Campbell, Spokesperson for Infinity Women's Secretariat (IWS), introduced the proposed AGA Chairs: Will Goodon and Marc LeClair, Youth Co-Chair Richelle Recksiedler, and Virtual Moderator David Gray. The motion to appoint them was read into the record.

MOTION 01-10-24

It was MOVED (Minister Anita Campbell, Infinity Women's Secretariat, Bosco Local, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Minister Richard Genaille, Duck Bay Local, Northwest Region)

To appoint Minister Will Goodon and Marc LeClair as Chairpersons, and to appoint David Gray as Virtual Moderator, and to appoint Richelle Recksiedler as Youth Co-Chair for the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On behalf of the MMF Cabinet, President David Chartrand spoke about organizers' efforts to ensure all Delegates were treated equally. The AGA had a record number of Delegates, and efforts were made to ensure everyone felt comfortable. Technology allowed for broader participation, with over 3,000 Delegates registered and Citizens from across Canada participating. The AGA also attracted interest from non-citizens who wanted to observe the National Government of the Red River Métis. Co-Chair Will Goodon confirmed that a quorum was achieved,

and informed that each Local was invited to select 10 Citizens to sit on the main floor to ensure that the Co-Chairs could visually see that a quorum was present.

Co-Chair Marc LeClair commented on the privilege of chairing the AGA for the past 20 years. Delegates were reminded to keep the noise levels down to ensure everyone could hear the reports and presentations.

Youth Co-Chair Richelle Recksiedler thanked the Elders for the opening prayer. As a teacher, Youth Co-Chair Richelle Recksiedler strove to teach others about the Red River Métis. It was an honour to Co-Chair the AGA and learn from the MMF Cabinet and Delegates.

Co-Chair Will Goodon reminded Delegates to be respectful of presenters and attendees by remaining quiet and ensuring discussions were taken outside the main room. Elder Assistants, notable by their blue vests, would be supporting Elders during the AGA. Locations of the First Aid Centre and Nursing Station were reviewed. Delegates were required to check in to their regional registration area each morning. The AGA Youth Gathering would be held October 18, 2024, at the Hilton Airport Hotel. Shuttle services were available to take Delegates from the venue to their cars and hotels.

Resolutions could be submitted to the Resolutions Committee at resolutions@mmf.mb.ca until 10:00 a.m. on Day Three – October 20, 2024.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Co-Chair Will Goodon informed that the Local By-Law Workshop was removed from the agenda and that the Audit and Financial Report would occur on Day Three – October 20, 2024.

MOTION 02-10-24

It was MOVED (Albert Beck, Lii Michif Otipemisiwak 2SLGBTQIA+ Allies Local, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Danette Vancauwenberghe, Turtle Mountain Local, Southwest Region)

That Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly (AGA) accept the October 18-20, 2024, Agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. APPOINTMENT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The resolution mover, Minister Denise Thomas, Sixties Scoop and Engagement and Consultation, and seconder, Minister Joanne Remillard, Environment and Climate Change, confirmed their support for the motion.

MOTION 03-10-24

**It was MOVED (Minister Denise Thomas, Grand Marais Local, Southeast Region) and
SECONDED (Minister JoAnne Remillard, Seven Oaks Métis Council Local, Winnipeg Region)**

To appoint the following individuals to the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly Resolutions Committee:

- Adrienne Carriere, Infinity Women Secretariat
- Tammy Chief, Northwest Region
- James Fyke, Thompson Region
- Wesley Hannah, Southwest Region
- Melanie LaLonde, Winnipeg Region
- Albert Linfitt, The Pas Region
- Ken Lodge, Southeast Region
- Brenda Zack, Interlake Region.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13-15, 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Youth Co-Chair Richelle Recksiedler read the motions and actions of the Minutes of the October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly into the record. During review of the Minutes, the following corrections were made:

- ∞ Ensure movers and seconders in motions are identified with the correct Local
 - ∞ Motion 26-20-23, replace “Toronto” with the correct Local the Citizen was connected
 - ∞ Motion 27-10-23, replace “BC” with the correct Local the Citizen was connected.

Request for Action (RFA/AGA24-10-01): The written minutes will be changed to reflect the correct Locals to which the Citizens were connected.

- ∞ Spelling corrections throughout:
 - ∞ Christianne Carrier Kennedy
 - ∞ Jeannette Brown-Porter
 - ∞ Steele Pruden
- ∞ Resolution 03-10-23: replace “BC” with “Manitoba”.

MOTION 04-10-24

**It was MOVED (Minister Frances Chartrand, Dauphin Amisk Local, Northwest Region) and
SECONDED (Lavone Lesperance, Winnipeg West Local, Winnipeg Region)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly (AGA) approve the Minutes of the October 13-15, 2023, AGA as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

HEALTH BREAK

The AGA recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 11:36 a.m. President David Chartrand informed that Elder Thomas Guiboche had a medical emergency and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Delegates were asked to join in a moment of silent prayer as Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric offered a prayer of healing.

5. CONSTITUTION AND RESOLUTION THREE WORKSHOP

Minister Judy Mayer, Constitution, Rights and Governance and Red River Métis Beyond Borders, informed that two Constitutional amendments were brought forward from the 2023 AGA related to the definition of Métis, and revising the Local By-laws. Additionally, a change to the Electoral By-Law would be introduced for consideration at the 2025 AGA.

Health Break

The AGA recessed at 11:44 a.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Minister Judy Mayer informed of the work of the Constitution Committee, consisting of Ministers Leah LaPlante and Julyda Lagimodiere, and support staff, to address several issues, including the structure of Locals, boundaries and Local Bylaws. The Local By-laws were to be introduced at the AGA, but, following the MMF Cabinet meeting, it was decided that it be deferred to coincide with the Treaty implementation and ensure full Citizen participation.

Resolution Three was brought forward at the 2023 AGA on behalf of Beyond Borders Citizens seeking to establish their own Locals. A Governance Retreat focused on Resolution Three was organized, and a presentation would follow the Constitution review.

An event was cohosted with the Chiefs of Ontario and Inuit leaders to discuss identity theft and its increased occurrence. The discussion considered concerns expressed at the 2023 AGA regarding intellectual property. A draft paper tabled in 2018 was revisited, and the Consultation Department was assigned to examine it and report on its findings.

Another area of focus was the development of Local Oaths of Office, Oaths of Ethics, Citizenship Lists, forms for Locals, and a National Elders Policy. Efforts are underway to address third-party requests for Citizenship information and establish a policy for staff who are part of Executives.

This year, the focus has been on the Local By-law and Constitutional amendments to be considered at the 2025 AGA. Murray Trachtenberg and Genevieve Benoit, MMF Legal General Counsels, were present to lead the discussion on the Constitutional Amendments that would be considered on Day

Three – October 20, 2024, and introduce proposed Constitutional amendments that would be considered at the 2025 AGA.

David Gray, Chief Electoral Officer, introduced the Local Executive Manual, and a series of training sessions for Locals. Assistance was available from the MMF to Locals to provide the training.

Genevieve Benoit, MMF Legal General Counsel reviewed the two Constitutional amendments that would be considered on Day Three – October 20, 2024. It was confirmed that both resolutions were properly brought, and the appropriate notice was provided in line with the Constitution.

The first resolution, “To Amend the MMF Constitution by Making the Constitution Amendment to the Preamble Effective Immediately,” aimed to amend the Preamble effective immediately without waiting for the Treaty to be signed. The second resolution, “To Amend the MMF Constitution to Revise the Local By-law,” sought to remove the current definition of “Métis” in the Local By-law and align it with the new definition passed at the 2023 AGA.

Both resolutions would be presented on Day Three – October 20, 2024, for consideration.

Murray Trachtenberg, MMF Legal General Counsel referred to the “MMF Constitution Workbook” in the AGA’s agenda package. Several Constitutional amendments were adopted at the June 3-4, 2023, Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) and the 2023 AGA but would not take effect until the effective date of the Treaty.

Three intended Constitutional changes were introduced that would be brought forward by the MMF Cabinet to the 2025 AGA:

- ∞ Article 9, Qualification of Candidates – three amendments were made to allow for greater participation in the election process and to be consistent with other Treaty-related developments
 - ∞ Sub-Section 4.a: “during the previous 20 years” would be replaced with “after January 1, 2000”
 - Comprehensive records were available after this date to prove an individual served on a Local Executive
 - ∞ Sub-Section 4.b and 4.c: same change as 4.a
 - ∞ Sub-Section 5: changes to clarify the wording and criteria for eligibility to run for office, particularly in cases where individuals have unpaid judgements or debts
 - ∞ Sub-Section 6: This clause is to be deleted as it can be a barrier to candidacy
 - As part of the Treaty transition, the Red River Métis Finance and Administration Act will come into effect; a clause in the Act states that the MMF Cabinet, within one year of the Act coming into force, will pass Conflict of

Interest (COI) rules that apply to MMF Cabinet members

- Currently, the MMF Cabinet follows COI rules under the Corporations Act.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered related to:

- ∞ Local Executive terms, which may begin prior to January 1, 2000, but continue past January 1, 2000
 - ∞ Whether the date or an affidavit could be created to acknowledge the term served on the Local
- ∞ COI rules for the MMF Cabinet in place prior to the Treaty implementation
- ∞ Availability of the Code of Ethics to Citizens; however, the COI policy is for internal use by staff
- ∞ Inclusion of a COI policy and Code of Ethics within the Local Executive Manual
- ∞ Signing of an Oath of Office by each MMF Cabinet Minister.

MOTION 05-10-24

**It was MOVED (Nelson Pruder, Thompson Local, Thompson Region) and
SECONDED (Shirley Grosky, The Pas Local, The Pas Region)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis
October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accept the
Constitution report as presented by
Minister Judy Mayer.

CARRIED
(One abstention)

Jason Simmonds, Consultant, provided a presentation titled, “MMF Cabinet Response to Resolution #3 – Presentation for the 2024 AGA” and highlighted:

- ∞ Beyond Borders by the numbers
- ∞ MMF programs and services to Citizens who live Beyond Borders
- ∞ A brief timeline to Resolution #3
- ∞ Resolution #3: To request the MMF Cabinet consider the existing governance structure
- ∞ Basis for MMF Cabinet response
- ∞ Discussion summary – Fundamentals affirmed in the MMF Cabinet discussion:
 - ∞ One Nation, one National Government serving all Red River Métis people

- ∞ No hierarchy of rights, equitable participation for Red River Métis Citizens based on the geographic reach of our National Homeland
- ∞ Our governance structures work; we build, adapt, and change them based on our National Homeland and the reach of our National Government Beyond Borders
- ∞ Locals are the bedrock of our National Government
- ∞ Ensure fiscal accountability, responsibility, and sustainability as we develop the institutions of our Government Beyond Borders

∞ Observations

∞ MMF Cabinet recommended the next steps.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ Ability for Beyond Borders Citizens to access programs through Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP), the First Time Home Purchase Program (FTHPP), etc.
 - ∞ Programs with funding that do not have the requirement for residency in Manitoba are available to Beyond Borders Citizens
- ∞ Sponsorship of students who live outside of the province to a maximum of \$5,000 per year
- ∞ Availability of the Garden Box program to Beyond Borders Citizens; an application form is available on the MMF website under “Agriculture”
- ∞ Provision of meals and accommodations to all Citizens who attend the AGA; individuals bear transportation costs
- ∞ Ensuring availability of funding for future students, thus requiring a limit on the amount of sponsorship that can be given to each student
- ∞ Ongoing negotiations with the Jay Treaty process
 - ∞ Discussions are underway with the Canada Border Services Agency to recognize MMF Citizenship cards for entry into Canada
 - ∞ Entry into the United States is permitted using the MMF Citizenship card
- ∞ Educating and engaging youth on the governance structure of the MMF
- ∞ Services provided to MMF Citizens, regardless of where they live; no preferential treatment will be given to any Citizen
 - ∞ Some programs are restricted to the Province of Manitoba; Ministers in affected Departments were directed to review agreements to determine how to access additional funding for those living outside of Manitoba

- ∞ Rights of Beyond Borders Citizens to vote in Local elections; accommodations can be made for online or mail-in ballots
- ∞ Improving communication with youth; email is an effective way to inform youth of MMF activities
- ∞ Use of MMF Citizenship cards to work in the United States without a visa
 - ∞ Ambassador Clement Chartier has been in discussions with the United States Ambassador regarding this issue.

MOTION 06-10-24

It was MOVED (Christopher Yates, Bison Local, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (David Grebstad, Red River Local, Winnipeg Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the MMF Cabinet’s Response to Resolution #3 as presented by Jason Simmonds, Consultant.

CARRIED

6. PORTFOLIO/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

6.1. Agriculture – Minister David Beaudin

Minister David Beaudin provided an update on Agriculture and highlighted:

- ∞ Role of the Agriculture Portfolio to advocate for Red River Métis interests in agriculture and agri-food
- ∞ \$10.69 million over three years to support Red River Métis agricultural producers in adopting on-farm beneficial management practices to address climate change
- ∞ Distribution of \$6 million to support over 90 producers across six of seven MMF Regions
- ∞ MMF’s bison herd, consisting of nine bison cows and a yearly calf cared for by Iron Head Bison Ranch
- ∞ MMF’s Food Security Initiative which aims to address food insecurity with the establishment of a network of food security greenhouses
- ∞ Production of over 730 pounds of vegetables at the Riel House garden and distributed to Elders and Citizens in need
- ∞ Collaboration with the University of Manitoba to examine traditional three sisters’ planting techniques
- ∞ The first Red River Métis Market Day, which showcased Red River Métis culture and tradition through food and handicraft vendors, workshops, and live entertainment
- ∞ Engagement with farmers and ranchers to address the

impacts associated with all amendments to the Crown Lands Leasing Program.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered related to:

- ∞ Raising bison or other livestock on lands that the MMF recently acquired
 - ∞ Further exploration is needed to examine partnerships with Locals and Regions for collective projects
 - ∞ Opportunities for Citizens to have support in obtaining agricultural or horticultural land for farming
 - ∞ MMF meets with industry partners and the government to fund programs and other supports that benefit all Métis ranchers and farmers.

6.2. Central Registry Office – Associate Minister Peter Fleming

Minister Leah LaPlante sent regrets as she was unable to attend the AGA. Associate Minister Peter Fleming provided an update on the Central Registry Office (CRO) and highlighted:

- ∞ Approval of 7,412 new Citizenship applications in the last year
- ∞ 32,701 Métis harvesters registered
- ∞ 715 new Citizenship applications for Beyond Borders Citizens
- ∞ Use of MMF identification as valid government-issued identification
- ∞ Beyond Borders and Mobile Citizenship Office visiting communities and offering Citizenship and harvester card services
- ∞ Partnership with St. Boniface Historical Society to provide genealogical services and develop the new Métis Genealogical Institute
- ∞ Introduction of an online application form and harvester survey, which received approximately 100 applications per month
- ∞ Questions for CRO can be emailed to citizenship@mmf.mb.ca.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered related to:

- ∞ Requirement for Beyond Borders Citizens to select a Local in Manitoba based on where family ties are located
- ∞ Need for digital Citizenship lists to streamline inputting the lists into email programs; lists should be separated as follows: 0-14, 15-29, 30+

- ∞ Local Executives were reminded to safeguard Citizens' information and adhere to confidentiality agreements

- ∞ Reminding children when they turn 18 to renew their MMF Citizenship card to receive an adult card

- ∞ Youth can apply online, making it easier to renew their Citizenship and more efficient for CRO.

President David Chartrand noted that the National Government of the Red River Métis faced ongoing cross-border issues. MMF was working with the United States on cross-border issues to demonstrate the historical connection to the use of the land. President David Chartrand met with the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada, and the United States Ambassador to discuss these issues further. The Red River Métis have a strong history in the United States, having assisted in wars and fleeing from the Reign of Terror.

Canada now accepts MMF Citizenship cards like passports, recognizing the MMF as the national Government of the Red River Métis. United States citizens can use the card to work in Canada for three years. The MMF was pushing for the recognition of Métis rights, similar to the recognition of First Nations rights.

President David Chartrand commented on the growth of the CRO and the number of individuals coming home. The transition from a youth card to an adult card means that the individual no longer requires their parents' permission to access services.

At its last meeting, the MMF Cabinet passed a policy requiring each Local Executive to sign the Oath of Office. The Oath of Office assures Citizens that the Executive will protect their information. Those refusing to sign would be expected to resign.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered related to:

- ∞ Responsibility of Local Executives to protect Citizen's information; there are legal implications that will put MMF at risk if the Oath of Office is not signed
- ∞ Compensation for Sixties Scoop Survivors
- ∞ Ability for individuals who are in institutions to apply for their MMF Citizenship card
 - ∞ The Justice Department supports those being released from institutions
 - ∞ MMF works to ensure that any Métis inmate being released from prison will have a job before being released
- ∞ Availability of housing for individuals being released from institutions
 - ∞ Transitional houses are available for inmates that are approved and funded by Canada.

MOTION 07-10-24

**It was MOVED (Heather Johnston, Winnipeg North Local, Winnipeg Region) and
SECONDED (Scott Norquay, Selkirk Red River Métis Local, Interlake Region)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the Agriculture Report as presented by Minister David Beaudin and the Central Registry Report as presented by Associate Minister Peter Fleming.

CARRIED

The Chairs invited Delegates to the AGA Monster Bingo event commencing at 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly adjourned on Day One – October 18, 2024, at 4:03 p.m. after agreeing to convene on Day Two – October 19, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

DAY TWO – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly reconvened on Day Two – October 19, 2024, at 9:43 a.m. Co-Chair Marc LeClair welcomed Delegates.

7. PRAYER – ARCHBISHOP RICHARD GAGNON

Archbishop Richard Gagnon encouraged Delegates to begin the day with a positive mindset and reflect on the important things. It was requested that Delegates remember the relationship with God and Creator and let that relationship and perspective influence the day's activities. A moment of silence was observed to offer a prayer for Elder Thomas Guiboche, who had passed away, and to remember his grieving family. Prayers were said to ask for guidance, generosity, courage, sensitivity to others' needs, wisdom in decision-making, and success in the day's work.

8. OPENING CEREMONIES

Anita Neville, Lieutenant Governor Manitoba

Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville acknowledged the Citizens of the MMF, who were heirs of a rich and proud heritage. Best wishes were extended to the thousands of Citizens watching the AGA. Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville acknowledged that the AGA was gathered on Treaty One territory, the heartland of the Manitoba Métis, and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, Dene, Nakota Nation, and the Red River Métis, including the northern lands of the Inuit. The commitment remained to work in partnership with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people to build an inclusive, equitable and just society for all. Democratic

decision-making is the heart of Canada and Manitoba's values. Before Confederation, the decision-making gatherings at the Métis buffalo hunt provided an example of community gathering to share information and discuss common concerns. Sharing ideas and experiences and giving time and energy to matters of public interest can improve the community and world.

The commitment of MMF Citizens and shared leadership is seen in its accomplishments, from the FTHPP, culturally accessible childcare, and the commitment of \$100 million to revitalize downtown Winnipeg. The work of MMF touches all aspects of life in Manitoba, and it continues to play an important role in the development and prosperity of the province. Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville wished Delegates a productive AGA and that each one would leave with excitement and the satisfaction that they contributed something that makes the Province, country, city, and community a better place.

Minister Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs

Minister Dan Vandal thanked Delegates for the warm welcome and the opportunity to address the AGA. President David Chartrand and the MMF Cabinet were commended for their advocacy efforts to ensure that Louis Riel was recognized as the first Premier of Manitoba. Minister Dan Vandal congratulated the Red River Métis's efforts in revitalizing Downtown Winnipeg and purchasing several properties, improving the face of downtown.

Nine years ago, the Liberal government was elected and created partnerships and investments with the MMF. This partnership included investments in housing, childcare, downtown investments, economic development, a self-government agreement (Treaty), and the Red River Power Corporation. Minister Dan Vandal urged Delegates to keep this momentum going. Engagement, communication, and commitment from everyone were important.

Minister Dan Vandal committed to working for the Métis people until the next election, focusing on Citizens and promoting reconciliation.

Minister Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

In a pre-recorded message, Minister Gary Anandasangaree recognized MMF's success in providing safe and affordable housing solutions for Métis Citizens. Canada remained committed to partnering with the MMF on housing initiatives. The new Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy would include an allocation for the Red River Métis and address the needs of Citizens who live away from their home communities. This commitment to core housing needs continued through renovations, repairs, and mobility adaptations of existing homes. Minister

Gary Anandasangaree praised MMF's efforts towards self-government and closing socio-economic gaps.

Senator Mary Jane McCallum, Senate of Canada

Senator Mary Jane McCallum acknowledged the matriarchs and powerful women at the AGA. Matriarchs are given the unique gift by the Creator of creating life. Senator Mary Jane McCallum reflected on her personal history of being raised as one family

before being separated by the government and churches to attend residential school. Families were forced to live apart and were divided by land. Senator Mary Jane McCallum called for unity and working together as one family, especially in light of modern treaties. The ancestors fought hard to ensure that future generations did not remain in the same position as them and were not allowed to pass the gates on Parliament Hill. Leaders have a sacred responsibility to pave the way for future generations. While things have improved for the environment, resource extraction, and the loss of water and air, leaders must continue to fight for the next seven generations and make the world a better place for them. Senator Mary Jane McCallum acknowledged the shared humanity and kinship formed by the values and principles inherited from the ancestors.

Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party

New Democratic Party Leader Jagmeet Singh commented on the shared values of the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the National Government of the Red River Métis. The NDP supported the upcoming Treaty legislation and committed to work with other parties to ensure its passage in Parliament. The Red River Métis Self-government and Recognition Agreement will recognize the National Government of the Red River Métis as a legal body and official government of the Red River Métis.

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh expressed concern that the federal government had yet to settle the Red River Métis land claim and pledged to continue to advocate for negotiations to begin. An important step at the federal level is restoring Métis Child and Family Services (CFS). The lack of response in these negotiations under Bill C-92 is disappointing. The mistreatment of Indigenous peoples, including the Sixties Scoop, continues to cause trauma for generations. Control over CFS will aid in moving past these harms. Leaders in communities know that the healthiest and safest future for Métis children is when they are in the care of the Métis community.

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh expressed further concern regarding potential Conservative cuts that would threaten the Treaty, land claims, and funding for CFS. If elected, the NDP would end the cuts and build a brighter future. The best days are ahead, where sovereignty is recognized, resources support communities, young people are hopeful, and laws give dignity and respect to all Indigenous people, including the Métis Nation.

Honourable Wab Kinew, Manitoba Premier, New Democratic Party

The Honourable Wab Kinew congratulated Minister Dan Vandal on the Minister's achievements and leadership. Louis Riel was elected to Parliament three times and could never sit in Parliament, but now a Red River Métis Citizen is sitting in the Cabinet.

Premier Wab Kinew reflected on June 2024, when Minister Jack Park, Red River Métis veterans, and Métis youth visited the beaches of Normandy on the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The heroes in uniform were thanked for defending freedom.

The Province of Manitoba continued to work to deliver on its promises, noting achievements in healthcare and the reduction

of the gas tax. Premier Wab Kinew announced the collaboration with the MMF on the repatriation and rematriation of Ste. Madeleine.

The Province of Manitoba and the National Government of the Red River Métis held a joint Cabinet meeting. The meeting provided opportunities to discuss various priority areas and continue addressing social and economic issues in Manitoba, particularly those of Red River Métis Citizens and their families. Manitoba will be better when Red River Métis Citizens have opportunity to work and earn a paycheque to put food on the table for their families.

Premier Wab Kinew highlighted the fulfillment of recognizing Louis Riel as the first Premier of Manitoba and expressed pride in the government's role in this achievement. This recognition is for future generations of children to understand their true identity and what it means to be a Citizen of Manitoba, founded by Louis Riel. Louis Riel's vision was that all people could come here and have their language rights, religious freedoms, the liberty to pursue a good livelihood, be respected and recognized, and live together to build a society where everyone prospered. Manitoba is one step closer to fulfilling Louis Riel's vision.

As one year as Premier, Premier Wab Kinew thanked the Red River Métis Citizens for their support and the opportunities that Manitoba provided.

His Worship Scott Gillingham, Mayor of Winnipeg

Mayor Scott Gillingham commented on the AGA's impacts on Winnipeg, acknowledging the economic impact on hotels and restaurants. As Winnipeg's 150th anniversary as a city approached, the Métis Nation and First Nations had a long history of land stewardship. The shared future of Winnipeg and the Red River Métis was a shared story that would be established through government-to-government relationships, partnerships, and investments in the city. The re-development of the Bank of Montréal into the Métis National Heritage Centre chartered a path forward for Western Canada by mutually building communities together and shaping the future of Canada. Mayor Scott Gillingham thanked President David Chartrand for hosting a meeting of mayors across Western Canada. Discussions centred around the impact of building communities together for the future and shaping the future of Canada in a new way.

Scott McMurchy, Commanding Officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

Commanding Officer Scott McMurchy commented on the RCMP's commitment to strengthening relationships and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous and Métis communities. Despite challenges, such as the temporary absence of the Métis Community Liaison Officer due to medical leave, the commitment to enhancing services and addressing issues remained strong. If any issues were not addressed or guidance was needed on policing issues affecting the community, Delegates were encouraged to contact their local RCMP Métis Community Liaison Officer. MMF's representation in the Joint Action Circle was appreciated. The Joint Action Circle developed strategies for policing that include addressing violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit individuals. Commanding Officer

Scott McMurphy continued his commitment to collaboration with the MMF and pledged support to ensure the safety and security of the Red River Métis Homeland communities.

Allan Danroth, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Manitoba Hydro

President Allan Danroth reflected on the positive steps towards reconciliation between Manitoba Hydro and the MMF through the conclusion of a historic revitalization agreement. This agreement addressed the legacy of Manitoba Hydro projects and set the framework for future collaboration, including potential projects with the Red River Power Corporation. President Allan Danroth committed to working with the MMF to foster a better future. Project-related engagements, such as the Point Dubois Renewable Energy Project and the Portage Area Capacity Enhancement Project, are part of strengthening the relationship. These projects provided opportunities for Métis carpenters, electricians, and millwrights to work toward their journeyman certification. Métis businesses and individuals have contributed over 11,000 work hours to these projects. This collaboration established a solid foundation for working collectively to provide tradesperson, ownership, and joint venture opportunities.

Dave Lamouche, President of the Métis Settlements General Council and Métis Settlements of Alberta

President Dave Lamouche reflected on the importance of Métis people in bringing together distinct societies to work together. Métis is not about mixed ancestry; it is about a Nation. The Métis Settlements of Alberta are uniquely positioned as the only land-based Métis community, holding 1.3 million acres of land with approximately 6,500 members. The Métis Settlements General Council (MSGC) is focused on securing relationships with all levels of government and other Métis Nations, like the MMF, to advance Métis rights in Canada. MSGC has collaborated with leaders like President David Chartrand to share ideas, learn from one another, and support collective action. One such example is the 1982 Constitutional talks.

This relationship must continue to embark on new horizons on the political, cultural, economic, and national landscape. Recently, President Dave Lamouche spoke at the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation at the Alberta legislature. “Truth” is interpreted as bringing hidden things to light, and “reconciliation” is the need to come together and work in unity. This leads to all governments working together.

Minister Anita Campbell, Spokesperson Infinity Women's Secretariat (IWS)

Minister Anita Campbell acknowledged the number of Delegates in attendance throughout the venue. These Delegates understand the importance of family and community. Minister Anita Campbell thanked Premier Wab Kinew for his words, emphasizing the importance of cultural identity and pride in the Red River Métis heritage. Minister Anita Campbell shared a personal experience of a young woman seeking to apply for her Citizenship card and her struggle to learn about her heritage due to her family's reluctance to share their history. This young woman was advised to persist in asking her grandmother about their lineage, highlighting that understanding one's heritage and identity is a personal right and crucial for self-awareness and pride in one's culture.

Young people need to understand their culture and heritage, specifically within the Red River Métis community. The youth program “Culture Through Identity,” funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, aims to educate them about their culture and kin. The program targets 9-12-year-olds, aiming to instill this knowledge early on in childcare centres. Everyone needs to take pride in their Red River Métis identity and serve as ambassadors of their culture within their communities and families.

Minister Anita Campbell acknowledged Selkirk's Mayor and new Red River Métis Citizen, Larry Johansson. Supporting the Red River Métis community and preserving its heritage is important. As Louis Riel said,

“We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on.”

The Red River Métis government is doing that work because its story needs to be recorded, shared, and told.

Minister Anita Campbell closed by recognizing Senator Mary Jane McCallum's acknowledgement of the matriarchs. President David Chartrand has supported IWS and Métis women throughout his career. The matriarchs are the foundation and the workers behind the work of the male leaders and family members.

The members of the MMF Cabinet were welcomed to the stage.

Minister Anita Campbell introduced President David Chartrand and welcomed him to the stage.

9. STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS – PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND

President David Chartrand thanked Archbishop Richard Gagnon for his prayer and requested a special prayer for Elder Thomas Guiboche, who passed away the day before. Elder Thomas Guiboche, a proud Métis and inventor, enjoyed the AGAs and would be missed. The MMF government would support his wife and siblings, and Elder Thomas Guiboche's memory would be honoured in a culturally respectful manner.

President David Chartrand recognized Minister Dan Vandal, who was elected Member of Parliament (MP) in Louis Riel's riding of St. Boniface and appointed Cabinet Minister, for his vision, political journey, and contributions to Canada. President David Chartrand thanked Minister Dan Vandal for his service and encouraged a round of applause for him as he retires from politics.

President David Chartrand commented on the struggle for recognition and respect of the Métis, noting their historical contributions, including defending Western Canada and participating in wars, despite not being fully recognized or respected. The Métis identity needs to be recognized without explanation to prevent it from being misunderstood or appropriated. President David Chartrand encouraged Delegates to proclaim their identity and heritage, stressing the importance of connection, loyalty, and the fight for rightful recognition and resources.

President David Chartrand offered additional comments regarding:

- ∞ Formation of the Red River Métis Power Corporation, which aims to involve Métis communities in building wind power facilities
 - ∞ The plan involves an investment in wind power, estimated to cost \$15 billion for 600 megawatts, which will contribute to Manitoba's energy needs and have economic benefits for communities and future generations
- ∞ Educating communities about their civic duty to vote and the importance of voting in the upcoming election to protect and advance MMF's interests
- ∞ Completion of Treaty consultations, despite challenges faced from First Nations
- ∞ Continuation of prayer at all MMF events
- ∞ Advancements in recognition of MMF's Citizenship card, which is now accepted for cross-border travel into Canada
- ∞ Shift in dynamics within industry, where once MMF sought opportunities, and now industries are approaching MMF to partner with them
 - ∞ This shift has provided greater opportunities for MMF Citizens to gain employment, buy homes, etc.
- ∞ Political opposition faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges faced by MMF to gain access to vaccines and personal protective equipment
 - ∞ Métis community's unity and proactive measures helped them to overcome the crisis without any severe outbreaks
- ∞ Gratitude to Winnipeg and Selkirk's mayors for their support in celebrating Métis culture and ensuring respect for Métis communities
- ∞ Economic impact of MMF gatherings on host communities
- ∞ Lawsuit filed against Canada, which failed to negotiate a settlement for Sixties Scoop survivors as promised over 10 years ago
 - ∞ The MMF Cabinet have been instructed to launch a process to correct Canada's wrongdoing of selling Métis children for \$10
 - ∞ In the interim, MMF has allocated funds to provide immediate relief to Sixties Scoop survivors and take steps to right the wrongs committed against Métis children.

President David Chartrand concluded by expressing pride in the MMF Cabinet's efforts to offer compensation to Sixties Scoop survivors. This step is important for healing and receiving an apology. Sixties Scoop Survivors were encouraged to apply for compensation as a start to healing.

Minister Anita Campbell presented President David Chartrand with a gift on behalf of the MMF Cabinet.

The MMF AGA Delegates stood for the departure of Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville.

Health Break

The AGA recessed at 12:47 p.m. and reconvened at 2:03 p.m.

VIDEO PRESENTATION

A video presentation was shared as a tribute to Ray St. Germain.

10. AUDIT/FINANCIAL REPORT

Minister Anita Campbell introduced fellow Finance and Human Resources (HR) Committee members Ministers Jack Park and Leah LaPlante, and introduced Lea-Ann Denoyer, Senior Director, David Gudmundson, Chief Financial Officer, and David Jaddock, Controller.

Terryl Luhowy, Partner, Meyers Norris Penny (MNP), presented the "MMF Inc. Non-Consolidated Financial Statements, March 31, 2024" and reviewed the Non-Consolidated Statements of Financial Position, Statement of Operations, Net Assets, and Cash Flows. The auditors gave the statements a clean opinion.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered related to:

- ∞ Posting of the complete MMF financial statements on the MMF website once finalized; the aim is to post it by November 1, 2024
- ∞ Providing the complete MMF Audit, including the Notes, on Day One of future AGAs
 - ∞ The goal for the 2024/2025 audit is to have it completed by July 31, 2025, for MMF Cabinet approval prior to the 2025 AGA
- ∞ Inability to provide consolidated financial statements as MMF's affiliates, in which MMF has a controlling interest, have not completed their audits
 - ∞ The decision was made in the past to present unconsolidated financial statements to avoid delays in presenting them to the AGA
- ∞ Formation of the Audit Committee, which will be responsible for future audits and ensure they are completed on time
 - ∞ Two MMF Citizens will sit on the Audit Committee; these Citizens have their accounting certification
 - ∞ The members of the Audit Committee will be posted once finalized
- ∞ Requirement of Regions to provide a budget and report to MMF on its core funding; some Regions apply for outside funding and are accountable to its funder to report on its use

- ∞ Details on investment and interest earned which will be provided in the Notes section of MMF's financial statements
- ∞ Continuation of COVID-19 support in 2023/2024, which the MMF funded as federal funding had ceased.

MOTION 08-10-24

It was MOVED (Minister David Beaudin, Winnipeg North, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Jeffrey Rohne, Prairie Buffalo Local, Winnipeg Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the MMF Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION 09-10-24

It was MOVED (Minister Frances Chartrand, Dauphin Amisk Local, Northwest Region) and SECONDED (Chris LeForte, Turtle Mountain Local, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly appoints the Auditors Meyers Norris Penny for the MMF Audit for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025.

CARRIED

(Nine Opposed)

- ∞ Increased Red River Métis Citizen involvement in conservation and National Park advocacy
- ∞ Free entry for Red River Métis Citizens to Parks Canada sites via the Indigenous Open Doors program
- ∞ Two Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas created through Canada's Target 1 Challenge
- ∞ Monitoring caribou populations in Northern Manitoba through Project Caribou using motion-activated cameras
- ∞ "Make Our Homeland Green Again" MMF's Tree planting initiative, which provides trees and shrubs to Red River Métis Citizens to create shelter beds, restore riparian areas, edible forests, yard improvement, and wildlife habitat reforestation
- ∞ Hosting six tree planting initiative educational workshops to teach new skills related to gardening, horticulture, and environmental stewardship
- ∞ Construction of the Red River Métis tree nursery to produce two million seedlings annually, focusing on a low carbon footprint
- ∞ Training programs for 1,000 community-based firefighters held in May 2023 on fighting and managing wildfires in a changing climate
- ∞ Funding received for Red River Métis-led initiatives for species-at-risk conservation; opportunities for involvement will be announced on social media.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ Challenges in partnering with St. Andrews Parish and Heritage Centre as it is privately owned
 - ∞ MMF has not been successful in partnering with the owners to include Métis content
- ∞ Discussion on traditional crafts during the Traditional Economies Portfolio presentation
- ∞ Efforts by the Agricultural and Traditional Economies Portfolios to amend harvesting rules to enable hunters to legally harvest coyotes and Timberwolves without the need for a trapper's licence
- ∞ Strategies to ensure all harvesters complete surveys accurately; surveys and CTF stickers fall under the CRO, which discusses alternative processes for reporting
- ∞ Commitment to provincial-wide consultation regarding harvesting; discussions can include Beyond Borders to look at the management of wild game, including coyotes, wolves, big game, ducks, fish, etc.
- ∞ Request to re-evaluate the limit on geese due to the overpopulation in the tundra

6. PORTFOLIO/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

6.3. Natural Resources – Acting Minister Peter Fleming

Acting Minister Peter Fleming provided an update on Natural Resources and offered comments regarding:

- ∞ Manitoba's continued disregard of MMF's Section 35 rights and Laws of the Harvest leading to charges against harvesters; if charged, contact the Natural Resources Department to assist
 - ∞ A valid Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) sticker and MMF harvester card are required for harvesting
 - ∞ MMF harvesting survey must be completed before new CTF stickers and big game tags are issued
 - ∞ Written landowner permission is necessary; the form is available on the MMF website
- ∞ Limited moose harvesting allowed in Duck and Porcupine Mountains under the Moose Conservation Harvesting Initiative

- ∞ Consultations will be held in the fall, which would be the opportune time to raise this request
- ∞ Use of aerial surveys using improved drone technologies to count wildlife accurately
 - ∞ MMF will work with Manitoba to develop a co-management plan that will suit the Citizens of MMF and Manitoba
- ∞ Suggestion to use the weekly newsletter to advise Citizens of closures and changes.

MOTION 10-10-24

It was MOVED (Nelson Pruder, Thompson Local, Thompson Region) and SECONDED (Candice Bercier, Thompson Local, Thompson Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the Natural Resources Report as presented by Acting Minister Peter Fleming.

CARRIED

6.4. Métis Child and Family Services – Minister Mona Buors

Minister Mona Buors reported on:

- ∞ The 2022 mandate letter from President David Chartrand outlining the Department's objectives
 - ∞ Areas of focus include ensuring children in care receive Citizenship cards before aging out of care and completing the Coordination Agreement
- ∞ Collaboration with Ministers to implement MMF jurisdiction over Red River Métis Child and Family Services (CFS) and increase prevention support
- ∞ Progress on drafting laws under Bill C92: *An Act Respecting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children, youth and families*
- ∞ Need for federal funding to support initiatives
- ∞ Successful class action lawsuit regarding the Children's Special Allowance (CSA), resulting in \$84.8 million for children; the award will be distributed in early November 2024.

A video regarding the CSA was shown.

Minister Mona Buors continued the report and highlighted:

- ∞ Partnerships with various Departments of the MMF
- ∞ Assistance provided by CRO in obtaining Citizenship for children and youth, with 90 applications processed and 38 receiving Citizenship

- ∞ Organizing various celebrations for youth, including youth aging out of care, Christmas parties, and a 20-year celebration of Métis CFS
- ∞ Focus on respecting kinship care to maintain cultural identity and community
 - ∞ Métis CFS focuses on holistic services and self-determination for Métis families, including initiatives like Métis Connect.

A video was shown showcasing Métis CFS's 20-year journey.

President David Chartrand acknowledged the named plaintiffs of the CSA, acknowledging their courage and presenting them each with a cheque for \$5,000. The plaintiffs offered remarks regarding the importance of participating in the settlement to ensure all children in care are afforded equal opportunities.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered related to:

- ∞ Gratitude to President David Chartrand and Minister Mona Buors for their dedication and support to Métis children and families
- ∞ Eligibility of Citizens who live outside of Manitoba to apply for the CSA distribution
 - ∞ Children in the care of Métis CFS and who lived in Manitoba during 2005-2019 are eligible.

MOTION 11-10-24

It was MOVED (Veronica Tottle, St. Norbert Local, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Tiffany Evans, Winnipeg West Local, Winnipeg Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the Métis Child and Family Services Report as presented by Minister Mona Buors.

CARRIED

6.5. Culture and Heritage – Minister Alfred Anderson

Minister Alfred Anderson highlighted the various programs and activities in the Culture and Heritage Department, including:

- ∞ Métis music van, which promotes Red River Métis culture; there is a growing demand for its presence at community events
- ∞ Mural in Selkirk, highlighting Red River Métis dancers and Métis music van
- ∞ Plans for a second Métis Music Van to enhance educational outreach in more communities

- ∞ Participation in events, including:
 - ∞ Victory at Frog Plain – June 19
 - ∞ National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21
 - ∞ Ste. Madeleine Métis Days – July 14-16
 - ∞ Elders and Youth Gathering – August 28-29
 - ∞ Louis Riel Commemoration Ceremony – November 16
 - ∞ Lighting up the Homeland – December 5
- ∞ Collaboration with the Selkirk Steelers for the first-ever Steeler Gala and Christmas market
- ∞ Availability of the latest Culture and Heritage newsletter
- ∞ Booking the Métis Music van by contacting cultureandheritage@mmf.mb.ca.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered related to:

- ∞ Work of the Michif Language Department to provide Michif Language Courses and language revitalization
- ∞ Assistance provided by the Culture and Heritage Department to Locals' planning events
 - ∞ The Culture and Heritage Department request that Locals inform the Department of events to be included on its events calendar
- ∞ Ability for the new Métis Music Van to travel to Northern communities.

MOTION 12-10-24

It was MOVED (Kim Chipman, Portage Local, Southwest Region) and SECONDED (Morgan Ginther, Selkirk Red River Métis Local, Interlake Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the Culture and Heritage Report as presented by Minister Alfred Anderson.

CARRIED

Co-Chair Marc LeClair shared information on the evening's activities and reminded that resolutions must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee at resolution@mmf.mb.ca, prior to 10:00 a.m. the following morning.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly adjourned on Day Two – October 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. after

agreeing to convene on Day Three – October 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

DAY THREE – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly reconvened on Day Three – October 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

6. PORTFOLIO/DEPARTMENT REPORTS (continued)

6.6 Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) – Minister Frances Chartrand

During the report on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC), Minister Frances Chartrand reported on:

- ∞ Emphasis on language, culture, and community within ELCC centres
- ∞ Expansion of ELCC centres across Manitoba, with recent openings in Winnipeg and upcoming in The Pas
- ∞ Active recruitment of staff, especially in The Pas
- ∞ Creation of 300 childcare spots since 2019.

6.7 Health – Minister Frances Chartrand

In regard to Health and Wellness, Minister Frances Chartrand offered comments on:

- ∞ Importance of research and consultations with Red River Métis Citizens for program development
- ∞ Current program offerings: prescription drug support, eyeglass program, and community navigators
- ∞ Availability of the Health Department staff to assist Citizens with PharmaCare and other applications.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ Efforts to extend the prescription program to Beyond Borders Citizens
- ∞ Meeting the needs of adults with invisible disabilities that require additional support to access services
 - ∞ A forum for Citizens with disabilities could provide feedback on what they need to access support
 - ∞ Health staff will follow up to ensure Citizens with disabilities are provided the support they need
- ∞ Training provided to community coordinators for specialized education for healthcare items
 - ∞ Staff participate in training provided by Métis Education and Training (MET) and Louis Riel Vocational College (LRVC)

- ∞ Creating an accessible website for individuals with visual or hearing impairments; an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter should be provided at all MMF events
- ∞ Constructing inclusive childcare centres to provide parents of special needs children additional assistance
- ∞ Future pharmacy builds anticipated in the north, which will be spearheaded by the Economic Development Department
- ∞ Efforts to provide extended health benefits to Métis Citizens and children in care.

6.8 Energy and Infrastructure – Minister Jack Park

During the report on Energy and Infrastructure, Minister Jack Park noted the importance of Citizen participation in consultations and decision-making. The Energy and Infrastructure Department had positive relationships with Canada and proponents (i.e., Manitoba Hydro).

Department activities include:

- ∞ Partnership with Canada for heritage monitoring at the St. Andrews Lock and Dam
 - ∞ 27,000 artifacts were recovered and will be on display at the new museum to be located at the St. Andrews Lock and Dam site
- ∞ Development of safety guidelines for fishing and game harvesting
- ∞ Participation in environmental assessments and monitoring
- ∞ Revitalization agreement signed with Manitoba Hydro
- ∞ Ongoing engagement with the provincial government on infrastructure and procurement policies.

6.9 Métis N4 Construction – Minister Jack Park

Minister Jack Park reported on the activities of Métis N4 Construction, highlighting:

- ∞ Support for project management, procurement, and Human Resources (HR) services for industrial and commercial projects
- ∞ Focus on employing Red River Métis Citizens, contracting Métis businesses, and prioritizing commercial real estate development
- ∞ Partnership with the Department of National Defense on an Indigenous Participation Plan for the Royal Canadian Air Force
- ∞ Joint venture project with GFL/GIP for waste management and civil engineering services
- ∞ Funding approval for electric vehicle charging stations across Manitoba as part of a green economy transition

- ∞ Collaboration with the Manitoba Aboriginal Head Start Council to assess the capital needs of all Manitoba Head Start sites
- ∞ Long-term planning for significant building expansions, including the Red River Métis National Heritage Centre at 335 Main Street
- ∞ New 55+ housing units in Selkirk at 366 Eveline to be available by December 2024
- ∞ Construction of the Red River Métis Tree Nursery.

In response to a question, Minister Jack Park commented on the efforts by Métis N4 construction to involve Beyond Borders Citizens in future projects.

6.10 Engagement and Consultation – Minister Denise Thomas

Minister Denise Thomas reminded Delegates of Resolution 8, which mandated a structured approach for engagement and consultation on projects affecting Citizens. The five phases of the consultation process were notice and response, research and capacity, engagement, partnership and accommodations, and implementation.

Department activities included:

- ∞ Outreach to Beyond Borders Citizens, including meetings in various provinces
- ∞ On-site assistance and facilitated focus groups at the Red River Métis Survivors Symposium – *Resilience: Our Nation, Our Communities, Ourselves*
- ∞ Leading MMF initiative to re-draft Canada's Consultation Guidelines
- ∞ Plans for the development of a Red River Métis Action Plan following discussions on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)* and Resolution 8

6.11 Sixties Scoop – Minister Denise Thomas

Minister Denise Thomas reported on continued efforts to address the impact of the Sixties Scoop and residential schools on Métis communities. Many children were taken from their homes, losing their language, culture, and identity. A moment of silence was observed to honour the lost children and survivors.

Activity highlights included:

- ∞ Healing programs and gatherings for survivors
- ∞ An intake process to ensure accurate information was provided for accessing services
- ∞ The “Kitchen Table Talks” program, which focussed on resilience and coping strategies
- ∞ Virtual talking circles that provided a safe space for

survivors to share stories

- ∞ The Red River Métis Survivor Symposium, which promoted healing, cultural discussions, and community engagement
- ∞ Efforts to honour survivors and lost children through ceremony and traditional teachings.

6.12 Residential and Day Schools – Minister Andrew Carrier

Minister Andrew Carrier commented on the importance of recognizing the legacy of residential and day schools on Red River Métis children and families. The MMF continues to seek reparations for the harm caused to survivors.

Highlights of the Residential and Day School Department included:

- ∞ Role of the Red River Métis Residential and Day Schools Advisory Committee in providing expertise related to residential school survivor issues
- ∞ Celebration of Orange Shirt Day
- ∞ Growth within the Department by adding staff to improve support and services to survivors.

6.13 Métis Community Resource Department – Minister Andrew Carrier

Minister Andrew Carrier reported on key programs and services provided by the Métis Community Resource Department, including:

- ∞ Memorial services with financial support of up to \$5,000 for funeral costs; the Department assisted 231 families in the amount of \$742,000 in 2023/2024
- ∞ Bereavement Fund of \$200 for other celebration of life costs; 203 families were supported
- ∞ Ambulance cost assistance provided to 73 Citizens, totaling \$9,340
- ∞ Medical Accommodation Aid for 61 Citizens, totaling \$40,057
- ∞ Pilot project providing fuel cards for medical travel; 83 Citizens were assisted with \$5,185 in donations
- ∞ Income Tax Program that helped 2,000 Citizens file their income taxes
- ∞ Prescription Drug Program assisting Métis seniors over 55 with PharmaCare deductibles for those earning under \$35,000 annually
- ∞ Senior Eyeglass Program providing coverage for eye exams and glasses for eligible Citizens.

6.14 Michif Language – Minister Andrew Carrier

Minister Andrew Carrier announced hiring Donna Ricard as the new Michif Language Director, effective November 4, 2024. The Michif Language Department secured a \$10.76 million contribution agreement with Canadian Heritage to support various programs over five years. Nine projects received funding as part of this initiative. Efforts continue to enhance French language services.

6.15 Riel House – Minister Andrew Carrier

Minister Andrew Carrier reported on the MMF's involvement in preserving Riel House in partnership with Parks Canada and thanked the Louis Riel Institute for hiring summer students.

During discussion, it was suggested that a guided walking tour be provided to Delegates of Cuthbert Grant Mill to understand and appreciate its history. Minister Andrew Carrier noted that daily tours were provided.

6.16 Environment and Climate Change – Minister JoAnne Remillard

Minister JoAnne Remillard noted that the MMF understood the importance of protecting and conserving its traditional territory and is actively working to ensure the environment is protected for future generations.

Activity highlights include:

- ∞ Métis Knowledge, Land-Use and Occupancy Studies (MKLUOS)
- ∞ Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow (MELT) offering environmental education camps for youth in grades K-12
- ∞ Métis Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program (MCBCM), which trains Red River Métis Citizens in environmental monitoring
- ∞ Weather Keeper program, a collaboration with the University of Manitoba for atmospheric data monitoring
- ∞ Red River Métis Stewards of the Homeland Program (RRM SOHP), focussing on conserving and restoring the National Homeland
- ∞ Collaboration with Standard Carbon and CanSustain in the carbon market for emission-reducing projects
- ∞ Emergency Kit checklist and evacuation protocols for disaster preparedness.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ Including recycling initiatives at MMF events
- ∞ Benefits of the numerous opportunities (MELT and the Climate Symposium) provided by the Department to educate youth on becoming stewards of the land.

Health break

The AGA recessed at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

6.17 Housing and Property Management – Minister Will Goodon

Minister Will Goodon commented on the growth of MMF and its strong partnership with Canada. The Housing Department employs 35 staff.

Highlights of the Housing and Property Management Report included:

- ∞ The FTHPP offers financial assistance to help families build wealth through home ownership
 - ∞ 1,000 Citizens have purchased their first home under the FTHPP
- ∞ The Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP) provides \$18,000 in the south and \$25,000 in the north for repairs
 - ∞ Over 2,300 applications were received; 800 projects were completed, and 600 projects were scheduled
 - ∞ Challenges include funding limitations and contractor availability in rural areas
- ∞ The Fre Maachi Program offers transitional housing with additional support for those experiencing homelessness
- ∞ Significant investments made in The Pas, including affordable housing and a new childcare centre
- ∞ Ongoing housing projects in Selkirk include a new apartment building with 49 units nearing completion, with move-ins planned for December 2024
 - ∞ There are wait lists for affordable housing units
- ∞ Future housing developments, including commercial spaces.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ Inability for FTHPP recipients to apply for HELP due to the limited availability of funding
- ∞ Design considerations needed for 55+ condominium units; closet size needs to increase
- ∞ Challenges in providing the HELP program for Beyond Borders Citizens; MMF works with trusted contractors and has encountered challenges in finding reliable contractors outside of Manitoba
 - ∞ MMF will continue to work towards providing its programming to Beyond Borders Citizens
- ∞ Denials for senior affordable housing experienced by MMF Citizens; often, affordable housing is in unsafe neighbourhoods
- ∞ Suggestion to construct one and a half baths for senior

housing; one bathroom is insufficient

- ∞ Need for FTHPP to be available to purchase mobile homes, which are more affordable for low-income families
 - ∞ An issue is the ownership of land; mobile homes require renting land, which is an issue when applying for a mortgage
 - ∞ Mobile homes on private lots may be eligible
- ∞ Process for a community to apply for senior housing to be constructed
 - ∞ Contact Regional Executive; the Housing Department works with the Regional Executive to look at available land and conduct a needs assessment
- ∞ Reasons why Citizens would be denied HELP
 - ∞ There are criteria for programs, including income thresholds, which would restrict who can apply for the program; contact the Housing Department to understand why an application was denied and to file an appeal
- ∞ Programs available for single-household income families
 - ∞ MMF has applied for funding through the federal Urban, Rural, Northern Indigenous Housing program to conduct consultations in Manitoba to understand gaps in assistance
 - ∞ The Housing Department partners with other MMF Departments to offer assistance (i.e., rent subsidies for students)
- ∞ Inability for single-income families to apply for mortgages; if the family can afford rent, it can afford a mortgage which is less than market rents
- ∞ Need for accessible, safe housing for individuals with mobility aids
 - ∞ All new builds require accessible units
- ∞ Scheduling a meeting with seniors and Elders to understand their housing needs
 - ∞ Métis Citizens have identified that senior housing and affordable rent for families are a priority
 - ∞ Time can be allotted to discuss housing at the next Elders' Conference.

Health break

The AGA recessed at 12:13 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

6.18 Human Resources – Minister Anita Campbell

Regarding Human Resources (HR), Minister Anita Campbell offered comments regarding:

- ∞ Recent staff appreciation event that celebrated staff

contributions

- ∞ MMF's strategic objectives, which include becoming the employer of choice and supporting staff and leaders
- ∞ Composition of the MMF workforce
 - ∞ MMF employs 600 staff to support its programs; there are a total of 1,150 employees of MMF, including direct employees, affiliates and regional employees
- ∞ Advertising of 175 positions in the last fiscal year; 375 individuals were hired to address internal hires and moves within departments
 - ∞ Currently, there are 50 job openings at MMF
- ∞ Updates to the compensation structure, the HR Policy, and Compliance
- ∞ Enhancements to the group benefits and pension plan
- ∞ Improvements to the HR process.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ Job opportunities for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals
 - ∞ MMF conducted a Gender-Based Analysis Plus
 - ∞ While MMF keeps statistics on gender, it has not done so with 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals; MMF is developing processes to collect that information to identify gaps in benefit supports
 - ∞ The Department is working on how to recruit individuals from that community
- ∞ The Local governance office located in Russell and potential employment opportunities
 - ∞ Meetings are occurring to discuss staffing, services, and support to provide to Citizens in that location.

6.19 Information Technology – Minister Anita Campbell

Minister Anita Campbell was introduced by an artificial intelligence (AI) persona named “Infinity.” Infinity was created to teach the Michif language to young people and provide conversational practice for language learners at home. Ten individuals will be selected to pilot the initial training. Infinity was developed in collaboration with Elders and language experts to ensure accuracy. Plans are to create an app for broader access to language learning.

Additional highlights of the Information Technology (IT) report included:

- ∞ Ensuring communities stay connected and have access to

information; MMF aims to ensure connectivity issues are addressed in all Regions

- ∞ Efforts to ensure the information gap is closed for all communities to ensure connection with the Red River Métis government
- ∞ Partnership with the Chief Electoral Office to provide technical support for secure and reliable elections
- ∞ Support provided for events and community communications
- ∞ Integrating AI technology to fit in the Métis world and to keep pace in the ever-changing world
- ∞ Importance of data centres; data centres are the foundation of service provision for the Métis government
- ∞ Commitment to data security and enhanced privacy for Citizens.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ Including the different dialects of Michif; a partnership was formed with the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) to ensure that Infinity included proper Michif
- ∞ Input from practicing teachers when developing Infinity
 - ∞ Infinity will be tested with a group of 10 individuals
 - ∞ Teachers and a Board member from the University of Manitoba are included in the expert panel to build the curriculum.

6.20 Louis Riel Capital Corporation – Minister Jack Park

In Minister Leah LaPlante's absence, Minister Jack Park, who served as the Vice Chair of the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC), provided a report on the LRCC. Minister Jack Park acknowledged Paul Paradis, the LRCC's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who was retiring.

Report highlights included:

- ∞ Business Equity Contribution Fund, which was designed to help Red River Métis Citizens bridge the equity gap when obtaining commercial financing for a business venture
- ∞ MMF Entrepreneurship Initiative, which provided loans up to \$30,000 for young entrepreneurs (age 18-29), with all programs providing 25% of the loan up to a maximum of \$5,000 forgiven
- ∞ Métis Women's Entrepreneurs Program, providing financing up to \$50,000 for women-owned businesses and includes mentorship
- ∞ FTHPP, providing 5% down payment assistance (up to \$18,000) and closing cost coverage (up to \$2,500)

- ∞ Red River Métis Personal Loan Program, providing loans up to \$40,000 for personal needs with employment and credit requirements
- ∞ Additional services provided: business advisory, coaching, referrals, and an online business directory
- ∞ Recognition of sponsors and cash prize draws for trade show businesses
- ∞ Acknowledgement of support from various organizations and businesses.

6.21 Métis Employment and Training – Minister John Fleury

Minister John Fleury noted that the MET report was on page 87 of the Annual Report.

Report highlights included:

- ∞ Signing of the 10-year Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Agreement in 2019
- ∞ Community partnerships, which enhance training and employment for Red River Métis Citizens
- ∞ Key responsibilities: needs assessments, employer partnerships, job search assistance, wraparound supports, and employment and training programs and services
- ∞ Celebration of MET's 24th anniversary
 - ∞ MET has assisted over 148,000 Citizens; 10,000 Citizens have returned to school, and 16,000 are employed
- ∞ Annual budget of \$15.6 million under the new agreement for career development
- ∞ Partnerships throughout MMF to deliver training and employment opportunities for Red River Métis Citizens to enhance access to employment, training, and education opportunities
- ∞ Employment of 338 students through the Summer Student program, with over \$3.31 million in funding for 2023-2024
- ∞ Employment impact: 2,345 clients served; 1,091 clients supported in funded programs; 1,086 clients employed; 559 clients returned to school for further education and training
- ∞ Celebrating Red River Métis Achievements Contest, designed to showcase the success stories
- ∞ Client success stories of Citizens who achieved significant career advancements.

Discussion occurred on the involvement of MET in funding provided to ISET students.

6.22 Métis Justice Institute and Pemmican Publications – Minister Julyda Lagimodiere

Minister Julyda Lagimodiere commented that the Métis Justice Institute (MJI) is working towards its mandate of developing and maintaining a wide range of justice services and programs that meet the needs of Red River Métis Citizens.

Highlights of the activities of MJI include:

- ∞ The Métis Community Justice Program diverts Red River Métis Citizens from the Provincial Court to culturally appropriate community alternatives
 - ∞ Clients must repair harm through community sanctions and measures
 - ∞ The program has accepted 160 diversion referrals from 57 communities, covering 179 charges across 65 different *Criminal Code* offences
 - ∞ The highest charge diverted was for assault at 67.5%
- ∞ The Red River Métis Court Workers Program aims to improve access to justice for Métis Citizens in court systems
 - ∞ Court workers provide simplified legal terminology and concepts to reduce miscommunication
 - ∞ Three Métis Court Workers serve the Southwest, Interlake, and Winnipeg Regions
 - ∞ The program has assisted 602 individuals in 14 courts, addressing 1,296 charges across 24 *Criminal Code* offences
 - ∞ Key services include legal navigation, court liaison, youth advocacy, education, and outreach
- ∞ Funding was received from Canada over two years to develop a Red River Métis Justice Strategy, involving collaboration with Elders and Knowledge Keeper, MMF Departments, and Red River Métis Citizens.

6.23 Education and Louis Riel Institute – Minister Joan Ledoux

Minister Joan Ledoux provided highlights of the activities of the Education Department and LRI, including:

- ∞ Over 5,000 Red River Métis students have been sponsored, totalling approximately \$21 million
- ∞ In 2023, 1,646 students were sponsored, with \$6.6 million provided
- ∞ Partnerships within the Red River Métis government and external organizations have contributed to the program's success
- ∞ Three Métis Inclusion Workers operate in Manitoba, supporting students at local universities

- ∞ The application process has been streamlined by merging endowment and post-secondary applications
- ∞ LRVC celebrated a 90% job success rate for graduates
- ∞ Mandatory Métis culture and history components are integrated into all programs for students.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ MMF's funding agreement with the Ben Gurion University in Israel, despite the ongoing conflict in the Middle East
 - ∞ The agreement pre-dates the war in Israel and Palestine
- ∞ Providing rights-based funding for tuition without input from colonial institutions
 - ∞ This is an administration issue with universities; MMF has assured universities that funding is forthcoming and that students should not be penalized
 - ∞ Students encountering issues should contact the Education Department for assistance.

6.24 Red River Métis Veterans – Minister Shawn Nault

Minister Shawn Nault commented on the Red River Métis Veteran's Department's focus on honouring and supporting Red River Métis Veterans. Efforts are underway to build a strong network and identify community needs in collaboration with various service providers.

Further report highlights included:

- ∞ Development of a database to streamline services for Red River Métis Veterans; Citizens with veterans in their families are encouraged to apply for these services
- ∞ Implementation of staff training to address potential triggering during interviews for veterans
- ∞ Honouring veterans through various commemorations, including partnerships with veteran associations
- ∞ Recent initiatives, including taking Red River Métis youth to Normandy, France to connect with their heritage.

A video showcased the trip to Normandy, France, to commemorate World War I and World War II Red River Métis Veterans.

6.25 Sports and Youth – Minister Richard Genaille

Minister Richard Genaille shared that the Youth Department spearheaded various initiatives yielding economic and social benefits. Programs cultivate individual growth and foster community cohesion and social integration through individual youth support and the Believe Program.

Highlights of the Youth Report included:

- ∞ Benefit to over 2,000 youth in sports, recreation, and cultural activities
- ∞ Support for individual athletes like the Ferguson sisters in motocross and Rainey Delaurier in para hockey
- ∞ Focus on personal and professional development through various programs, including the Hockey Mentorship Camp, Curling with Kerri, and workshops
- ∞ Events like the Manitoba Indigenous Youth Achievement Awards encouraged goal setting and achievement among youth
- ∞ The Community Summer Employment Program, which employed 54 youth and enhanced life skills and community development.

Discussion ensued on funding allocations for youth, which were being decreased due to funding limitations.

6.26 Traditional Economies – Minister Darrel Ferland

Minister Darrel Ferland reported on:

- ∞ The Red River Métis Fur Company purchasing, which offers prices 25% higher than market value
 - ∞ 43 to 61 trappers participated in the 2023-2024 season
 - ∞ Total purchases totalled \$180,340 compared to \$72,160 in the previous year
- ∞ Continued engagement with the government on fisheries concerns
- ∞ Siene River Riparian Restoration Project, which restored the riparian zone of the Siene River to support aquatic ecosystems
- ∞ Ongoing consultation on timber harvesting and road access development related to Red River Métis harvesting rights.

6.27 Economic Development – President David Chartrand

President David Chartrand commented on the importance of economic investment for future generations.

During the Economic Development Report, President David Chartrand highlighted the following:

- ∞ 755 Métis businesses have registered, with more expected to join
- ∞ The first Red River Métis Business Gala awarded grants to local businesses
- ∞ A Business Expo in December 2024 will feature approximately 400 businesses

- ∞ Skyline is assisting in an \$11 billion bidding project for aviation facilities
- ∞ Planned acquisition of a building in Ottawa for use by the MMF government
- ∞ Pride in artisans' work: \$600,000 was spent on local artisan products, with \$380,000 generated in sales
- ∞ Acquisition of Rapid City Memorials
- ∞ Pharmacies filed 46,000 prescriptions, generating over \$2 million; there are plans to expand pharmacy services to new locations
- ∞ Potential acquisition of the Northwest Wild Rice Company
- ∞ \$180,000 of furs purchased from trappers to support traditional economies
- ∞ The Red River Power Company, which is projected to contribute significantly to MMF's economic development portfolio.

MOTION 13-10-24

It was MOVED (Minister Frances Chartrand, Dauphin Amisk Local, Northwest Region) and SECONDED (Minister Denise Thomas, Grand Marais Local, Southeast Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the following reports:

- ∞ Early Learning Child Care as presented by Minister Frances Chartrand
- ∞ Health as presented by Minister Frances Chartrand
- ∞ Energy and Infrastructure as presented by Minister Jack Park
- ∞ Métis N4 Construction as presented by Minister Jack Park
- ∞ Engagement and Consultation as presented by Minister Denise Thomas
- ∞ Sixties Scoop as presented by Minister Denise Thomas
- ∞ Residential and Day Schools as presented by Minister Andrew Carrier
- ∞ Métis Community Resource Department as presented by Minister Andrew Carrier
- ∞ Michif Language as presented by Minister Andrew Carrier
- ∞ Riel House as presented by Minister Andrew Carrier
- ∞ Environment and Climate Change as presented by Minister JoAnne Remillard

- ∞ Housing and Property Management as presented by Minister Will Goodon
- ∞ Human Resources as presented by Minister Anita Campbell
- ∞ Information Technology as presented by Minister Anita Campbell
- ∞ Louis Riel Capital Corporation as presented by Minister Jack Park
- ∞ Métis Employment and Training as presented by Minister John Fleury
- ∞ Métis Justice Institute and Pemmican Publications as presented by Minister Judyda Lagimodiere
- ∞ Education and Louis Riel Institute as presented by Minister Joan Ledoux
- ∞ Red River Métis Veterans as presented by Minister Shawn Nault
- ∞ Sports and Youth as presented by Minister Richard Genaille
- ∞ Traditional Economies as presented by Minister Darrel Ferland
- ∞ Economic Development as presented by President David Chartrand.

CARRIED

13. RESOLUTIONS

Ken Lodge, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, reviewed how the Resolutions Committee was selected and introduced each member. Committee members were provided the Terms of Reference to guide them in their responsibility.

Members of the Resolutions Committee presented the resolutions.

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 13-15, 2023 To Amend the Manitoba Métis Federation Constitution

The resolution was read into the record. It was noted the resolution had been previously moved by Minister Judy Mayer and seconded by Minister David Beaudin, and both Ministers were present to confirm their support.

RESOLUTION 01-10-24

It was MOVED (Minister Judy Mayer, The Pas Local, The Pas Region) and SECONDED (Minister David Beaudin, Winnipeg North Local, Winnipeg Region)

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation ("MMF") Extraordinary General Assembly ("EGA") passed a resolution on June 4, 2023, to amend the MMF Constitution to reflect the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty (the "Resolution");

AND WHEREAS the Resolution made several changes to the MMF Constitution which will come into force on the Effective Date of the Treaty;

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the Red River Métis that, given the passage of time, some of these changes come into force in the near future and not be left until the Treaty is signed and effective;

AND WHEREAS among those changes is a revision of the MMF Constitution Preamble which clearly states who the Red River Métis and the MMF are;

AND WHEREAS this change is integral to who the Red River Métis are and the Assembly has already approved this amendment to take effect in the future;

AND WHEREAS a resolution in substantially the same form to this resolution was adopted and approved by the MMF Cabinet at a meeting of August 14, 2024;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES AND RATIFIES THAT:

1. The Preamble of By-Law No. 1 be amended effective immediately in accordance with the Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Extraordinary General Assembly June 3-4, 2023 To Amend the MMF Constitution to Reflect the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty.

The language contained in the Resolution and the changes to be made to the Preamble are as follows:

- b. The Preamble in its entirety is hereby deleted, and the following is therefore substituted:
“WHEREAS the Red River Métis is one of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada referred to in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
WHEREAS the Red River Métis emerged from, and lived in, the historic Northwest, and this territory is referred to today as the Red River Métis Homeland;
WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation is the democratic and self-governing representative body of the Red River Métis; and
WHEREAS the Red River Métis comprises Citizens, settlements also known as local communities, and traditional territories, and is defined by a common identity, culture, language, history and, among other things, social and kinship relationships;”

CARRIED

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 18-20, 2024, to Amend the MMF Constitution to Revise the Local By-Law

The resolution was read into the record. It was noted the resolution had been previously moved by Minister Judy Mayer

and seconded by Minister Denise Thomas, and both Ministers were present to confirm their support.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding the use of scrip, which was used to help identify families but was not a defining marker of a Nation or people.

RESOLUTION 02-10-24

**It was MOVED (Minister Judy Mayer, The Pas Local, The Pas Region) and
SECONDED (Minister Denise Thomas, Grand Marais Local, Southeast Region)**

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) Constitution was amended at the last MMF Annual General Assembly (“AGA”) on October 15, 2023 to include a definition of “Red River Métis”;

AND WHEREAS the new definition of Red River Métis aligns with the future Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty and is expressive of our unique, distinct, and national Red River Métis identity, Homeland, and Government;

AND WHEREAS Article II of what is currently known as the Local By-Law has within it a separate definition of “Métis”;

AND WHEREAS the definition in the Local By-Law does not reflect the most recent change made by the AGA which more accurately describes the Red River Métis, and this definition should therefore be removed;

AND WHEREAS a resolution in substantially the same form to this resolution was adopted and approved by the MMF Cabinet at a meeting of August 14, 2024;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES AND RATIFIES THAT:

1. Article II(1) of the Local By-Law which currently states:
 1. Definition of Métis
 - a. “Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation;
 - b. “Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-Breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland;
 - c. “Historic Métis Nation Homeland” means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-Breeds as they were then known;
 - d. “Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation, which is now comprised of all Métis Nation Citizens and is one of the “Aboriginal peoples of

Canada” within section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

- e. “Distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples” means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

1. Definition of Métis

- a. For the purposes of this Local By-Law, the term “Métis” bears the same definition as “Red River Métis” stated in Article IV(1) of By-Law No. 1.

CARRIED

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 18-20, 2024, Regarding Red River Métis Research

The resolution was read into the record. The resolution had been moved by Debbie Forgie and seconded by David Parent, and both were present to confirm their support.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ Implications that inability to access data has on providing services
- ∞ Differences in how First Nations data is respected versus Métis data
- ∞ Ensuring that policies are in place to ensure that no one abuses, misrepresents, or lies about the Métis in their research
- ∞ Development of the *Métis Research Ethics Policy*, which was not adopted; the policy provides a framework for conducting research on the Métis
- ∞ Differentiating between research conducted in community and outside of community
- ∞ Importance of researchers understanding who the Métis are and how to best conduct research with Métis, which differs from First Nations
- ∞ Institutions that claim to speak on behalf of Métis Citizens
- ∞ Role of the Métis government to hold researchers accountable and ensure accuracy within reports and curriculum
- ∞ Ensuring transparent and arms-length development of a research ethics policy
- ∞ Ownership of knowledge, which belongs to Red River Métis Citizens and the collective
- ∞ Need for a transparent process for Citizens and researchers (Indigenous and non-Indigenous)

- ∞ Educating universities and institutions on the definition of Métis to inform hiring of Indigenous educators; policies and processes need to be put in place for checks and balances to ensure people claiming to be Métis are Métis
- ∞ Miscategorization of Métis in media, schools, writers; Métis Citizens have the right to define themselves and correct misinformation to ensure it stops
- ∞ Use of oral history to convey knowledge; oral history assumes a one-on-one relationship with whom the knowledge is being shared.

RESOLUTION 03-10-24

**It was MOVED (Debbie Forgie, St. Eustache Métis Local, Southwest Region) and
SECONDED (David Parent, Lundar Local, Interlake Region)**

WHEREAS the Red River Métis is a distinct, rights-bearing Indigenous People, Canada’s Negotiating Partner in Confederation, and Founders of the Province of Manitoba;
AND WHEREAS the right to self-determination is recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the inherent right to self-government is recognized and affirmed by section 35 and protected by section 25 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS the federal government, provincial governments, industry, universities, and other organizations seek to collect, preserve, control, and maintain Red River Métis knowledge, data, and information through research-related laws, policies, and practices;

AND WHEREAS Academic freedom, and other research-related laws, policies, and practices must be exercised in a reasonable and responsible manner while also ensuring the rights and freedoms of others are upheld, including Red River Métis as a rights-bearing Indigenous People;

AND WHEREAS the following two articles from *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)* address Indigenous rights related to research:

Article 31:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions; and
2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights; and

Article 35: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities;

AND WHEREAS the Red River Métis, as a distinct rights-bearing Indigenous people, has the right to self-government including the right to determine effective measures to protect Red River Métis rights in research;

AND WHEREAS research and data that accurately reflects Red River Métis Citizens is vital to advancing Red River Métis self-government and Red River Métis priorities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. Requests that the MMF Cabinet consider that the MMF, as the National Government of the Red River Métis, undertake effective measures to support research that reflects its Citizens and Red River Métis needs and priorities, while also protecting the collective rights of Red River Métis in research, including the right to:
 - a. maintain, control, protect and develop Red River Métis cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of Red River Métis sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts; and
 - b. maintain, control, protect and develop Red River Métis intellectual property over cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions and material culture; and
2. Requests that the MMF Cabinet consider that the MMF take effective measures to protect the exercise of Red River Métis rights in research and determine the measures for protecting those rights, which may include the development of its own law and transparent research ethics policies and process which may ensure all parties who wish to conduct research involving Red River Métis, seek consent of the MMF and enter into formal agreements with the MMF prior to conducting research; and
3. Requests that the MMF Cabinet consider that the MMF take effective measures to protect Red River Métis rights in research, through communication and education related to approved resolutions, and established policies and processes to the following parties:
 - a. Red River Métis Citizens, Locals, Regions, and MMF Affiliates and Departments; and

- b. all external parties, which may include federal and provincial governments, industries, universities, and other organizations.

CARRIED

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 18-20, 2024, Regarding Support for No Thanks I'm Good

The resolution was read into the record. The resolution had been moved by Joseph Fourre and seconded by Eugene Martel, and both were present to confirm their support.

RESOLUTION 04-10-24

**It was MOVED (Joseph Fourre, Liberty Local, Winnipeg Region) and
SECONDED (Eugene Martel, Liberty Local, Winnipeg Region)**

WHEREAS in 2023, 445 lives were lost due to substance use in Manitoba, and Fentanyl Poisoning has contributed to over 50% of those deaths. Early numbers for 2024 are indicating Manitoba will surpass 2023 death numbers;

AND WHEREAS recreational drugs are being poisoned by Fentanyl at an increasing rate, making any kind of drug use unsafe for anyone;

AND WHEREAS Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented in all drug-induced deaths throughout Manitoba and Canada;

AND WHEREAS there is no comprehensive drug awareness or prevention campaign in Manitoba or Canada warning young people of the dangers of recreational drug use and Fentanyl Poisoning;

AND WHEREAS *No Thanks I'm Good* is a campaign initiated by the Singing Red Bear Foundation Inc., warns youth and recreational drug users that in today's world, drug use is just not safe. Through the campaign, we have equipped recreational users and youth considering using for the first time to make a more informed choice and choose *No Thanks I'm Good* to opt out of using drugs and staying alive;

AND WHEREAS Singing Red Bear Foundation's vision is to be a national resource for youth through building and creating awareness, initiatives and programs around the dangers of recreational drug use;

AND WHEREAS Singing Red Bear Foundation's mission is to motivate, inspire and encourage all youth to aspire to achieve living with the choice of being drug-free. It is the Foundation's goal to build up each individual's unique belief in themselves, to guide them to be leaders, not followers, and to encourage them to rise up through inspiration, leadership and mentorship. The Foundation's goal is to equip all youth with the confidence and wisdom to say "No Thanks, I'm Good" when faced with the everyday challenges of being exposed to unknown recreational drugs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. Request that the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet consider whether the MMF should support and endorse the *No Thanks I'm Good* campaign and the Singing Red Bear Foundation Incorporated in its efforts to bring awareness and prevention of more deaths due to poisoned drugs throughout the Red River Métis Homeland and to all our relatives throughout Manitoba and Canada.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 18-20, 2024, Regarding Red River Métis Assemblies

The resolution was read into the record. The resolution had been moved by David Parent and seconded by Christopher Yates, and both were present to confirm their support.

RESOLUTION 05-10-24

**It was MOVED (David Parent, Lundar Local, Interlake Region) and
SECONDED (Christopher Yates, Bison Local, Winnipeg Region)**

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) Constitution at Article XIII and Article XIV contemplate Annual General Assemblies and Extraordinary General Assemblies;
AND WHEREAS the MMF is the National Government of the Red River Métis, and the Red River Métis are only represented by the MMF;

AND WHEREAS the MMF should continue moving away from corporate language while embracing our traditional governance language consistent with, for example, the 1869 National Committee of the Red River Métis or *le Comité national des Métis de la Rivière-Rouge*;

AND WHEREAS the Red River Métis should be using language to define our assemblies that more accurately describe their nature, which are national assemblies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. Requests that the MMF Cabinet consider a 2025 Constitutional amendment to change the language in the MMF Constitution from “Annual General Assembly” and “Extraordinary General Assembly” to “National Assembly” and “Extraordinary National Assembly”.

CARRIED

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 18-20, 2024, Regarding Red River Métis Harvesting

The resolution was read into the record. The resolution had been moved by James Lavallee and seconded by Mohamed Crossman-Serb, and both were present to confirm their support.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ Difficulties experienced by Citizens in accessing traditional foods
- ∞ Conservation of wildlife to ensure availability for future generations
- ∞ Role culture plays in harvesting in learning and being on the land
- ∞ Providing widows with traditional foods
- ∞ Providing input at upcoming consultations regarding Natural Resources
- ∞ Principles in place for sharing food
- ∞ Assisting single mothers to provide traditional food to their children.

After a vote, the resolution was defeated.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**It was MOVED (James Lavallee, Bison Local, Winnipeg Region) and
SECONDED (Mohamed Crossman-Serb, Bison Local, Winnipeg Region)**

WHEREAS the Red River Métis have a rich tradition of sharing resources and ensuring access to traditional foods for all members of the community, including those unable to hunt or fish for themselves;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) is committed to protecting the Métis right to harvest under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* while upholding conservation principles that safeguard the sustainability of wildlife and fish stocks;

AND WHEREAS the rising cost of food and other economic pressures have increased the need for access to traditional foods among many Métis families and communities;

AND WHEREAS the current Métis Laws of the Harvest provide in principle for using a designated community hunter to harvest for the disabled, elderly, and those unable to hunt, ensuring these Citizens have access to traditional foods;

AND WHEREAS many Métis Citizens who do not qualify as permanently disabled within the provisions of the Métis Laws of the Harvest, such as single parents, caretakers, families living in poverty, students, and those lacking the time, resources, or tools to harvest, continue to face barriers to accessing traditional foods;
AND WHEREAS Locals do not have adequate guidance on harvesting laws or recommendations as it pertains to providing game and fish at their events or programming (such as, but not limited to, community events, Local meetings, or food sovereignty programs);

AND WHEREAS current Métis harvesting rules, as outlined in the Métis Laws of the Harvest, limit the amount of fish a harvester may retain (e.g., 50 pounds of fish fillets per household) and do not advise on harvesting on behalf of others (using another tag, or harvesting above one household limit of fish to provide for other households), thus creating uncertainty and barriers to sharing and ensuring access to traditional foods within the community; **AND WHEREAS** promoting food sovereignty is vital to the health, well-being, and self-determination of Métis communities, and supporting Locals in developing food sovereignty programs will help address these needs in a culturally appropriate way;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGES THAT THE MMF CABINET CONSIDER:

1. Expand the existing harvester designation within the Métis Laws of the Harvest to allow for designated Community Harvesters who may harvest on behalf of Métis Citizens and households who may experience barriers to harvesting, such as but not limited to:
 - Disabilities
 - Single parents
 - Caretakers
 - Families living in poverty
 - Students
 - Citizens lacking access to resources, tools, or time to harvest
 - Other perceived barriers
2. Create regulations to expand harvesting limits for community harvesters when harvesting fish and game for others.
3. Ensure that the Community Harvester system is easily accessible to Métis Citizens, with minimal paperwork or application burdens, to allow harvesters to quickly and efficiently provide traditional foods for multiple families or communities while ensuring adherence to conservation principles.
4. Provide Locals with laws that enable Community Harvesters to harvest for Community Events and Local programming, further empowering Locals to serve their communities without impacting individual Citizens' harvesting limits and their ability to feed their families.
5. Establish clear guidelines and oversight for Community Harvesters to ensure that harvesting practices align with sustainable resource management reporting requirements are reasonable.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MMF Cabinet consider consulting with Citizens, Locals, Relevant Departments, and Métis Harvesters and report back to the next Annual General Assembly on any progress toward revising Harvester policies.

DEFEATED

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 18-20, 2024 Regarding Denouncing Israel

The resolution was read into the record. The resolution had been moved by James Lavallee and seconded by Mohamed Crossman-Serb, and both were present to confirm their support.

A discussion took place with many Delegates offering their support or objection to the resolution. A common theme of comments was neutrality, while others condemned Israel's actions.

After a vote, the resolution was defeated.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

It was MOVED (James Lavallee, Bison Local, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Mohamed Crossman-Serb, Bison Local, Winnipeg Region)

WHEREAS the President has affirmed the desire for a strong relationship between the Métis Nation and the Catholic Church, including respect for His Holiness Pope Francis who has been publicly critical of the actions of the Israeli state and the inconceivable suffering that has been inflicted on the civilians in Gaza, who continue to suffer under policies of the Israeli state that violate international law;

AND WHEREAS the State of Israel has consistently violated numerous international laws, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, by engaging in settlement expansion, forced displacement of Palestinians, and other illegal activities, all of which have been condemned by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and other international bodies;

AND WHEREAS documented UN reports that the Israeli state has severely limited access to water for Palestinians, a fundamental human right, by controlling and rationing water supplies, which has resulted in severe hardships for Palestinian communities;

AND WHEREAS the MMF, as a government of a people who have historically and still face dispossession and marginalization, stands in solidarity with oppressed peoples and cannot in good conscience continue to support institutions that are complicit in human rights violations, oppression, and war crimes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTS:

1. That the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet consider immediately condemning the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people, including the actions of Israel and its military activities and the continued violation of human rights by the Israeli state.

DEFEATED

14. OTHER BUSINESS

10-Year Services awards and staff recognition

This item was deferred to the Leadership Staff Table.

President's Pride Award

President Chartrand announced the winners of the President's Pride Award as chosen by Delegates at the AGA. First place went to the Early Learning and Child Care Department.

A list of the prize draw winners was distributed amongst the Delegates, and it was noted that any unclaimed prizes could be found at www.mmfga.ca.

Delegates were invited to remain for the Rainbow Auction draw.

15. CLOSING REMARKS

President David Chartrand informed that an employee from the Sixties Scoop Department passed away in hospital that day. Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric, accompanied by Elder Oliver Boulette on the fiddle, offered a prayer for those who had passed over the weekend.

16. CONCLUSION

Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric offered a Closing Prayer and was accompanied by Elder Oliver Boulette on the fiddle.

MOTION 14-10-24

**It was MOVED (Minister John Fleury, Les Métis Local, Southwest Region) and
SECONDED (Minister Shawn Nault, Woodridge Local, Southeast Region)**

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly be now concluded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Time: October 20, 2024 at 7:14 p.m.)

* * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Manitoba Métis Federation October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly, and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption at the General Assembly held

William Goodon, Co-Chair

Marc LeClair, Co-Chair

LIST OF APPENDICES

The following were referenced in the Minutes and are appended accordingly:

Appendix A:	List of Acronyms
Appendix B:	List of Motions and Resolutions
AGA	Annual General Assembly
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ASL	American Sign Language
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFS	Child and Family Services
COI	Conflict of interest
CRO	Central Registry Office
CSA	Children's Special Allowance
CTF	Conservation Trust Fund
ELCC	Early Learning and Child Care
EGA	Extraordinary General Assembly
FTHPP	First Time Home Purchase Program
HELP	Home Enhancement Loan Program
HR	Human Resources
IWS	Infinity Women Secretariat
IT	Information and Technology
LRCC	Louis Riel Capital Corporation
LRI	Louis Riel Institute
LRVC	Louis Riel Vocational College
MMF	Manitoba Métis Federation
MP	Member of Parliament
MET	Métis Employment and Training
MELT	Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow
MJI	Métis Justice Institute
MNP	Meyers Norris Penny
NDP	New Democratic Party
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mountain Police
UPIP	Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

APPENDIX B - List of Motions and Resolutions

MOTION 01-10-24

To appoint Minister Will Goodon and Marc LeClair as Chairpersons, and to appoint David Gray as Virtual Moderator, and to appoint Richelle Recksiedler as Youth Co-Chair for the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly.

MOTION 02-10-24

That Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly (AGA) accept the October 18-20, 2024, AGA as presented.

MOTION 03-10-24

To appoint the following individuals to the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly Resolutions Committee:

- ∞ Adrienne Carriere, Infinity Women Secretariat

- ∞ Tammy Chief, Northwest Region
- ∞ James Fyke, Thompson Region
- ∞ Wesley Hannah, Southwest Region
- ∞ Melanie LaLonde, Winnipeg Region
- ∞ Albert Linfitt, The Pas Region
- ∞ Ken Lodge, Southeast Region
- ∞ Brenda Zack, Interlake Region.

MOTION 04-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly (AGA) approve the Minutes of the October 13-15, 2023, AGA as amended.

MOTION 05-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accept the Constitution report as presented by Minister Judy Mayer.

MOTION 06-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the MMF Cabinet's Response to Resolution #3 as presented by Jason Simmonds.

MOTION 07-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the Agriculture Report as presented by Minister David Beaudin and the Central Registry Report as presented by Associate Minister Peter Fleming.

MOTION 08-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the MMF Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2024, as presented.

MOTION 09-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly appoints the Auditors Meyers Norris Penny for the MMF Audit for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025.

MOTION 10-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the Natural Resources Report as presented by Acting Minister Peter Fleming.

MOTION 11-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the Métis Child and Family Services Report as presented by Minister Mona Buors.

MOTION 12-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accepts the Culture and Heritage Report as presented by Minister Alfred Anderson.

MOTION 13-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly accept the following reports:

- ∞ Early Learning Child Care as presented by Minister Frances Chartrand
- ∞ Health as presented by Minister Frances Chartrand
- ∞ Energy and Infrastructure as presented by Minister Jack Park
- ∞ Métis N4 construction as presented by Minister Jack Park
- ∞ Engagement and Consultation as presented by Minister Denise Thomas
- ∞ Sixties Scoop as presented by Minister Denise Thomas
- ∞ Residential and Day Schools as presented by Minister Andrew Carrier
- ∞ Métis Community Resource Department as presented by Minister Andrew Carrier
- ∞ Michif Language as presented by Minister Andrew Carrier
- ∞ Riel House as presented by Minister Andrew Carrier
- ∞ Environment and Climate Change as presented by Minister JoAnne Remillard
- ∞ Housing and Property Management as presented by Minister Will Goodon
- ∞ Human Resources as presented by Minister Anita Campbell
- ∞ Information Technology as presented by Minister Anita Campbell
- ∞ Louis Riel Capital Corporation as presented by Minister Jack Park
- ∞ Métis Employment and Training as presented by Minister John Fleury
- ∞ Métis Justice Institute and Pemmican Publications as presented by Minister Judyda Lagimodiere
- ∞ Education and Louis Riel Institute as presented by Minister Joan Ledoux

- ∞ Red River Métis Veterans as presented by Minister Shawn Nault
- ∞ Sports and Youth as presented by Minister Richard Genaille
- ∞ Traditional Economies as presented by Minister Darrel Ferland
- ∞ Economic Development as presented by President David Chartrand.

RESOLUTION 01-10-24

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) Extraordinary General Assembly (“EGA”) passed a resolution on June 4, 2023, to amend the MMF Constitution to reflect the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty (the “Resolution”);

AND WHEREAS the Resolution made several changes to the MMF Constitution which will come into force on the Effective Date of the Treaty;

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the Red River Métis that, given the passage of time, some of these changes come into force in the near future and not be left until the Treaty is signed and effective;

AND WHEREAS among those changes is a revision of the MMF Constitution Preamble which clearly states who the Red River Métis and the MMF are;

AND WHEREAS this change is integral to who the Red River Métis are and the Assembly has already approved this amendment to take effect in the future;

AND WHEREAS a resolution in substantially the same form to this resolution was adopted and approved by the MMF Cabinet at a meeting of August 14, 2024;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES AND RATIFIES THAT:

2. The Preamble of By-Law No. 1 be amended effective immediately in accordance with the Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Extraordinary General Assembly June 3-4, 2023 To Amend the MMF Constitution to Reflect the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty*. The language contained in the Resolution and the changes to be made to the Preamble are as follows:
 - b. The Preamble in its entirety is hereby deleted, and the following is therefore substituted:

WHEREAS the Red River Métis is one of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada referred to in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982;

WHEREAS the Red River Métis emerged from, and lived in, the historic Northwest, and this territory is referred to today as the Red River Métis Homeland;

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation is the democratic and self-governing representative body of the Red River Métis; and

WHEREAS the Red River Métis comprises Citizens, settlements also known as local communities, and traditional territories, and

is defined by a common identity, culture, language, history and, among other things, social and kinship relationships;”

RESOLUTION 02-10-24

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) Constitution was amended at the last MMF Annual General Assembly (“AGA”) on October 15, 2023 to include a definition of “Red River Métis”;

AND WHEREAS the new definition of Red River Métis aligns with the future Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty and is expressive of our unique, distinct, and national Red River Métis identity, Homeland, and Government;

AND WHEREAS Article II of what is currently known as the Local By-Law has within it a separate definition of “Métis”;

AND WHEREAS the definition in the Local By-Law does not reflect the most recent change made by the AGA which more accurately describes the Red River Métis, and this definition should therefore be removed;

AND WHEREAS a resolution in substantially the same form to this resolution was adopted and approved by the MMF Cabinet at a meeting of August 14, 2024;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES AND RATIFIES THAT:

1. Article II(1) of the Local By-Law which currently states:
 1. Definition of Métis
 - (a) “Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation;
 - (b) “Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-Breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland;
 - (c) “Historic Métis Nation Homeland” means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-Breeds as they were then known;
 - (d) “Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation, which is now comprised of all Métis Nation Citizens and is one of the “Aboriginal peoples of Canada” within section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
 - (e) “Distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples” means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

1. Definition of Métis
 - (a) For the purposes of this Local By-Law, the term “Métis” bears the same

definition as “Red River Métis” stated in Article IV(1) of By-Law No. 1.

RESOLUTION 03-10-24

WHEREAS the Red River Métis is a distinct, rights-bearing Indigenous People, Canada’s Negotiating Partner in Confederation, and Founders of the Province of Manitoba; **AND WHEREAS** the right to self-determination is recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the inherent right to self-government is recognized and affirmed by section 35 and protected by section 25 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*; **AND WHEREAS** the federal government, provincial governments, industry, universities, and other organizations seek to collect, preserve, control, and maintain Red River Métis knowledge, data, and information through research-related laws, policies, and practices; **AND WHEREAS** Academic freedom, and other research-related laws, policies, and practices must be exercised in a reasonable and responsible manner while also ensuring the rights and freedoms of others are upheld, including Red River Métis as a rights-bearing Indigenous People; **AND WHEREAS** the following two articles from *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)* address Indigenous rights related to research:

Article 31:

- 1) Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions; and
- 2) In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights; and

Article 35: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities;

AND WHEREAS the Red River Métis, as a distinct rights-bearing Indigenous people, has the right to self-government including the right to determine effective measures to protect Red River Métis rights in research;

AND WHEREAS research and data that accurately reflects Red River Métis Citizens is vital to advancing Red River Métis self-government and Red River Métis priorities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. Requests that the MMF Cabinet consider that the MMF, as the National Government of the Red River Métis, undertake effective measures to support research that reflects its Citizens and Red River Métis needs and priorities, while also protecting the collective rights of Red River Métis in research, including the right to:
 - a. maintain, control, protect and develop Red River Métis cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of Red River Métis sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts; and
 - b. maintain, control, protect and develop Red River Métis intellectual property over cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions and material culture; and
2. Requests that the MMF Cabinet consider that the MMF take effective measures to protect the exercise of Red River Métis rights in research and determine the measures for protecting those rights, which may include the development of its own law and transparent research ethics policies and process which may ensure all parties who wish to conduct research involving Red River Métis, seek consent of the MMF and enter into formal agreements with the MMF prior to conducting research; and
3. Requests that the MMF Cabinet consider that the MMF take effective measures to protect Red River Métis rights in research, through communication and education related to approved resolutions, and established policies and processes to the following parties:
 - a. Red River Métis Citizens, Locals, Regions, and MMF Affiliates and Departments; and
 - b. all external parties, which may include federal and provincial governments, industries, universities, and other organizations.

RESOLUTION 04-10-24

WHEREAS in 2023, 445 lives were lost due to substance use in Manitoba, and Fentanyl Poisoning has contributed to over 50% of those deaths. Early numbers for 2024 are indicating Manitoba will surpass 2023 death numbers;

AND WHEREAS recreational drugs are being poisoned by Fentanyl at an increasing rate, making any kind of drug use unsafe for anyone;

AND WHEREAS Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented in all drug-induced deaths throughout Manitoba and Canada;

AND WHEREAS there is no comprehensive drug awareness or prevention campaign in Manitoba or Canada warning young people of the dangers of recreational drug use and Fentanyl Poisoning;

AND WHEREAS No Thanks I'm Good is a campaign initiated by the Singing Red Bear Foundation Inc., warns youth and recreational drug users that in today's world, drug use is just not safe. Through the campaign, we have equipped recreational users and youth considering using for the first time to make a more informed choice and choose *No Thanks I'm Good* to opt out of using drugs and staying alive;

AND WHEREAS Singing Red Bear Foundation's vision is to be a national resource for youth through building and creating awareness, initiatives and programs around the dangers of recreational drug use;

AND WHEREAS Singing Red Bear Foundation's mission is to motivate, inspire and encourage all youth to aspire to achieve living with the choice of being drug-free. It is the Foundation's goal to build up each individual's unique belief in themselves, to guide them to be leaders, not followers, and to encourage them to rise up through inspiration, leadership and mentorship. The Foundation's goal is to equip all youth with the confidence and wisdom to say "No Thanks, I'm Good" when faced with the everyday challenges of being exposed to unknown recreational drugs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. Request that the Manitoba Métis Federation Cabinet consider whether the MMF should support and endorse the *No Thanks I'm Good* campaign and the Singing Red Bear Foundation Incorporated in its efforts to bring awareness and prevention of more deaths due to poisoned drugs throughout the Red River Métis Homeland and to all our relatives throughout Manitoba and Canada.

RESOLUTION 05-10-24

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation ("MMF") Constitution at Article XIII and Article XIV contemplate Annual General Assemblies and Extraordinary General Assemblies;

AND WHEREAS the MMF is the National Government of the Red River Métis, and the Red River Métis are only represented by the MMF;

AND WHEREAS the MMF should continue moving away from corporate language while embracing our traditional governance language consistent with, for example, the 1869 National Committee of the Red River Métis or *le Comité national des Métis de la Rivière-Rouge*;

AND WHEREAS the Red River Métis should be using language to define our assemblies that more accurately describe their nature, which are national assemblies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. Requests that the MMF Cabinet consider a 2025 Constitutional amendment to change the language in the MMF Constitution from "Annual General Assembly" and "Extraordinary General Assembly" to "National Assembly" and "Extraordinary National Assembly".

MOTION 14-10-24

That the Manitoba Métis Federation National Government of the Red River Métis October 18-20, 2024, Annual General Assembly be now concluded.



DEPARTMENTS & PORTFOLIOS



A man wearing a black hoodie and a black cap is walking away from the camera through a vast field of golden wheat. A large, fluffy golden retriever is walking alongside him, slightly behind. The field stretches to the horizon under a heavy, overcast sky. In the distance, a line of trees is visible on the left side.

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE



DAVID BEAUDIN
MINISTER

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Agriculture Portfolio is housed within the MMF's Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management (EIRM) Department. Since its revitalization in 2020, the Agriculture Portfolio has developed and implemented programming and initiatives to address Red River Métis priorities within the agriculture and agri-food sector. In the face of climate change, supply chain uncertainties, and a rising cost of living, sustainable food systems are a primary concern for all Citizens.

During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the MMF's Agriculture Portfolio made significant progress towards:

- Supporting the environmental and economic sustainability of Red River Métis agricultural operations;
- Addressing economic and social drivers of food insecurity; and
- Expanding the database of Red River Métis agricultural producers, and Red River Métis owned and controlled agricultural lands.

RED RIVER MÉTIS ON-FARM CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM

First announced in 2023, the MMF secured over \$11-million in funding through the Agricultural Climate Solutions: On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), administered by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, to support Red River Métis agricultural

producers in adopting on-farm beneficial management practices (BMPs) that address climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Throughout 2024-2025, over \$3-million in funding was awarded to 68 Red River Métis agricultural producers for self-determined projects related to nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing. Since the start of the program, over 83,000 acres of Red River Métis-owned or rented agricultural land is now under improved management, positioning Red River Métis agricultural operations towards environmental sustainability. MMF staff had the privilege of travelling to recipient farms throughout 2024 to see these improvements firsthand.

BISON HERD

Since 2020, the MMF has partnered with Iron Head Bison Ranch, a Red River Métis-owned bison ranch in Southeastern Manitoba, to care for the MMF's bison herd. By 2024-2025 year end, the MMF's herd consisted of 21 bison, including 9 mature cows. Not only are bison a symbol of our Red River Métis culture and identity, but the herd presents opportunities for education and knowledge transfer, research, economic development, and food security through the distribution of traditional food to Elders and Citizens in need.

FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

The MMF's Food Security Initiative seeks to establish a network of food security greenhouses, community gardens, and edible forests across the National Homeland to increase the quality, quantity, and variety of locally grown food available to Citizens. In 2024-2025, two greenhouse and community garden locations were operational in the Interlake and Southwest Region. In a short pilot-year growing season, these greenhouses produced thousands of pounds of produce for distribution to Elders and Citizens. Additional locations in The Pas, Thompson, and Winnipeg Region were constructed in 2024-2025, to be ready for operations in the 2025 growing season.



The greenhouse and community garden infrastructure also serve as a space to gather and share traditional knowledge of Red River Métis horticultural practices, food preparation and preservation techniques, and traditional medicines, and present summer employment opportunities for Red River Métis Youth.

AT-HOME GARDEN PROJECT

The At-Home Garden Project brings small-scale food production to Citizens at home, helping to further tackle food insecurity by providing garden boxes and heritage variety seeds to Red River Métis Citizens. Interest in this program remains high. Garden box construction and distribution, in collaboration with Métis Employment and Training, began in 2024-2025 and will continue throughout the next fiscal year.



RIEL HOUSE GARDEN

Since 2021, the MMF's Agriculture Portfolio, in partnership with Parks Canada, has overseen the care of the vegetable gardens located at the Riel House National Historic Site. In the 2024 growing season, the gardens at Riel House were seeded with over 40 heritage variety vegetables, fruits, and herbs. This included a small demonstration plot showcasing the Three Sisters Planting method, a traditional Red River Métis method of companion planting corn, beans, and squash. Over 700 pounds of produce was harvested and distributed to Elders and their families in the MMF's Winnipeg Region. These garden plots also



provide summer employment opportunities for Red River Métis Youth who would seed, maintain, and harvest produce weekly throughout the summer.

THREE SISTERS PLANTING

In 2024, the Agriculture Portfolio collaborated with the University of Manitoba on a research project to further examine traditional Three Sisters Planting techniques and the associated improvements to plant health and crop yields. In addition to the data generated for the University, MMF staff harvested over 5,700 pounds of corn, beans, and squash for distribution to Red River Métis Citizens. The MMF was privileged to help support and promote traditional Red River Métis horticultural practices in academia.



FARMERS MARKETS

In partnership with Le Marché St. Norbert Farmers Market, the MMF's Agriculture Portfolio hosted the second Red River Métis Market Day on July 27, 2024. A showcase of Red River Métis culture and tradition, Red River Métis Market Day featured a variety of Red River Métis food and handicraft vendors, whose booths were highlighted with special flags, interactive workshops, and live entertainment. Looking ahead, the MMF continues to explore opportunities to celebrate and support Red River Métis producers and artisans.

AGRICULTURAL CROWN LANDS

Red River Métis agricultural producers have a long history of utilizing agricultural Crown land to support their operations. Previous amendments to the Agricultural Crown Lands Leases and Permits Regulation have and continue to cause severe hardship for many Red River Métis agricultural Crown land leaseholders. MMF staff continue to connect with Red River Métis Citizens, and advocate for their individual and collective concerns related to agricultural Crown lands leasing.

For questions concerning the Agriculture Portfolio, please use the following link to contact technical staff:

<https://www.mmf.mb.ca/agriculture>





BEYOND BORDERS

BEYOND BORDERS



JUDY MAYER
MINISTER

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is the National Government of the Red River Métis, recognized through the *Manitoba Métis Self Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement* (MMSGRIA) signed July 6, 2021. The agreement between the MMF and Canada affirms the MMF's mandate to represent and serve its Red River Métis Citizens, including those who reside outside of Manitoba.

The Beyond Borders Department serves as a vital internal liaison, supporting over 4,000 Red River Métis Citizens who live beyond Manitoba's borders. Recognizing that provincial and international boundaries are arbitrary and artificial, not chosen or created by the Red River Métis. These boundaries have never defined our identity, jurisdiction, or sense of community.

In 2014, at the MMF Annual General Assembly, visionary Red River Métis Citizens unanimously passed a resolution that Red River Métis citizenship transcends geographical boundaries. This resolution rejected the artificial divisions imposed upon and declared that being a Citizen of the MMF is not confined to residing within Manitoba. This historic decision emphasized the importance of kinship, ancestral connections, and shared identity over arbitrary borders.

The MMF acknowledges the historical and contemporary factors that have led to our Citizens living across the globe. From the forced diaspora caused by the Reign of Terror to modern pursuits, such as employment, education, and family, Red River Métis continue to thrive and contribute to our Nation, no matter where they reside.

Our work is directly informed by MMF Cabinet's response to Resolution #3 (2023 AGA), which outlined a commitment to:

- ∞ One Nation, one National Government serving all Red River Métis People.
- ∞ No hierarchy of rights; equitable participation for all Citizens regardless of geography.

- ∞ Our governance structures work; we build, adapt, and develop them based on our national homeland and the reach of our national government.
- ∞ Locals as the bedrock and grassroots voice of our national government.
- ∞ Fiscal accountability and sustainability in all expansion initiatives.

This framework, along with the Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty, reaffirms the MMF's jurisdiction and duty to support Citizens wherever they reside.

Key Accomplishments and Outcomes (2024/25)

- ∞ **MMF Department and Affiliate Guide**
Coordinated and finalized the MMF Department and Affiliate Guide, centralizing key information for Citizens and internal departments and affiliates.
- ∞ **Cross-Departmental Advocacy**
Initiated vital discussions across departments (e.g. Justice, Youth, MCFS, Health & Wellness) regarding access barriers and Citizen denials based on location.
- ∞ **Citizen Confidence and Belonging**
Responded to a high volume of Citizen inquiries and concerns, reinforcing trust in the MMF and a sense of belonging for those living beyond Manitoba.

UPCOMING PLANS AND INITIATIVES (2025/26)

- ∞ **Mobile Office Feasibility Study**
Explore mobile service delivery options for out-of-province Citizens.
- ∞ **Program Access Directory**
Launch an easy-to-navigate digital guide outlining which MMF programs are currently accessible to Citizens who reside Beyond Borders.
- ∞ **Governance Inclusion Models**
Support policy work on related governance tools for Citizens residing outside of Manitoba.

As of May 16, 2025, there are currently 4,360 Citizens who have their Citizenship with the Manitoba Métis Federation – National Government of the Red River Métis.

Citizens Breakdown by Province:

British Columbia:	1061
Alberta:	1034
Saskatchewan:	471
Ontario:	992
Quebec:	153
Nova Scotia:	128
Newfoundland and Labrador:	37
New Brunswick:	47
Prince Edward Island:	14
Yukon:	61
Northwest Territories:	55
Nunavut:	2
United States:	270
International (Non-Canada/USA):	35

Citizens Further Breakdown by Regions:

Thompson:	35
The Pas:	150
Northwest:	273
Southwest:	254
Southeast:	256
Interlake:	320
Winnipeg:	3072

Citizens Further Breakdown by Ages:

Infants/Children (0-13 years old):	331
Teenagers: (14-17 years old):	239
Young Adults: (18 – 29 years old):	797
Adults (30 – 54 years old):	1592
Seniors: (55 – 72 years old):	1071
Elderly: (73 – 99 years old):	329
Centenarians: (100+ years old):	1

Citizens Further Breakdown by Gender:

(Male/Female/Non-Binary under 18, Male/Female/Non-Binary over 18)

Male (under 18 years old):	268
Female (under 18 years old):	300
Non-Binary/Other (under 18 years old):	2
Male (over 18 years old):	1769
Female (over 18 years old):	2001
Non-Binary/Other (over 18 years old):	20

Harvesters Breakdown by Province:

British Columbia:	108
Alberta:	182
Saskatchewan:	105
Ontario:	120
Quebec:	12
Nova Scotia:	6
Newfoundland and Labrador:	1
New Brunswick:	8
Prince Edward Island:	2
Yukon:	4
Northwest Territories:	1
Nunavut:	1
United States:	19
International (Non-Canada/USA):	2

Harvesters Further Breakdown by Regions:

Thompson:	5
The Pas:	46
Northwest:	87
Southwest:	67
Southeast:	77
Interlake:	59
Winnipeg:	230

Harvesters Further Breakdown by Ages:

Infants/Children (0-13 years old):	19
Teenagers: (14-17 years old):	22
Young Adults: (18 – 29 years old):	84
Adults (30 – 54 years old):	258
Seniors: (55 – 72 years old):	169
Elderly: (73 – 99 years old):	19
Centenarians: (100+ years old):	N/A

Harvesters Further Breakdown by Gender:

(Male/Female/Non-Binary under 18, Male/Female/Non-Binary over 18)

Male (under 18 years old):	19
Female (under 18 years old):	24
Non-Binary/Other (under 18 years old):	N/A
Male (over 18 years old):	336
Female (over 18 years old):	190
Non-Binary/Other (over 18 years old):	2

As of May 16, 2025, there are currently 571 Citizens who have their Harvester cards with the Manitoba Métis Federation – National Government of the Red River Métis.







CITIZENSHIP

CITIZENSHIP



JUDY MAYER
MINISTER



LEAH LAPLANTE
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

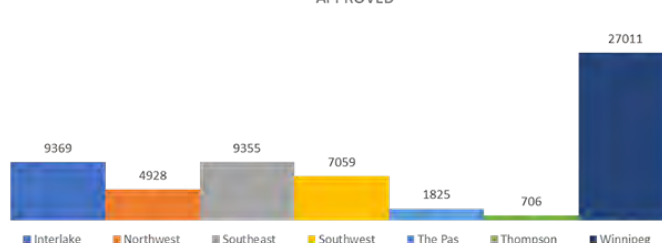
The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Central Registry Office (CRO) has been working hard over the last year to keep up with current demand. The CRO has remained busy with new applications, along with processing additional requests such as renewals, replacement cards, and child-to-adult cards. The CRO has continued to see a high volume of applications for Red River Métis Citizenship, especially with greater interest from our Beyond Borders Citizens living outside of Manitoba. The CRO recognizes we are at an incredibly important time in our Red River Métis history, and more Red River Métis people want to participate by obtaining their Citizenship.

The CRO is proud to have this responsibility, and we are honoured to do the work we do for our Red River Métis Citizens. We have not gotten to a point of perfecting our methods yet, however we have done a great deal of work to vastly improve services, including reducing processing wait times. The CRO's continued goal is to build on these improvements each year, to better equip our department to provide the highest level of service we can for Red River Métis Citizens.

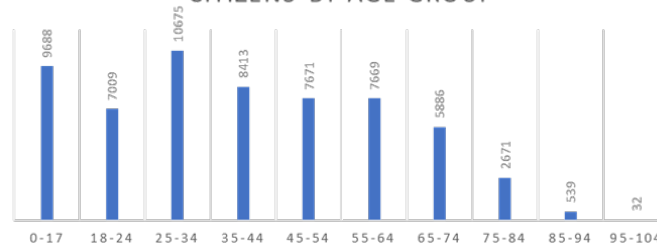
2024-25 CITIZEN APPLICATION STATS

- ∞ Approved new applications: 5,928
- ∞ Approved new male Citizens: 2,860
- ∞ Approved new female Citizens: 3,045
- ∞ Approved new non-binary Citizens: 23
- ∞ Approved new Youth: 2,111
- ∞ Approved new adults: 3,817
- ∞ Approved new Harvesters: 3,947
- ∞ Approved new Citizens living outside of Manitoba: 704
- ∞ Total approved Citizens: 60,253
- ∞ Total approved Harvesters: 37,336

REGIONAL CITIZENS
APPROVED



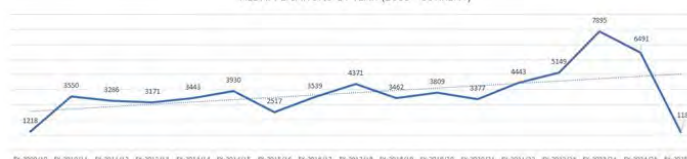
CITIZENS BY AGE GROUP



THE HUB DATABASE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS

Since the CRO implemented our new Citizenship database in January 2022, known as "The Hub", we have seen a great deal of benefit to our department capabilities. The CRO database has become incredibly sophisticated, and since its implementation we have continued work to further improve its features. Part of this work includes ways of expanding outside of the CRO Department to provide database tools to other departments with the objective to build more efficient methods of providing services for Citizens. The CRO continues to work on technology development and implementation to ensure optimum application processing capabilities. We strive to uphold our goal of reducing wait times for completing requests and providing the most efficient service we are capable of.

ALL APPLICATIONS BY YEAR (2009 - CURRENT)



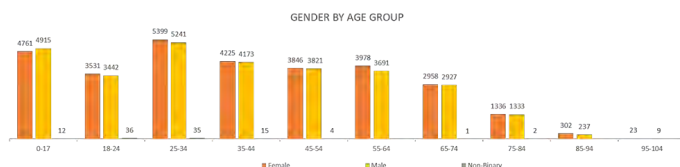
Last year, the CRO reported on the implementation of card barcode scanning capabilities for Citizenship cards. When registered Citizens arrive at MMF meetings and present their Citizenship cards, the barcode on the card will be scanned by an MMF staff. The barcode will then open an electronic profile of the Citizen that will record their attendance at the meeting, and

record receiving a voting ballot when a vote is required. These tools provide more advanced and accurate methods to ensure only registered Red River Métis Citizens are entitled to participate in voting activities. As part of this work over the last year, the CRO has been working to further develop these scanning capabilities to make registration processes, such as for the MMF Annual General Assembly, easier and more efficient.

The barcode scanning project was first implemented in CRO to be utilized during the MMF elections for voting and ID verification purposes. The CRO has been continuing with additional work on the barcode scanning project within our elections polling station application in preparation for the 2026 MMF election. During that time, when Red River Métis Citizens come to the polling stations to vote, they can expect to be asked for their Citizenship card to be scanned. This will provide verification for voting ballots that are issued during the election, providing greater assurance for proper election procedures. This electronic program will greatly assist the MMF's Chief Electoral Officer in providing accurate reporting on voting statistics and ensure accuracy during the electoral process.

The CRO has also continued work on a future Red River Métis Citizen portal, which will provide Citizens the ability to create and log into an MMF profile which would provide information about various programs and services, including information for applying. The CRO is currently working on the beginning stages of this project, by developing a portal that will provide Citizens a log-in profile to update contact information, request a renewal or replacement card, apply for an adult card as a Youth, or transfer their Local. Please watch for notice on the MMF website when the portal will be available for Citizens, and we are hopeful to have it introduced by the start of the 2026 fiscal year.

As part of the Citizenship Minister's mandate, CRO has also continued working with other MMF departments to discuss initiatives where we can work together on efficient data management strategies to better serve Citizens. Over the last year, the CRO has worked with the MMF Housing and Property Management Department to assist with enhanced data management and Citizenship verification, and has successfully implemented new data management capabilities for the Housing Department. The CRO has been engaging various other MMF departments to discuss data needs and methods for efficient data management. We will continue to work together with the shared goal of efficient data management tools that provide all departments better ability to serve Red River Métis Citizens.

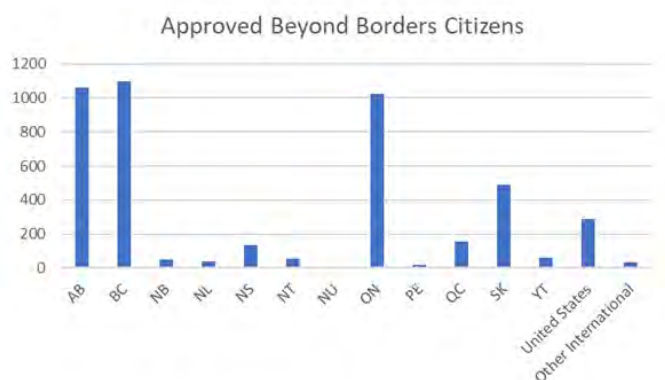


RED RIVER MÉTIS CITIZENSHIP CARD RECOGNITION AS IDENTIFICATION

The CRO has continued working with the MMF Policy and Delivery Unit to ensure our Citizenship cards are recognized as a form of government-issued photo identification. Last year, it was announced by the province of Manitoba that Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries will now accept Red River Métis Citizenship cards as a form of identification. We have had much success with this partnership, and the Red River Métis Citizenship card is now widely recognized at locations managed by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries. We continue to work with different levels of government and other entities, such as airlines and financial institutions, to ensure the recognition of our Red River Métis Government and our government-issued photo identification.

BEYOND BORDERS CITIZENSHIP

The CRO has continued to see a consistent interest from Red River Métis Citizens that live outside of Manitoba who wish to apply for a Citizenship card. During 2024-25, we have had another year which saw a high number of applications from Citizens outside of Manitoba, with 704 new applications processed. This interest has remained steady and the CRO continues to work with the MMF Beyond Borders Department to assist Citizens to obtain their Citizenship, no matter where they live. The Beyond Borders Department has also introduced a Citizenship Liaison Officer, who works directly with the CRO, to assist Beyond Borders Citizens with the process for obtaining their Citizenship card.



MOBILE CITIZENSHIP OFFICE AND LOCAL SUPPORT

Our Mobile Citizenship Office (MCO) had another successful season traveling across Manitoba to various communities to provide Citizenship and Harvester card services. Our MCO often travels to communities at the request of our hard-working Locals, and we are always happy to receive an invitation to provide services at Local meetings and events. We would like to thank our MMF Locals for their partnerships to help make the MCO successful. The primary purpose for the MCO is to provide Citizenship and Harvester card services to communities that may

have difficulty accessing a Regional Office. If you would like to see the MCO visit your community, please contact the CRO for more information.

As part of our supports to MMF Regions and Locals, the CRO has also been working on incorporating new communication resources. One example of this is the implementation of providing Local Citizenship contact lists to Local Executives so they may contact Local members about news and events. CRO recognizes the importance of Citizens receiving updated information about their Local and MMF, and we are working with Regions to ensure this is done securely. The protection of privacy is also incredibly important in the work we do, and the process we have incorporated with Locals ensure that is upheld. We will be continuing work with Regions and Locals to further improve communication resources and provide support for the important work they do.

Another way CRO works with Locals is to administer the MMF's Local Capacity Grant (LCG) program. Through this grant, MMF Locals can apply to receive \$10,000 each fiscal year for use toward events, activities, and meetings. During this fiscal year, there were 54 Locals that utilized the LCG program and the total amount of LCG funding the MMF provided to those Locals was \$380,092.10.

MMF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

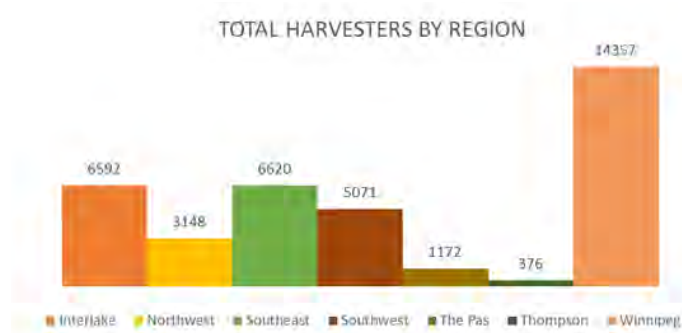
As Citizenship is a core component of any Red River Métis Citizen's constitutional right, CRO plays a vital role in the formation and implementation of the MMF constitution. For several years now, the Minister of Citizenship has participated on the MMF's Governance Committee. The committee, which is chaired by the Minister of Governance and Constitution, is comprised of select Ministers, along with senior support staff, to discuss matters of constitutional importance. The work done by the committee focuses largely on ensuring the MMF's constitution remains current and accurate.

In August 2024, the MMF Cabinet held a Cabinet retreat to focus on certain constitutional matters, with a particular focus on the Beyond Borders initiative. During this meeting, the senior director of CRO was requested to provide a presentation to MMF Cabinet and senior management on current constitutional considerations which impact CRO. Topics raised during this presentation included proposed updates to the current Citizenship process, adoptions and proposed constitutional amendments updating the language to the Citizenship application process outlined in the MMF constitution. These topics were presented for MMF Cabinet consideration and discussion on proposed further consultation with Citizens on these subject matters in the future.

As part of work the Governance Committee is doing, it has been identified by MMF Cabinet that the Local By-Law portion of the MMF Constitution requires work to provide more clear information. The Minister of Governance and Constitution was

tasked with planning and conducting consultation meetings with Local Executives and Citizens as part of this work for updating the Local By-Law. Starting in February 2025, under the direction of the Minister of Governance and Constitution, staff from the CRO along with a team of other MMF staff, assisted with conducting Local Executive consultation meetings. Continuing into the 2025-26 fiscal year, this team will be travelling to each of the 7 Regions to meet with Local Executives to discuss the Local By-Law and receive feedback on how Local Executives would like to see it improved. Further consultation with Citizens is also being discussed, with a report and proposed changes to the current Local By-Law to follow at a future date.

ONLINE HARVESTER SURVEY AND ONLINE CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION



The CRO continues to see great benefit from the introduction of the online application form, online CTF/big game tags request form, and online Harvester survey. These online tools give Citizens the ease of submitting information from anywhere via an electronic method. These resources have proven to be very valuable, and we have seen a great increase in the amount of people utilizing these systems.

We continue to see great use of the online application form, as we saw an average of approximately 100 applications per month. The online applications received are streamlined directly into our database system queue, which provides easier access for staff to process. We encourage new Canadian Citizens to utilize the online application form to apply for Citizenship, but our original paper version is still available if preferred.

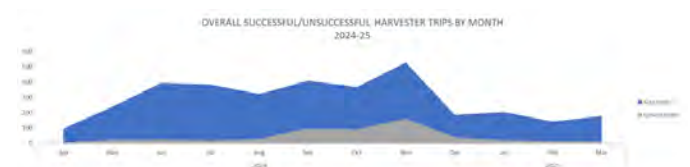
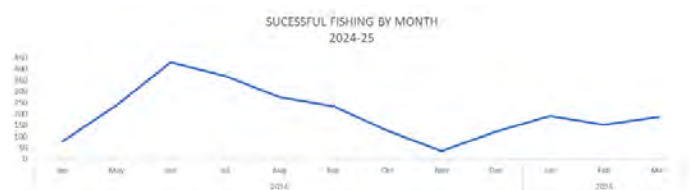
CRO would also like to provide a friendly reminder to Métis Harvesters that an annual Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) sticker is required to be purchased each harvesting season, in accordance with the Métis Laws of the Harvest. The new harvesting season opens each year on April 1, and Harvesters are required to renew their sticker on or after April 1 each year if they wish to exercise their harvesting rights. CTF stickers may be purchased at a Regional Office, on the Mobile Citizenship Office, or online. If the request is done online, the Harvester will receive an email after that contains a temporary CTF that can be used immediately. This provides Red River Métis Harvesters the ability to access harvesting, such as fishing or timber, when MMF offices are

closed or not available. The big game tags and the physical CTF sticker will then be mailed to the address on file, which alleviates the Harvester from travelling to a Regional Office.

The CRO would also like to remind Harvesters that the Annual Red River Métis Harvesting Survey is mandatory to complete to receive a new annual CTF sticker and big game tags. Harvesters are encouraged to utilize the online survey for the upcoming harvesting season, or a paper copy can be obtained from the MMF Regional Offices or the MMF website.

Since the introduction of the online Harvester survey tool, we have seen an increase in the number of Harvester surveys completed. In the 2024 season we received a total of 7,346 completed surveys, which is higher than the 6,986 completed Harvester surveys from last year, which was the highest year recorded. The important data that our Harvesters offer has allowed the CRO to provide more comprehensive reporting, which gives the Red River Métis Government the most up to date information that is crucial to protect Métis harvesting rights.

As part of CRO's data management, we have more sophisticated reporting capabilities. The following graphs show animals harvested during the 2023/24 season:





nship@mmf.mb.ca

Fort Severn

Islands

Attawapiskat

Moosonee

Nakina

Kapuskasing

Register here for
...ci...

Lieu d'... yenneté mé

CITOYENNE
FÉDÉRATION

ENSHI
FÉDÉRATION



COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department continues to amplify the voice of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) – ensuring our Citizens, partners, and the public stay informed on the important work being done by the National Government of the Red River Métis.

Over the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Communications Department provided communications services and supports to fellow departments, affiliates, Regions, and Locals, taking on internal requests to ensure the MMF's voice is consistent and clear across the entire Red River Métis Government.

The Communications Department creates original content curated to foster pride, identity, and establish connection with Red River Métis Citizens, delivering timely, relevant, and engaging information while celebrating the achievements of our Red River Métis Government and our thriving community.

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Communications Department continued the publication of Citizen Spotlight and MMF Spotlight articles on our official website (mmf.mb.ca), shining a light on community leaders, significant events, and government programs that matter to our Citizens.

We have increased our email output, drafting, editing, and distributing vital stories and updates directly to Red River Métis Citizens via email marketing such as: Letters to Citizens, Press Releases, Media Advisories, and our bi-weekly Le Métis newsletter. With 2,540,375 emails sent – an increase of over 76,000 – and a significant 47% open rate, our top performers were Letters to Citizens and the Le Métis newsletter. Our goal is to always keep Citizens informed, engaged, and connected to their Red River Métis Government.

Social media continues to serve as a vital medium for reaching Red River Métis Citizens. This past fiscal year, the Communications Department focused on strengthening engagement by streamlining our platforms, disengaging with the social media platform X.

Our social media platforms reached the public over 10.9 million times – a 14.8% increase from the previous fiscal year. Of those impressions, Facebook had the largest reach to our Citizens and other community members, bringing in 8.2 million impressions. Engagement across all platforms rose by 23.1%, totalling at 213,950 engagements. Engagement across all platforms also rose by 23.1%, totalling 213,950 interactions.

An important social media milestone was hitting 13,000 followers on Instagram. Video content was a top performer for social media, Instagram alone saw 587,912 views, carrying total views across all platforms to 694,347.

Our most successful social media campaign in the 2024-2025 fiscal year was 7 *Red River Métis Restaurants to Check Out This Summer*, earning an impressive 74,000 impressions.

A cornerstone of identity and branding, the graphics team created various designs throughout the year spotlighting important occasions such as Pride Month, Remembrance Day, and Indigenous Veterans Day.

Notable designs include culturally inspiring jersey designs for the Brandon Wheat Kings and Portage Terriers hockey teams, the new MMF welcome signage at the head office, and the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty* design.

The MMF's official website continues to serve as a key hub for information, services, and storytelling. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, our website welcomed over 300,000 active users, resulting in an impressive 1.1 million page views. The department has also taken on managing websites for other departments and affiliates, including Louis Riel College and the Red River Métis Fur Company.

To ensure our message reaches Citizens across the Homeland, the Communications Department maintained 19 active advertising campaigns – such as billboards, transit ads, and CTV commercials.

The MMF proudly promoted the Red River Métis Government on 29 billboards across Manitoba, increasing our visibility. Our custom graphics hit the road on 8 Transit Bus Ultra Tails, reinforcing strong brand awareness.

The Communications Department continued its partnership with CTV and Crave to produce and air Métis Minute commercials; these ads were broadcasted across the province.

The department provided coverage for MMF-hosted and sponsored events across all seven Regions and beyond, offering photography, videography, livestreaming, social media, and editorial support – helping to amplify the MMF's presence and document key moments.



Notable events covered in the 2024-2025 fiscal year include:

- ∞ *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty signing*
- ∞ 2024 Annual General Assembly
- ∞ Indigenous Veterans Day
- ∞ 60s Scoop Bridge to Justice check presentations
- ∞ Mark Carney meet & greet
- ∞ St. Madeleine Métis Days
- ∞ National Indigenous Peoples Day at CN Rail
- ∞ 2024 Winnipeg Pride
- ∞ Michif Language Fund announcement
- ∞ Children's Special Allowances Settlement Hearing
- ∞ Elders & Youth Gathering
- ∞ Michif Manor Fundraiser Golf Tournament
- ∞ Louis Riel Capital Corporation Gala
- ∞ Métis Education and Training Anniversary Gala

- ∞ Energy, Infrastructure & Resource Management Climate Symposium
- ∞ MMF Regional Meetings
- ∞ Red River Métis Fur Company runs
- ∞ Louis Riel Day Hockey Games (Brandon Wheat Kings, Selkirk Steelers and Portage Terriers)

The Communications Department remains committed to meeting the evolving needs of our Citizens and the Red River Métis Government, and we look forward to expanding on this mission in the year to come.

Stay Connected

Facebook: @Manitoba Métis Federation;
Instagram: @manitobametisfederation;
LinkedIn: @Manitoba Métis Federation;
YouTube: @ManitobaMetisMMF;
TikTok: @manitobametisfederation;
Website: mmf.mb.ca.

To contact the Communications Department directly, please email: communications@mmf.mb.ca.







CULTURE & HERITAGE

CULTURE & HERITAGE



ALFRED ANDERSON
MINISTER

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Culture and Heritage Department oversaw a substantial expansion of programming opportunities, initiatives, and events. The Culture and Heritage Department continues to follow the below mandate for all department-led initiatives:

- ∞ Develop initiatives to promote pride and understanding of Red River Métis experiences and culture;
- ∞ Work with the Minister of Economic Development and Minister of Traditional Economies to develop a strategy which will support the growth of our artisans and crafters;
- ∞ Work with grassroots partners to attend events that will help grow the understanding of Red River Métis history and culture within the broader Canadian community;
- ∞ Work closely with the Michif Language and Provincial Education Departments to develop MMF-led Michif programming; and
- ∞ Work closely with the Policy and Delivery Unit to develop the Red River Métis National Heritage Centre.

The Culture and Heritage Department focuses on promoting the revitalization of the Red River Métis culture and identity through events, programming and other initiatives. Please see below for a brief overview of some of the department's initiatives and programming over the year.

EVENTS

The Métis Music Van participated in the Winnipeg Pride Parade for the first time on June 1, 2024 alongside the Lii Michif Otipemisiwak 2SLGBTQ+ and Allies Local, Two Spirit Michif Local, Winnipeg Region and the MMF's Communications Department. The Culture and Heritage Department looks forward to continuing to be involved in this event in the future, celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ Citizens and community.

MMF annual events continued for 2024-2025, with the first being the Victory at Frog Plain Commemoration Ceremony on June 19, 2024. This commemoration marks the victory of our Red River

Métis fight for trading rights and is monumental in our history. The Louis Riel Institute (LRI) and Métis Employment & Training (MET) Department assisted with a barbecue at the Seven Oaks House Museum following the greetings.

National Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated through multiple events. On June 19, 2024, the Culture and Heritage Department, alongside the Youth Department and Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS), had a booth on site for the Winnipeg Sea Bears Basketball National Indigenous Peoples Day game and celebration, and provided live entertainment with the Kinew Youth Dancers before the game.

On June 20, 2024, the Culture and Heritage Department assisted the CN Rail National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at the Winnipeg Training Centre, where the MMF's Information Technology (IT) and Communications Departments live-streamed the event (found on the MMF YouTube Channel under Live Videos).

The MMF's National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration returned to Selkirk with live music, department and affiliate booths and workshops, jigging, a free pancake breakfast followed by hamburgers and hot dogs for attendees, and plenty of Red River Métis pride.



The Culture and Heritage Department assisted the Beyond Borders Department, Red River Métis Community Resource Department, Ste. Madeleine Métis Heritage Local and the Southwest Region to put on the Ste. Madeleine Métis Days event on July 19 -21, 2024. Ste. Madeleine Métis Days is a weekend-long festival that commemorates the Red River Métis Community of Ste. Madeleine. Ste. Madeleine was burned down in 1938 to make way for cattle pastures, as part of the Canadian Government's *Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act*. The community was forced to leave the land with little to no possessions, and by

having an annual festival where the community used to be, we remember the sacrifices and the strength of the people of Ste. Madeleine in the face of adversity.

In August 2024, the Culture and Heritage Department collaborated with the Youth Department, the Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management Department, LRI, and the Red River Métis National Heritage Centre for the MMF Elders and Youth Gathering. The gathering was held in Selkirk Park and brought together Youth and Elders from all Regions and IWS for teaching, learning, and celebrating our Red River Métis culture and identity. The workshops focused on storytelling, fishing, bannock-making, Michif language, music, and medicine - with an overall theme of connecting language, cultural traditions, and the land together, showing the interweaving of our cultural traditions.

On November 16, 2024, the department hosted the Louis Riel Commemoration Ceremony at Louis Riel's grave site at St. Boniface Cathedral to commemorate the date of Louis Riel's execution. Following the commemoration was a reception at Elsie Bear's Kitchen with Red River Métis musicians for entertainment. This event was well-attended by Members of Parliament, Premier Wab Kinew, and members of the provincial political parties, the mayor, our MMF Ministers and IWS Spokeswoman, Citizens and the public.

Also on November 16 2024, we partnered with Métis Economic Development Organization (MEDO), LRI, the MMF's Early Learning and Childcare Department (ELCC), and MMF's the Housing and Property Management Department for the Santa Claus Parade in Winnipeg, where the Métis Music Van, LRI bus, Red River Métis Marketplace trailer, ELCC shuttle, and Rapid Services truck travelled down Portage Ave., spreading holiday cheer to Citizens and the general public.

The Culture and Heritage Department organized the Christmas lighting display at 200 Main Street, which was officially lit up December 5, 2024 during the Lighting Up the Heart of the Homeland event. This lighting display is one-of-a-kind and showcases Red River Métis holiday spirit for the month of December. The event was well attended by MMF President David Chartrand, MMF Ministers, IWS Spokeswoman, Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the mayor, Citizens, and the public.

The Culture and Heritage Department, in collaboration with the Youth Department, continued celebrating the partnership with the Selkirk Steelers, participating in the Selkirk Steelers Gala Dinner and NHL Alumni game on November 21 and 22, 2024 and partnering to host the Louis Riel Game Night on February 15, 2025. The latter event had Red River Métis artisans organized by MEDO selling their wares around the rink; it was an excellent way to showcase our local artists.

MÉTIS MUSIC VAN

The Métis Music Van toured a record amount of Regions and communities this year, stopping in to visit and bring music and dance to Locals, schools, businesses, hospitals, parades, and community events. It has been requested for over 60 events and initiatives, and the MMF purchased a new Métis Music Van for the Culture and Heritage Department to increase programming outreach and capacity. The new Métis Music Van had graphics designed by the MMF's Communications Department and was outfitted by the IT Department. The Culture and Heritage Department is happy to announce that it is available for bookings via email cultureandheritage@mmf.mb.ca, and via phone at 204-228-9873.

The new Métis Music Van travelled to The Pas for Trappers' Festival and Thompson for Winterfest, and the department is very excited to continue attending events and programs in the North. The Culture and Heritage Department has partnered with LRI to provide cultural programming and presentations alongside the Métis Music Van. Over the next year, the department looks forward to creating a strategic plan to bring the Métis Music Van and cultural programming beyond borders.

Since its creation by Minister Anderson during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Métis Music Van has become an iconic and essential part of the Culture and Heritage Department's efforts to spread our Red River Métis culture, pride, and identity through all communities.

BOOTHS

The Culture and Heritage Department has attended events such as Louis Riel Day at the University of Manitoba with a booth that focuses on teaching history and information to Red River Métis Citizens and the general public via fun games. The department has created a new strategy for booths that requests guidance from Red River Métis Citizens on important aspects of Red River Métis culture and heritage, which will assist the department on future goals and activities.

MICHIF LANGUAGE

In 2024-2025, the Culture and Heritage Department assisted the MMF's Michif Language Portfolio until the Michif Language Department was established in November 2024. The department supported the Michif Language Department in hosting a meeting and press conference with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Taleeb Noormohamed, announcing the investment of 15.3 million dollars in funding over five years for the re-vitalization of Michif Language.

The Culture and Heritage Department continued creating Michif wordsearches for the Culture and Heritage newsletters, and handed out surveys at the Annual General Assembly in 2024 to further Michif language data collection and analysis.

NEWSLETTER AND WEBPAGE

The department continued to release quarterly newsletters which includes the Minister's message to Citizens for the upcoming quarter, a calendar of MMF events, recap of what the Culture and Heritage Department has recently accomplished, educational pieces of our Red River Métis symbols, icons, and heroes, and spotlights on Red River Métis Elders, Youth, and artists in our community.

Our newsletter was uploaded on the Culture and Heritage webpage by the MMF's Communications Department, and future newsletters will be uploaded on the webpage as well. The Culture and Heritage Department is working on a plan to increase output for the webpage, ensuring Citizens know about upcoming events, gatherings, initiatives, and information about the Red River Métis culture, heritage, and history.

OPERATIONS

The Culture and Heritage Department consists of four full-time staff members who support Minister Anderson's visions and goals for the department. The Culture and Heritage Department is thankful to receive funding from Canadian Heritage for Ste. Madeleine Métis Days and National Indigenous Peoples Day, and funding from the Province of Manitoba and City of Selkirk for National Indigenous Peoples Day.

GOALS

The upcoming year will see an increased focus from the Culture and Heritage Department to find sustainable funding - ensuring the continuation of Culture and Heritage Department events, programs, and initiatives. The department is also working on creating readily accessible information on Red River Métis culture, heritage, and history via the MMF webpage, pamphlets, and brochures.

For further information, please contact Meghan Webster, Director of Culture and Heritage at meghan.webster@mmf.mb.ca or 431-334-6882.





EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE



FRANCES CHARTRAND
MINISTER

This past year, the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Department had its hands and hearts full, too! From new centre openings to community celebrations, 2024-25 was about growing, connecting, and making early learning meaningful for Red River Métis families across the Homeland.

NEW SPACES, BIG SMILES

One of the year's biggest milestones was the grand opening of the Louis Riel Child Care Centre in the historic St. Boniface neighbourhood of Winnipeg. This bright and busy spot now welcomes 40 little ones – from babies to preschoolers – into a warm and culturally rich environment.

Also in Winnipeg, over on Main Street, the Little Fox Child Care Centre started its fresh new look. The centre began its renovations to accommodate 40 licensed spaces for infants and preschoolers, with a focus on supporting MMF staff and families by helping them return to work with reliable, culturally grounded child care.

Let's not forget the incredible partnership with the Infinity Women Secretariat, which led to the launch of Little Infinity Child Care – a centre offering 55 spaces for infants, preschoolers, and school-aged children needing before-and-after care.

By the end of March 2025, the ELCC Department was operating 10 centres across the province to support our families. From the Northwest to Thompson, Interlake to the Southwest, and several places in between.

This year wasn't just about what opened – it was also about dreaming big for what's coming next. The department rolled up its sleeves and started laying the foundation for several new child care centres across the Red River Métis Homeland. These future spaces includes Ronald's Place, a child care centre with a focus on supporting families with children who have additional support needs, and designed to be a warm, welcoming place where Red River Métis children can grow, learn, and connect with their roots.



LEARNING, GROWING, LEADING

This year, the department kept the momentum going with exciting training opportunities. Thanks to strong partnerships with Métis Employment and Training and Louis Riel College, more Child Care Assistants and Early Childhood Educators Level II and III earned their classifications. These efforts helped meet the growing demand for qualified staff in child care centres and strengthened the overall Manitoba workforce with passionate individuals looking to make a difference in the lives of our children.

One standout aspect was that due to the success of the Ukrainian Evacuee Child Care Cohort 1, a second cohort of students began their studies in April. Cohort 1 newcomers started their training in fall 2023 and, by June 2025, were graduating from the program. It's part of MMF ELCC's drive to grow the child care workforce and fill those necessary roles.

SPECIAL DELIVERIES FOR LITTLE CITIZENS

Bringing joy right to the doorstep, the department delivered four rounds of My Little Métis Box, a delightful cultural subscription for registered Red River Métis children under six. This past year's themes were:

- ∞ Ancestry
- ∞ Language
- ∞ Identity
- ∞ Traditional Roots

For our tiniest new arrivals, the Bundle of Joy package helped families celebrate the beginning of their child's journey in the Red River Métis Community.

Meanwhile, the Licensed Home Child Care Program gave Citizens in rural areas the tools and support to start their own child care spaces from home – keeping the opportunity for self-employment a possibility and providing care for children within the community.

LISTENING, LEARNING, AND LOOKING AHEAD

Throughout the year, the Red River Métis Early Years Longitudinal Study kept moving full steam ahead. This unique project, developed alongside the MMF Health and Wellness Department, is all about understanding how culture and language shape the early development of Red River Métis children. Behind the scenes, the team collaborated on collective research to ensure the study supports Red River Métis Communities and stays rooted in Red River Métis ways of knowing.

CULTURE IN ACTION

The department's community outreach programs were as vibrant as ever! These hands-on programs celebrated the Michif language, traditional teachings, and outdoor play – all while partnering closely with MMF Regions and Locals to build community pride. Families across the province were involved with programs such as:

- ∞ **Little Métis Literacy:** Michif singing and reading to enrich language skills in a fun way
- ∞ **Maa Mann Pi Soon Biibii:** Introduction of Red River Métis culture for infants
- ∞ **Stay, Play and Bead:** Red River Métis beading crafts and cultural connections
- ∞ **Summer Métis Mobile:** Land-based learning includes outdoor adventures and risky play



ELCC staff also rolled up their sleeves and joined the fun at events like National Indigenous Peoples Day, Shell River Jamboree, Ste. Madeleine Métis Days – celebrating Red River Métis pride and the department's commitment to our communities.

A BIG STAGE FOR BIG IDEAS

In February 2025, MMF ELCC hosted its second province-wide professional development conference for early learning & child care professionals. Themed "Little Steps, Big Future," the two-day event focused on sustainability through a Red River Métis lens. With inspiring talks from Roland Kirouac and Fallon Farinacci, plus a lineup of incredible facilitators, participants walked away energized, connected, and full of ideas.

IN CONCLUSION

The ELCC Department would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the Elders, Cabinet, and every Red River Métis Citizen for their continued support and trust. It's because of you that this work is possible, and together, we're helping our children grow up proud, prepared, and deeply rooted in their Red River Métis identity.

Here's to another year of laughter, learning, and building brighter futures—one little Red River Métis Citizen at a time.





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**National Government of the
Red River Métis**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



DAVID CHARTRAND
PRESIDENT

In 2024-2025 the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Economic Development Department led, coordinated and supported economic development initiatives across the MMF. The department worked closely and collaboratively with the MMF's Policy and Delivery Unity, and the majority of departments and affiliates to advance MMF economic development interests and promote Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurship. The Economic Development Department emphasized and supported Red River Métis economic and community development in areas such as traditional economies, business development and growth, procurement, major capital projects, business ventures and partnerships, international trade, as well as in lands, properties, and other interests.

RED RIVER MÉTIS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Red River Métis Economic and Community Development (RRMECD) division of Economic Development, through its General Manager and a team of nine officer positions, provided distinctions-based support to Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs in 2024-25. The RRMECD team offered tailored navigation, procurement support, community engagement, and networking services, with these services available to all 800+ businesses registered on the Red River Métis Business Directory.

RRMECD worked closely with the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) and the Red River Métis Business Development Corporation (RRMBDC) to support the Red River Métis business community. RRMECD provided ongoing support to RRMBDC events. Notably, the RRMECD team contributed to the successful delivery of the Red River Métis Business Expo in December 2024. At this event, RRMECD connected Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs with industry buyers, MMF departments, and affiliates.

In collaboration with the Partnerships and Procurement Opportunities division, RRMECD supported Red River Métis participation in procurement throughout 2024-25. This included targeted outreach and regular sharing of procurement opportunities from industry and governments. For example, one

major infrastructure project opportunity shared with businesses generated 15 Expression of Interest (EOI) submissions from Red River Métis suppliers. RRMECD also contributed to the City of Winnipeg's Sustainable Procurement initiative, Showcase 2025, which championed the participation of six Red River Métis businesses in showcasing their goods and services to municipal buyers.

In 2024-25, RRMECD also advanced community-focused initiatives by supporting local priorities and events. One example includes assisting with a garden box project in The Pas, where 49 garden boxes were constructed and delivered to Red River Métis Citizens in partnership with local leadership and The Pas Co-op.

The RRMECD continued to play a key role across all Regions, Beyond Borders, and with Infinity Women Secretariat in providing services and supports to Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs, promoting their development and growth.

PARTNERSHIPS AND PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Partnerships and Procurement Opportunities division of Economic Development worked closely with the LRCC and the RRMBDC to build partnerships with industry and connect Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs with procurement opportunities.

A major highlight of 2024-25 was the Red River Métis Business Expo, held in December 2024. This two-day event brought together over 200 participants and featured approximately 40 booths representing government departments and industry partners. A central feature of the Expo was a full day of business-to-business (B2B) meetings between Red River Métis businesses and buyers from across sectors. These meetings provided businesses with the opportunity to showcase their goods and services, build relationships, and identify procurement opportunities. Building on the Business Expo's success, a smaller follow-up B2B event was hosted in February 2025 to continue fostering connections between government, industry and Red River Métis businesses.

The MMF's Procurement Advisory Services provided one-on-one support to 10 Red River Métis businesses in navigating and pursuing procurement opportunities. This concluded a successful two-year pilot during which 20 businesses benefited from targeted assistance, strengthening their ability to engage in procurement processes. Notably, Big Interlake Mechanical secured a standing offer agreement through the program. The MMF thanks Red River Métis-owned HIBOU Professional Services for their dedicated work in delivering this service.

MMF FOR-PROFIT AFFILIATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

The Business Development and Growth division of Economic Development worked with the Métis Economic Development Organization (MEDO) and MMF for-profit affiliate companies to strengthen governance, improve accountability, and advance opportunities to expand MMF's business portfolio.

Key outcomes in 2024-25 included the acquisition of Rapid City Memorials, a well-established 30 year-old memorial stone business that expands MMF's footprint in the Southwest and Northwest Regions. The division also supported and celebrated the grand openings of Lake Manitoba Resort and MEDOCare Pharmacy's second location in Dauphin.

A notable addition to the MMF's For-Profit Affiliate portfolio in 2024-25 was the establishment of the Red River Métis Power Corporation (RRMPC), announced on October 18, 2024. In response to Manitoba Hydro's call for power, RRMPC was incorporated in December 2024 as a new for-profit affiliate. With support from the manager of partnerships and team, RRMPC quickly engaged government and industry partners to explore energy opportunities across Manitoba. RRMPC has been actively developing partnerships and preparing to participate in Manitoba Hydro's upcoming procurement for Indigenous majority-owned wind energy projects.

Alongside these key developments, work continued throughout the year to assess potential new acquisitions and investment opportunities, including further expansions in MEDOCare, data centre services, and green infrastructure. This work continues into 2025-26, supporting MMF's broader commitment to advancing the Red River Métis economy and supporting long-term, sustainable growth.

LANDS & PROPERTIES

The Lands and Properties division of Economic Development, through its manager, worked with the MMF's leadership, the Policy and Delivery Unit, Finance Department, and Housing and Property Management Department, as well as with MMF affiliates LRCC, and Métis N4 Construction, among others, to coordinate and support the planning, acquisition, development, and use of lands and properties owned and operated by the MMF, the Regions, and its affiliates.

During the year, Lands and Properties worked closely with others to help showcase the MMF's commitment to the revitalization of downtown Winnipeg through supporting real estate acquisitions, capital redevelopment, and the sizable presence of MMF government operations. In October 2024, the MMF specifically acquired the triad of properties at the corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street, consisting of 333 Main Street, as well as 191 and 179 Pioneer Avenue. With most floors of 333 Main being redeveloped for MMF and third-party tenancy, capital projects also included the ongoing redevelopment of the building as the future site of the Red River Métis National Heritage Centre, and the redevelopment of 200 Main Street for early childhood and post-secondary education facilities.

Lands and Properties also contributed to capital projects beyond downtown Winnipeg, including the mixed-use development at 355 Eveline Street in Selkirk, the Lake Manitoba Resort Campground development in St. Laurent, the warehouse development at 25-35 Ray Marius Road in Winnipeg, and the redevelopment at 1133-1147 Breezy Point in St. Andrews as well as preliminary stages for upcoming projects.





BANK OF MONTREAL FOUNDED MDCCCXVII
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT
ESTABLISHED IN WINNIPEG MDCCCLXXVII
THIS BUILDING ERECTED MDCCCXIII

BANK OF MONTREAL

LA PLAS TAANKSI KAA-ISHIPAMACHOYAAUK
THE PLACE WHERE WE HAVE AND DO LIVE

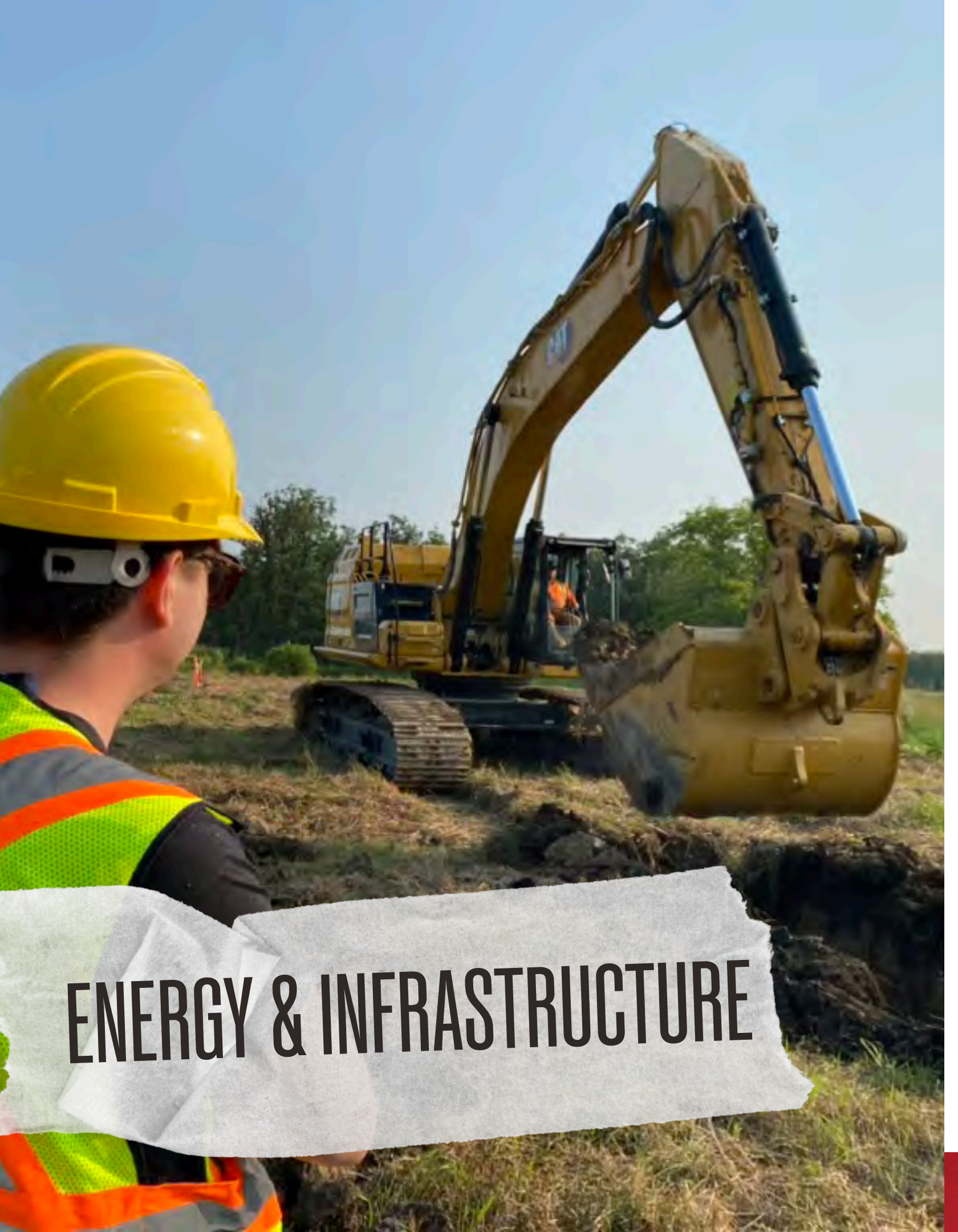
RED RIVER METIS NATIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DU PATRIMOINE DES METIS
DE LA RIVIERE ROUGE



NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
RED RIVER METIS

Canad Manitoba

Bell MTS



ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE



JACK PARK
MINISTER

The Energy and Infrastructure (E&I) portfolio was created by the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the National Government of the Red River Métis, to protect and further the rights, claims, and interests of our Citizens. The E&I team performs a variety of tasks including the management and undertaking of engagement and consultation requests from all levels of government and the private sector across the Homeland. The team performs environmental, construction, and heritage resource monitoring, while undertaking environmental studies and programs to better understand impacts for developing mitigation and remediation strategies to protect Red River Métis rights, claims, and interests for generations to come.



By working in close partnership with other MMF Departments and portfolios such as Métis Employment and Training, Economic Development, Mining, Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources, Housing and Property Management and with affiliates such as Métis N4 Construction, E&I has been able to help usher in new programs such as the Métis Energy Efficiency Offers (MEEO). These partnerships have brought greater energy efficiency to over 1,100 Citizen's homes in the past

three years. E&I also supports MMF led infrastructure projects such as the energy retrofitting of home office located at 150 Henry Avenue, and the Selkirk tree nursery which began construction late in 2024.

E&I works hard to bring about positive outcomes throughout the engagement and consultation process with proponents, whether these proponents are federal, provincial, or private. There is a growing need to create distinct processes to ensure the unique circumstances of Red River Métis are recognized, and that specific impacts are considered and avoided or mitigated.

The E&I assessment process seeks agreements with proponents that facilitate meaningful engagement and consultation with Red River Métis Citizens. Citizen meetings are a cornerstone for gathering Citizen feedback, sharing information, and recording possible impacts. When necessary, E&I undertakes project technical reviews that allow the team to understand projects without proponent bias. Red River Métis knowledge, land-use, and occupancy studies use interviews to collect data from Harvesters and Knowledge Keepers. This information is then combined into a comprehensive report for Citizens to review and proponents can use to determine appropriate mitigation and compensation plans. As part of the MMF's privacy and information protection policy, all Red River Métis knowledge is gathered anonymously and is only used to help further the rights, claims, and interests of Citizens throughout the Homeland.

E&I is engaging with multiple beyond borders proponents through the Canada Energy Regulator (CER), Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), and SaskPower. Some examples of Beyond Borders projects include SaskPower's siting of a possible Small Modular Reactor (SMR) in Southeastern Saskatchewan, North Saskatchewan uranium mines, and Northwest Ontario nuclear waste storage siting project. Examples of energy projects that E&I has consulted on include generating stations, transmission lines, pipelines, solar, wind, and nuclear power across the Homeland. Some of the infrastructure projects that E&I has consulted on include roads, water treatment plants, bridges, dams, and outlet channels. E&I has also consulted on small scale projects such as community led walking trails, bike paths, and river access points like public docks.

Monitoring is a crucial component of MMF participation in projects. E&I employs Red River Métis construction and environmental monitors, as well as heritage specialists to oversee project construction. Heritage monitoring is crucial to the MMF because it reinforces connections to the past within the National Homeland. As part of the agreed terms between Enbridge's Line 3 Pipeline (L3RP) project and the Canadian Energy Regulator (CER), they created the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC). The IAC is a committee comprised of nine representatives, a chair

and vice chair, who are chosen by the committee representatives. The Red River Métis representative at the IAC is Marci Riel, Senior Director of the Energy, Infrastructure and Resources Management department (EIRM), where she continues to represent the rights, claims, and interests of the Red River Métis Citizens.

E&I is working with the federal government to refine engagement and consultation processes that are intended to meaningfully consider Red River Métis rights, claims, and interests. These processes need to include mandatory consideration of impacts to self-governance, land use, harvesting, heritage resources, economic, and psycho-social well-being.

Near Selkirk, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) resurfaced the St. Andrews lock and dam bridge, with the project goal of adding wheelchair accessibility to the bridge walkway. In the spring of 2021, the project uncovered 150-year-old human remains and subsequently PSPC engaged an archeological firm. To date, the archeological firm has uncovered 25,000+ artifacts from the soils of the project which is situated on the banks of the Red River, and the site of significant Red River Métis history. A monitoring agreement with PSPC allowed E&I to hire a Red River Métis archeologist to work onsite for the duration of the construction phase, catalogue artifacts, and help develop a draft Red River Métis heritage resource protocol guidance document.

Manitoba Hydro has submitted environmental act license applications for several projects including PW75 Point du Bois refurbishment of lines and generating station, R44H Gilliam area transmission line improvements, Gimli area SRTap private industry transmission line, and the Portage la Prairie area line replacements (PACE). E&I has been working with Manitoba's Environmental Approvals Branch to identify impacts and provide mitigation recommendations. E&I continues to work closely with Manitoba Hydro through monitoring activities, Citizen engagement sessions, and through negotiations to refine

Manitoba Hydro's engagement and consultation process so that it is representative of Red River Métis specific requirements and properly facilitates participation.

E&I is working toward agreements with Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada (HICC) and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) that better reflect the unique circumstances the Red River Métis require for meaningful engagement and consultation. In 2024, E&I held community meetings for HICC projects including the Red-Seine-Rat Wastewater project and Stonewall Water Treatment and Conveyance project. E&I has made great progress working with the province on infrastructure and transportation projects. E&I has continued to share concerns over the Lake Manitoba-Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels project and is working with MTI on a path forward that reduces impact to fish-bearing waters and Harvesters, while providing economic opportunities to Red River Métis businesses and workers. Through productive dialogue, we are working toward processes that best serve the rights, claims, and interests of the Red River Métis.

In 1985, the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) WR-1 reactor in the Whiteshell was shut down and has been in a state of storage and surveillance ever since. Since then, steps toward decommissioning the nuclear site have begun. In 2024, CNL applied for a renewed operating license within the environmental assessment process from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on their proposed decommissioning plan to bury the decommissioned WR-1 reactor in-situ using concrete grout. As a result, E&I appeared on your behalf in the regulatory hearings for the environmental licensing of both the current state of the nuclear reactor and its planned decommissioning.

With support from the CNSC, the MMF has undertaken a technical review of the project, held two community consultation meetings on the plan and proposed monitoring activities, performed a consumption survey and Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study (TKLUS), and have completed an assessment of the valued components (VCs) used by the proponent to assess the potential impacts of the project.

CNL has invited the MMF to environmental monitoring events to ensure a Red River Métis specific monitor is deployed when CNL conducts their testing. The MMF had a Red River Métis environmental monitor on site for a variety of monitoring tasks including water sampling at the discharge lagoon, monitor well water sampling, overland water outflow testing, bat exit surveys, and edible plant, fungus, and game testing in the area.

To support these monitoring activities, MMF's Nuclear Energy Specialist has developed the *Broadening Environmental Analysis and Dietary Sustainability* (BEADS) study focused on Red River Métis land use and harvesting in the area which includes fruits, berries, medicines, fungi, fish, game and wood burning fuels found within a 30-km radius of the Whiteshell Reactor.







ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION



DENISE THOMAS
MINISTER

DEPARTMENT MANDATE

To advance the integrity of the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) democratic foundation and vision as the National Government of the Red River Métis by protecting their rights, interests, claims, and asserting jurisdiction across all sectors through Resolution No. 8.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The department is the central point of contact for any project/plan that may impact the rights, interests and/or claims of the Red River Métis. Consultation and Engagement with the Red River Métis is vital to ensure our rights are protected and impacts are minimized, mitigated, and accommodated. Resolution No. 8 was adopted in 2007 and sets out the framework for engagement and consultation with the Red River Métis. It includes five distinct phases:

- ∞ Phase I: Notice and Response;
- ∞ Phase II: Research and Capacity;
- ∞ Phase III: Engagement and Consultation;
- ∞ Phase IV: Partnership and Accommodation; and;
- ∞ Phase V: Implementation.

Throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the department continued to undertake meaningful engagement and consultation on projects impacting the rights, interests, and/or claims of the Red

River Métis. Subject matters included but were not limited to governance, health, identity, women and gender, housing, justice, and education. The department worked with various MMF departments and affiliates, assisting with proposal writing and undertaking Engagement and Consultation activities. Over the last review period, the department oversaw approximately 879 active files, a 24% increase.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (UNDRIP) – WORKING TOWARDS A RED RIVER MÉTIS ACTION PLAN

Throughout 2024, the department diligently collected focus group data from hundreds of Citizens across the Homeland to advance the implementation of UNDRIP for the Red River Métis. Focusing on priority needs, capacity requirements, and equitable treatment for the Red River Métis within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA), the department facilitated:

1. A new UNDRIP survey completed by approximately 3,269 Citizens;
2. Semi-structured interviews with senior staff of 30 MMF departments and affiliates that resulted in over 80 hours of confidential interview recordings and over 1,000 confidential pages of transcription, and;
3. Three engagement sessions with Red River Métis Citizens:
 - ∞ The Pas - September 21, 2024
 - ∞ Beyond Borders (virtual) – November 2, 2024
 - ∞ Winnipeg – November 23, 2024

The department was successful in securing additional funding in the amount of \$240,000 for the 2025-2027 fiscal years. It is anticipated the department will continue developing and implementing a Red River Métis Action Plan, engaging with Citizens and leadership to meaningfully address their direct needs as they relate to specific measures within UNDA; particularly resource management, health, justice, education and economic development to name a few.



In response to the passing of Resolution No. 3 at the 2024 AGA, and a growing need for enhanced policy regarding research on the Red River Métis, the department has made significant progress in ensuring the collective rights of Citizens are respected as it relates to the collection of their data.

BRINGING OUR CHILDREN HOME SYMPOSIUM

As part of the Department's ongoing collaboration with the Sixties Scoop and Residential Schools Department, this year's Bringing Our Children Home Symposium, which occurred from March 14-16, 2025, included approximately 80 survivors throughout the Homeland. The department facilitated outreach, registration, logistics, and ensured the overall comfort of all Survivors.

The symposium featured plenary sessions with individuals involved in locating missing children, offering Survivors opportunities to engage directly with MMF President David Chartrand and other experts. Survivors had the opportunity to share their experiences and pose questions in a safe space intended for connection and dialogue.

REVIEW OF 2011 FEDERAL CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

After receiving \$100,000 for 2024-2025 from the Federal Consultation and Accommodation Unit (CAU), the department developed educational materials to engage Citizens across the Homeland and Beyond Borders. This ensures Citizens full understanding and the ability to provide meaningful feedback on the Guidelines during three community consultations. Interactive presentations, open dialogue, and roundtable discussions aided our Citizens in identifying problematic areas in the Guidelines, while working to re-align the Guidelines with UNDRIP, particularly Articles 18, 19, 26, and 32.

After concluding consultations, the department compiled feedback relating to each area of the Guidelines. A persistent concern of participants was the absence of a clear mandate for federal officials and agencies to refer to and abide by the Guidelines.

Moving forward, the department will continue working with CAU in 2025-2026 regarding future iterations of the Guidelines. This will ensure it aligns with our feedback and UNDRIP, enabling Citizens to participate meaningfully in consultations when projects may have adverse impacts on their rights.

RED RIVER MÉTIS RESEARCH AND ETHICS

In response to the passing of Resolution No. 3 at the 2024 AGA, and in light of the growing need for enhanced policies regarding research on the Red River Métis, the department has made significant progress in ensuring the collective rights of Citizens are respected as it relates to the collection of their data.

During the three full-day consultation meetings, a presentation was delivered on the topic of Citizenship and collective rights in research. The presentation provided a background to the legacy of research with the Red River Métis and invited Citizens to consider any important experiences and perspectives in the development of interim solutions supporting a fulsome research policy.

These gatherings provided direct Citizen perspectives on key priority areas for Red River Métis advancement of research governance, emphasizing the role of the MMF in the protection of identity, Citizenship knowledge, and data sovereignty.

The results communicated in a comprehensive report strongly indicate Citizens' desire for the advancement of a research governance strategy. In addition to moving forward internally, the department is working to engage federal research bodies, such as the Canadian Institute of Health Research, to ensure Canadian policy operates in tandem with a Red River Métis Research and Ethics Strategy that considers the collective rights of the Red River Métis.

RED RIVER MÉTIS JUSTICE STRATEGY

Continuing activities from last year to support the development of a Red River Métis Justice Strategy, the department assisted the Métis Justice Institute with providing Citizens another opportunity to share their thoughts on the criminal justice system as it relates to their families, culture, and health. We conducted interviews with Métis Elders to gather perspectives regarding Traditional Law, incarceration, and alternative sentencing; the interviews were instrumental in ensuring a Red River Métis-specific chapter was included in Canada's Indigenous Justice Strategy.

COMMUNITY SPORT FOR ALL INITIATIVE

In December 2024, the MMF submitted a proposal to Sport Canada – Community Sport for All Initiative (CSAI), titled Addressing and Removing Red River Métis Barriers in Sport, requesting 2-year funding in the amount of \$4.6 million for two fiscal years. This initiative aims to address and remove the barriers Red River Métis Citizens face in sport. The proposed funding would support and highlight the concerns of our Citizens, as the Red River Métis remain underrepresented in pan-Indigenous organizations and in sport. The department is committed to enhancing the MMF's capacity and resources to better serve the Red River Métis. This support will dismantle the barriers of cultural exclusion that Citizens often face, ensuring they are not overshadowed in the broader term "Indigenous." This funding will help recognize and address the unique Red River Métis-specific needs in sport and social development. As of March 2025, Sport Canada awarded several associations and charities in Canada funding; Unfortunately, the MMF was not selected for funding.

THE FUTURE OF SPORT IN CANADA

In March 2025, Innovation Seven, on behalf of the Future of Sport in Canada Commission (the Commission), reached out to the MMF to discuss the Commission's mandate to review the Canadian Sport System and make recommendations on concrete and effective action with respect to improving safe sport and the sport system in Canada. This includes the review of policies, funding structures, governance reporting, accountability, conflicts of interest, systems alignment, culture, and legal considerations.

The Commission is focused on learning about the experiences within the sport system to better understand its successes, challenges, current gaps, and what improvements can be made to inform the Commission's recommendations to the Government of Canada.

Since its establishment in December 2023, the Commission failed to meaningfully engage with the MMF. After several public consultations occurred, it remains a concern that the Red River Métis have been excluded from the initial planning phases in these important discussions, as distinctions-based engagement was not prioritized for the Red River Métis.

Preliminary meetings continue to take place to support collaboration with the MMF, ensuring the Red River Métis are meaningfully consulted through this federal initiative. It is anticipated the MMF will participate in a bilateral meeting with the Commission in the Spring of 2025.

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

In spring 2024, the department was introduced to Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to provide feedback on changes being made to the Broadband Fund, an initiative aimed at closing gaps in connectivity and ensuring that underserved areas can reach the universal service objective (speeds of at least 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload). This initiative is especially important to Red River Métis Citizens living in remote areas, where limited access to reliable high-speed internet continues to affect education, health care, economic opportunity, and social connection. The CRTC also reached out in April of 2025 to inform the department of a hearing called "Supporting Canadian and Indigenous audio content". Since meeting with the CRTC, the department has advocated for meaningful consultation through Resolution No. 8, requesting bilateral meetings in lieu of public forums and proper support to facilitate the MMF's meaningful participation.



COLLABORATIVE HOUSING ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

In March 2025, through the MMF Housing and Property Management Department's partnership with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the department guided the engagement process with Red River Métis Citizens on the development of a consultation framework. Providing expertise on facilitating discussions with Citizens, the department gathered meaningful input to develop a Collaborative Housing Engagement Framework (CHEF) that fulfills the objectives of the Red River Métis Housing Strategy. (Moving Ahead on the Red River Métis Housing Strategy, April 2023)

The CHEF engagement has successfully identified gaps in housing accessibility and affordability, informing a resilient action plan to address the needs of the Red River Métis. Based on the input received, we are more equipped to bridge gaps and improve Citizens access to safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing.

Overall, the key initiatives from the initial outreach have directed the Housing Department to focus on implementing a robust housing communications strategy, increasing affordable housing, ensuring transparency and consistency, improving data collection, and more.

CHEF remains an ongoing initiative, led by the Housing Department with plans to continue engaging Citizens guided by the department, including a refined survey every five years to accurately identify and address the ever-changing needs of our Citizens. For more information regarding CHEF, please contact the Housing and Property Management Department.

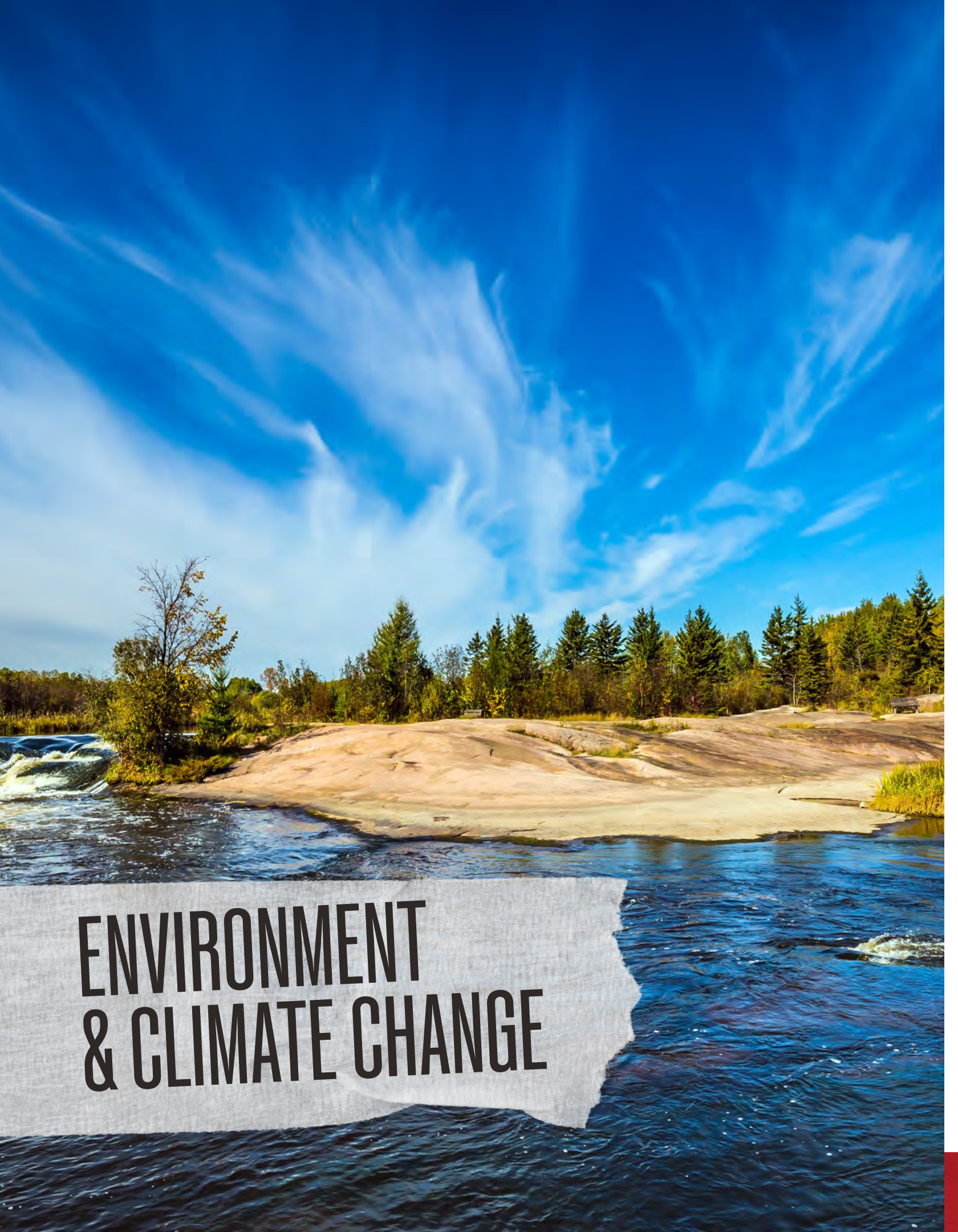
LAND/TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The department continues to reform existing language of various land and territorial acknowledgements to accurately reflect the "National Homeland of the Red River Métis", following the signing of our Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement on July 6, 2021, and our Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty on November 30, 2024. Letters have been addressed to school divisions, entertainment industries, private companies, non-profit organizations, and more.

To date, we have had meaningful discussions with approximately 185 organizations, allowing many opportunities to foster collaboration in addition to ensuring the accurate representation of the Red River Métis.

FUTURE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Please visit our booth or contact us at consultation@mmf.mb.ca if you are interested in contributing your feedback at an upcoming community meeting!



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE



JOANNE REMILLARD
MINISTER



PETER FLEMING
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Environment and Climate Change Portfolio (E&CC) is housed within the MMF's Energy, Infrastructure & Resource Management (EIRM) Department. The E&CC Portfolio develops and implements programs and initiatives that advocate for traditional methods of stewardship undertaken by our Ancestors. This cultivates a future that allows for the continued and lasting culture of the Red River Métis across the National Homeland. Your Red River Métis Government has the unique opportunity to bridge the generational divide between the traditional practices of our Elders and the adaptive and innovative perspectives of our Youth, ensuring that together, the prosperity of our Nation is upheld and our environment is protected. We are committed to working collaboratively to ensure our rights are upheld, and all issues concerning the environment are given the utmost attention.

The 2024-2025 fiscal year achieved significant progress towards the advancement of the E&CC Portfolio by prioritizing core development centered on:

- ∞ Developing a climate adaptation and resiliency plan to reduce MMF's carbon footprint;
- ∞ Continuing development of an Emergency Preparedness Strategy for forest fires, floods, or other natural disasters;
- ∞ Engaging with Elders and Youth to explore how the rapidly changing climate is affecting Citizens through climate change education and awareness, and land-based education events; and
- ∞ Providing recommendations to Canada on several key areas such as how to fund climate initiatives, report progress, manage projects effectively, shared measures of success, build skills and capacity, climate action priorities, and how to manage costs.

MÉTIS KNOWLEDGE LAND-USE AND OCCUPANCY STUDIES

The MMF collected 42 in-depth Red River Métis knowledge, land use, and occupancy desktop interviews, as well as four ground truthing interviews. These were conducted with

Citizens who have knowledge of the lands and waters within the National Homeland. These interviews help represent not only contemporary, but also historical use of the lands and waters throughout the National Homeland. These studies enabled the MMF to better understand the impact of development projects and cumulative effects on Red River Métis rights, claims, and interests. The knowledge collected during these studies has been used to inform the design of environmental monitoring programs.



MÉTIS ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow (MELT) program coordinated and implemented land-based educational workshops and events for Red River Métis Youth, from kindergarten to grade 12, with a focus on climate education, and how Youth can turn that education into climate action through Red River Métis knowledge and practices. MELT engaged with Red River Métis Elders and Knowledge Keepers in these activities to promote generational transfer of knowledge.

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, MELT engaged 256 Red River Métis Youth through a variety of different activities, including the following:

- ∞ **Regional Environmental Day Camps:** These camps engaged Youth in land-based activities focused on ecosystems and climate change. Activities included canoeing, plant and animal identification, foraging, birdhouse making and installation, nature walks, fishing, water testing, critter dipping, and climate discussions.
- ∞ **Farm and Ranch Tours:** Held on Red River Métis-owned farms supported by the MMF's Agriculture Portfolio and the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), these tours taught Youth about farm operations, climate smart practices, and environmental stewardship while emphasizing farm-to-fork awareness and making informed food choices.
- ∞ **Mini Climate Symposium:** In February 2025, the MMF hosted a symposium at Assiniboine Park Zoo where Red

River Métis Youth connected with other Citizens and environmental organizations to learn about climate impacts on species at risk and science-based climate solutions.

- ∞ **Winter Wilderness Survival:** This event introduced Youth to winter survival skills in changing weather conditions, including training in arctic environments, fire and shelter building, first aid, and more.

Moving forward, MELT will continue to offer these events and work with MMF Regions and Locals interested in hosting other land-based events. Additionally, MELT works to create and maintain partnerships within schools and educational institutes which allow the delivery of climate-focused education programs from Red River Métis perspectives.



MÉTIS COMMUNITY BASED CLIMATE MONITORING PROGRAM

The MMF's Métis Community-Based Monitoring Program (MCBCM) braids western science with Red River Métis

traditional knowledge, to collect and monitor climate environmental changes across the National Homeland. The MCBCM program provides all interested Red River Métis Citizens with the necessary training, equipment, and resources for conducting environmental monitoring in their Region. In turn, they become Red River Métis Citizen Scientists.

Current programming under the Métis Community-Based Monitoring Network include the Wetland Monitoring Program, Water Quality Monitoring Program, and Winter Monitoring Program. All programs use the application Survey123 to submit monitoring surveys which ensures accessibility for all MMF Regions, including those Beyond Borders. The 2024–2025 fiscal year marks the highest levels of Citizen engagement and recruitment since the program began.

Beyond year-round environmental monitoring, the MCBCM program also hosts Citizen Science events to participate in, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Monarch Monitoring Blitz, birding walks, nature walks, workshops, and much more. Stay tuned to MMF social media for future programs and events near you.

WEATHER KEEPER PROGRAM

The Weather Keeper Program, in collaboration with the Centre for Earth Observation Science at the University of Manitoba, supports the collection and monitoring of atmospheric data across the Red River Métis National Homeland. This initiative works directly with Red River Métis Citizens and MMF Locals located near key waterbodies, where they help operate and maintain meteorological stations. These stations provide real-time climate data, which is publicly available on the MMF website.

Currently, stations are located in St. Laurent (Interlake Region), Lakeshore (Northwest Region), and Dawson Bay (The Pas Region). In 2024–2025, the program accepted applications to add two more stations and will continue to partner with interested Citizens to expand the monitoring network. The Weather Keeper



Program delivers valuable insights into local weather patterns, land-use changes, and the ongoing impacts of climate change.

RED RIVER MÉTIS STEWARDS OF THE HOMELAND PROGRAM

The Red River Métis Stewards of the Homeland Program (RRM SOHP) worked to conserve, protect, and restore the National Homeland of the Red River Métis for the continued prosperity of the environment; including the lands and waters Red River Métis Citizens rely upon for livelihood and sustenance.

This program provided the opportunity for Red River Métis Youth, Citizens, Harvesters, and Elders to:

- ∞ Learn more about Red River Métis knowledge and cultural harvesting practices through land-based education events such as:
- ∞ Turtle Mountain Field Days;
- ∞ Harvesting Property Tours;
- ∞ Medicinal Walks;
- ∞ Ste. Madeline Days;
- ∞ Kettle Hills Field Days;
- ∞ Receive training to support safe harvest practices and training on environmental data collection to contribute to MMF-led stewardship projects conservation and protection initiatives; and
- ∞ Assist in the hands-on restoration of the National Homeland of the Red River Métis

To date, the RRM SOHP has developed three stewardship projects, including Spawning Study 2.0, Waterway Restoration, and Ecosystem Integrity. The RRM SOHP has supported many additional initiatives throughout other MMF Portfolios, including the Pilot Commercial Net Repair Workshop.



RED RIVER MÉTIS
STEWARDS
OF THE
HOMELAND

The RRM SOHP continued the development of educational resources, and integrating cultural harvesting practice workshops, such as slingshot making and snare making, at various events throughout the year.

RED RIVER MÉTIS CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM

Each year, the Red River Métis Climate Symposium brings together Red River Métis Citizens from all MMF Regions, including those living Beyond Borders, to share knowledge, experiences, and solutions related to climate change. The 2024

symposium welcomed a total of 243 Red River Métis Citizens, including 77 Youth, alongside 11 MMF Cabinet Ministers, and a diverse group of presenters and panelists made up of Red River Métis Knowledge Keepers, academics, harvesters, and industry professionals.

Over the course of the three-day event, participants engaged in discussions focused on the theme “Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.” The symposium highlighted the unique climate impacts experienced by Red River Métis communities and explored culturally grounded, community-driven strategies for building resilience across the National Homeland.

FUEL CHARGE PROCEEDS

The federal government’s fuel charge proceeds are part of the federal carbon pricing system, which is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by charging for carbon pollution. These proceeds are returned to the provinces and territories where the federal fuel charge applies, with a portion specifically allocated to Indigenous governments, including the MMF. The funds from the fuel charge proceeds collected by the MMF are aimed at creating initiatives for the betterment of Red River Métis Citizens. The MMF has expressed concerns regarding Canada's proposed allocation methods, which considers population, remoteness, community well-being, and base amounts. While these factors are crucial, the MMF advocates for a more nuanced approach that also addresses economic disparities, health and social services, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, educational opportunities, cultural preservation, collaborative governance, and historical inequities. The current framework fails to consider Red River Métis Citizens that do not reside in Manitoba. A holistic approach would ensure that Red River Métis Citizens receive fair and effective support to address their unique needs and challenges.

GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSETS

The MMF has partnered with Carbon Block and CanSustain to launch a carbon offsets initiative that positions Red River Métis as active participants in the growing carbon market. This partnership enables the MMF to generate and sell carbon credits, which are earned through projects that measurably reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to large emitters such as oil and gas companies striving to meet federally mandated emissions targets. As part of this work, the partnership will support the MMF in developing a sustainability framework, conducting gap and materiality assessments, and identifying applicable alignment standards to ensure credibility and transparency. In parallel, the MMF’s Economic Development Department is working with the MMF Tree Nursery to establish reforestation initiatives on Red River Métis owned lands. These activities will not only support ecological restoration and community resilience but also serve as a pathway to generate carbon credits through afforestation and improved land use practices.



The Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow (MELT) program coordinated and implemented land-based educational workshops and events for Red River Métis Youth, from grades kindergarten to grade 12, with a focus on climate education, and how Youth can turn that education into climate action through Red River Métis knowledge and practices.

INDIGENOUS-LED NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

The MMF's Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions (ILNCS) project is focused on a culturally grounded restoration project on two harvesting properties. Emphasizing extensive baseline data collection, the initiative will assess ecosystem health through soil, vegetation, and wildlife surveys to guide restoration planning. Restoration efforts will prioritize understory rehabilitation, natural disturbance management, and invasive species control. The project integrates Red River Métis traditional ecological knowledge and community involvement throughout all phases, with clear objectives to increase biodiversity, improve forest health, and foster cultural reconnection. Through training, participatory monitoring, and the development of a scalable restoration model, the MMF aims to build long-term capacity and share best practices for Indigenous-led climate action. This project serves as both an environmental and cultural initiative, restoring the ecosystem while strengthening Red River Métis stewardship of the traditional Homeland. Additionally, this project will aim to work in partnership with other MMF programming, such as Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow (MELT), Métis Community Based Monitoring (MCBCM), and the Red River Métis Stewards of the Homeland Program (RRM SOHP).

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, MITIGATION, AND ADAPTATION

The MMF continued to work towards creating Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plans along with Hazard Identification Risk Assessments (HIRA). These tools provide information on specific hazards that are likely to occur in each Region and assess the level of risk. Emergency management plans and HIRAs will provide steps, program priorities, and realistic exercise scenarios to protect Red River Métis Citizens in the event of climate related natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, and more. The MMF hosted personal preparedness webinars where Citizens learned the importance of personal preparedness and assembling emergency kits to assist in being prepared for emergency events.

The MMF will continue to host additional preparedness webinars and are in the process of developing seasonal preparedness programs and other initiatives.

For questions concerning the E&CC Portfolio, please contact:
<https://www.mmf.mb.ca/environment-climate-change>







HEALTH & WELLNESS

HEALTH & WELLNESS



FRANCES CHARTRAND
MINISTER

PREAMBLE

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Health & Wellness Department (MMF-HWD) was established in 2005 with the vision of "A Well Métis Community." Committed to improving the health of Red River Métis Citizens across Manitoba and beyond, the MMF-HWD leads strategic efforts in research, health prevention, service delivery, community programming, and health analytics. Guided by ethical standards and inclusivity, the department ensures that Red River Métis voices inform all initiatives and that Citizens have access to relevant and timely health information.

The 2024/2025 Annual Report marks a year of continued progress. Building on the expansion of its Research, Clinical, Community Programming, and Policy and Health Information branches in 2021/2022, MMF-HWD advanced its mission through strengthened partnerships with federal and provincial governments, academic institutions, and health organizations including the University of Manitoba, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, Diabetes Canada, and Dynacare. Notably, three community consultations were conducted and positively received.



With continued staff dedication and strong Citizen engagement, MMF-HWD remains committed to advancing Red River Métis health and well-being.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

The Community Programming branch, established in 2022, enables the MMF-HWD to address Red River Métis Citizens' health needs through a wide range of programs and initiatives. By engaging with the community and listening to their concerns, MMF-HWD can tailor health programming to be relevant, accessible, and positively impact the well-being of all Citizens.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

Since 2017 when your Red River Métis Government developed its first Métis Health Benefits Prescription Drug Program, eligible Red River Métis seniors and Elders now have access to essential prescription drug coverage. To be eligible, individuals must be Red River Métis Citizens over the age of 65 and have an income of \$35,000 or less. As of April 2021, Red River Métis Citizens over 55 years of age became eligible to apply to the program.

The success of the program is a result of the collaboration of the MMF-HWD, the Red River Métis Community Resource Department, and MEDOCare Pharmacy. Currently, over 1,000 Red River Métis Citizens are registered in the program and receive financial support toward their medication, as well as comprehensive prescription consultation.

MÉTIS SENIOR VISION CARE INITIATIVE

Vision is an important part of maintaining independence. The Métis Senior Vision Care Initiative offers vision care services including managing healthy eye care, eye examinations, and prescription eyeglasses – all of which make this possible.

Eligibility requirements for this program are the same as those for the Prescription Drug Program. However, there is value added for all clients regardless of age or income. Any Red River Métis Citizen can benefit from a negotiated rate of \$150 per set of prescription glasses, including bifocals or progressive lenses, by presenting their Citizenship card at the time of purchase.

MENTAL HEALTH LINE

The MMF-HWD understands that many of our Red River Métis Citizens are experiencing feelings of sadness, stress, and anxiety. To provide support during these challenging times, the Mental Wellness phone line was established in December 2020 and continues to cater to the specific needs of Red River Métis Citizens. This free helpline, staffed by Red River Métis counsellors, received over 700 calls in the first year it was initiated.

CLINICAL SERVICES

Established in January 2021, the Clinical Services team of the MMF-HWD is dedicated to serving Red River Métis Citizens of Manitoba. This branch coordinates two mobile health units in the Southern and Northern Regions. These health units offer blood pressure monitoring, diabetic footcare, and Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) for health issues such as diabetes and high cholesterol, as well as general health. For up-to-date news regarding our clinic, check the MMF website.

Services provided by Clinical Services include:

- ∞ 5-minute check-ins with Registered/Licensed nurses for one-on-one discussions about concerns;
- ∞ HbA1C tests with results in three minutes to monitor sugar levels;
- ∞ Cholesterol level tests with results in seven minutes;
- ∞ COVID-19 and other vaccinations; and
- ∞ Diabetic foot care by Registered foot care nurses.

The mission of Clinical Services is to improve the health and wellness of Red River Métis Citizens across all seven Regions through education and service delivery.

To book the Red River Métis Mobile Clinic, contact your Local chair or office, or contact us at:

Email: clinicinfo@mmf.mb.ca, **Phone:** 1-833-390-1041 Ext: 3

MICHIF MANOR, MEDICAL HOUSING INITIATIVE

In collaboration with the MMF's Housing and Property Management Department, the MMF-HWD has been working on developing Michif Manor, which will provide short-term accommodation to Red River Métis Citizens and their families who are in the City of Winnipeg for medical appointments and treatment.

HEALTH RESEARCH

Since its inception in 2005, the Health Research team has been conducting qualitative research to understand the experiences and perspectives of Red River Métis Citizens. Our goal is to create Red River Métis-specific health knowledge by capturing lived experiences through consultations, discussion groups, and personal interviews.

ONGOING PROJECTS (2023- CURRENT)

1. Maternal Health in Red River Métis: Improving access to maternal and child health care services among Red River Métis women: With a focus on maternal and child health, this project aims to improve access to culturally appropriate maternal care

services for Red River Métis women. Focus groups gather lived experiences of maternal health journeys, increase access to maternal and child health care services, and raise awareness about related risks through educational sessions.

2. Using therapeutic and culture-based approaches to support the well-being of care partners of Red River Métis living with dementia: Recognizing our aging Red River Métis population and rising rates of dementia, this project aims to support the wellness of the Red River Métis Citizens who care for Red River Métis living with dementia. This will be achieved through cultural activities and by offering counselling support to address the specific needs and challenges of care partners.

3. Connect to Change: With this project, the team will deliver group-based programs that foster social support and increase physical activity among our Citizens who smoke to decrease commercial tobacco use and improve health outcomes.

4. Clearing the Air: Given the high prevalence of smoking-related morbidities among Red River Métis, the MMF-HWD strives towards implementing the Clearing the Air: Red River Métis-specific Tobacco Reduction Strategy (2025). The project focuses on a culturally sensitive, community-driven approach to addressing not only tobacco cessation but also prevention, education, and support services all aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of tobacco smoking.

5. Meta-Care – Culturally Appropriate Resources and Education: Expanding on the findings published in The Red River Métis Cancer Journey in Manitoba (2023), there remains inadequate support for Citizens navigating provincial cancer resources, especially for those impacted by metastatic breast cancer. To better understand their lived experiences, the MMF-HWD will host focus group with Citizens that will inform the development of educational resources aimed at improving awareness and access to specialized supports.

6. Riel personalized care: In alignment with the MMF-HWD's ongoing commitment to address health disparities and distinctions-based cancer care, the project supports implementation of the Red River Métis Cancer Strategy (2023) – ensuring every Citizen has access to personalized, culturally safe cancer care. Key initiatives include increasing awareness of prevention and screening options, the development of precision oncology, fostering cultural safety among cancer care specialists, and improving navigation of provincial services throughout the cancer journey.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

The research team completed the following projects in the past year, adding to the growing body of Red-River Métis-specific health knowledge:

1. REACH: Radon Education and Assessment for Community Health: The research team installed radon tests in the homes

of Red River Métis Citizens, provided mitigation systems to those with higher-than-recommended radon levels and shared information about the risks of radon exposure.

2. Red River Métis Perspectives on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID): This research project represented Red River Métis voices in federally issued MAID monitoring reports. The project explored Red River Métis perspectives on MAID and identified their needs and concerns related to this topic

3. Distance to Care: Cancer Outcomes for Red River Métis in Rural Manitoba: Addressing barriers to cancer care identified in the Red River Métis Cancer Strategy, this project investigates challenges experienced by Red River Métis Citizens living in remote and rural areas during their cancer journeys. Health data, spatial mapping software, and consultations with Citizens continue to inform program development and policy to improve cancer journeys for those in rural and remote communities.

If you are interested in participating in any of the studies or learning more, contact healthresearch@mmf.mb.ca

POLICY AND HEALTH INFORMATION

The Policy and Health Information (PHI) team was created in January 2022 and continues to work on the following initiatives to develop Red River Métis-specific information to support policies, programs, and services for Red River Métis Citizens:

1. COVID-19 Surveillance: The Looking Backwards to Plan for the Future: COVID-19 Surveillance of Red River Métis project is a Red River Métis-specific data linkage study examining aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community. The goal is to enhance knowledge of health and well-being and build upon existing understanding of COVID-19 in this population.

2. Red River Métis Regional Health Survey: Conducted in conjunction with the University of Manitoba, this large-scale project aims to understand the health experiences and needs of Red River Métis Citizens. The survey results will contribute to policy and programming to improve the health and well-being of Red River Métis throughout the province.

3. Long-term and Continuing Care: Long-term and continuing care (LTCC) includes health, social, and residential support services for seniors and those living with chronic disabilities in long-term care facilities. By developing a Red River Métis-specific framework, LTCC aims to promote holistic well-being among Red River Métis Citizens in Manitoba.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. Arthritis and Mental Health: To support our Citizens living with arthritis and mental illness, this project aims to deliver mind-body interventions including yoga and meditation to help manage symptoms and improve the quality of life of Red River Métis living with arthritis and mental health challenges.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

The MMF-HWD team is continuously engaging with Red River Métis Citizens. In November 2024, consultations were conducted with population from The Pas, Thompson, and the Northwest Region. In February 2025, the team actively engaged with Red River Métis Citizens from Winnipeg, Southwest, Southeast and Interlake Regions. In March 2025, consultations with Red River Métis health professionals took place involving healthcare providers from across the seven MMF Regions. The topics covered a range of important issues, including commercial tobacco reduction, cancer, dementia, long-term care, and the impact of COVID-19 on mental health. During these consultations, we actively listened to our Citizens, who shared their valuable experiences with various health systems. The focus groups facilitated productive conversations where individuals discussed their health and wellness journeys and expressed their aspirations for future health services.

PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past year, MMF-HWD staff have continued to build working partnerships to enhance Red River Métis health and well-being, which include:

- ∞ Red River Métis Community Resource Department and MEDOCare Pharmacy to assist in both the Prescription Drug Program and the Senior Eyeglass Program;
- ∞ Public Health Agency of Canada;
- ∞ Canadian Institute on Health Research;
- ∞ University of Manitoba; and
- ∞ The Children's Health Research Institute, Diabetes Canada, Dynacare Laboratories, and Boehringer Ingelheim, a pharmaceutical company.

In addition, the MMF-HWD works closely at a strategic level with the Canadian Partnerships against Cancer and CancerCare Manitoba to address Red River Métis-specific preventative issues. It also interacts closely with the 7 MMF Regions and the Infinity Women Secretariat to connect with the Red River Métis Citizens at the local level about their health and wellness concerns.

In conclusion, the MMF-HWD remains committed to collaborating closely with Red River Métis families, communities, partners, and funders as we work diligently to strengthen the department and improve programming throughout the province. Looking ahead to the next year, the MMF-HWD anticipates continued growth and progress, with a passionate team of experienced staff working together to create knowledge and enhance programs and services for the well-being of our valued Red River Métis Citizens.



HOUSING & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

HOUSING & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



WILL GOODON
MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

It is an incredible honour to serve as the Minister of Housing and Property Management for the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the National Government of the Red River Métis. It is a blessing for me to continue representing the Red River Métis Citizens of the Southwest Region, as well as all Red River Métis Citizens throughout Manitoba and beyond.

Housing is an important pillar of self-government. In the early years of the MMF, service provision was limited to small programs delivered on behalf of other levels of government. Today, thanks to nation-to-nation agreements such as the 2018 Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord, we determine our own housing strategies, priorities, and investments.

As I write, approximately 750 of our Red River Métis Citizens have been displaced from their homes by the wildfires raging in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. This tragedy is a powerful reminder that the right to housing is precarious for all of us. That's why now, more than ever, it is vital for Red River Métis Citizens to be assured that the MMF – the National Government of the Red River Métis – has your backs.

As the National Government of the Red River Métis, the MMF takes responsibility to assist with the housing needs and priorities of its Citizens with great pride. In fact, MMF's Housing and Property Management Department has become one of the largest departments in our Government.

To support our Citizens, the MMF offers targeted initiatives that provide the “head start” that we were promised in 1870. We are deeply committed to serving Red River Métis Citizens throughout their entire life-journey. Be it that “head start” in buying a new home or adapting or making improvements to stay in your home, or simply having the security of affordable, reliable rental accommodation, the Housing Department will strive to continually improve services, programs, and accommodations.

In April, when we had our ribbon-cutting for our first apartment block, our 55+ Seniors building in Selkirk, I was struck by the reactions of our Elders. There were tears of joy and comments like, “From where we were 50-60 years ago, to where we are today, is such a major accomplishment.” Indeed, we have come a long way.

Looking ahead, we will continue to innovate and expand housing options across Manitoba. We are constantly seeking new opportunities and partnerships to enhance our efforts along the housing spectrum.

With each new build and with each home renovation, we will seek to secure employment and training for Red River Métis to further build up our capacity and our communities. Our goal is not only to close the gap on Métis housing needs, but also to ensure our homes are built the Métis way, with a focus on strengthening employment, community, and relations for the Red River Métis Nation.



BUILDING COMMUNITY FOR THE RED RIVER MÉTIS

The signing of the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord in 2018 has allowed the MMF's Housing and Property Management Department to grow substantially over the past several years. The department has gone from a team of three to a team of 34 staff who have experience in all aspects of housing.

Our construction and project management team not only undertakes housing construction, but also has been instrumental in building other social infrastructure. For example, working in conjunction with the Early Learning and Child Care Department, the Housing team recently completed the Louis Riel Child Care Centre in St. Boniface. Child care builds have also been completed in St. Laurent, The Pas, Dauphin, Swan River, St. Eustache, and Duck Bay.

Other notable projects undertaken over the years include the Dauphin Regional Office and Pharmacy, several satellite offices, and renovations at St Ambroise Youth Resource Centre and the meeting hall at 340 Juniper Drive in Thompson.

NEW SUBDIVISIONS

Work continues at our new subdivided lands in The Pas and in St. Georges, Manitoba (Southeast). Phase I of The Pas subdivision was completed in 2024 and consists of a new cul-du-sac street, three seniors' duplexes, and a daycare centre. In honour of Minister Judy Mayer, Vice-President for The Pas Region, the street in the subdivision has been named Mayer Way. The existing duplexes are steel frame construction, and the subdivision will eventually grow to total 24 affordable housing units for families and seniors.

The first phase of the Cap Doré subdivision in St. Georges will wrap up in early summer. By July 2025, there will be three side-by-side duplexes and two single detached houses for a total of eight units. Most units are two-bedroom floorplans which are designed for wheelchair accessibility, while two of the duplexes will each have one three-bedroom unit. All units will have attached garages and storages spaces.

SELKIRK 55+

355 Eveline Avenue in Selkirk, Manitoba, is a six-storey, 49-unit mixed-use commercial and residential building for Red River Métis seniors and was completed at the end of 2024. The ribbon-cutting event for this celebration, the MMF's largest residential project to date, was held this past April. The building includes accessibility features and various bedroom options, tenant amenities, and access to service providers located within the building. Approximately 50% per cent of the units will rent at affordable rates, while the remainder will be rented at market rental rates.



MICHIF MANOR

Michif Manor offers culturally appropriate lodging and amenities to support Citizens travelling to Winnipeg for health reasons. Located at 800 Notre Dame Avenue, Michif Manor provides immediate access to various medical facilities within the Health Sciences Centre campus. The building provides affordable accommodations, including 10 double suites with two queen-sized beds and two family suites which will each have two queen-sized beds and a pullout couch.

Programming and operations for Michif Manor are undertaken by the MMF's Health and Wellness Department. Construction for the project started in the summer of 2023 and wrapped up early 2025.



MAZOUN INFINITII PAKOSHAYIMOCHK

Mazoun Infinitii Pakoshayimookh (Infinity House of Hope) will serve as transitional housing for Red River Métis Youth aging-out-of-care. Programming will be administered by Métis Child, Family and Community Services, providing culturally appropriate supports and skills training for participants transitioning into independent living.

Located in Winnipeg's North Kildonan area, Mazoun consists of two buildings with seven suites each. The complex has 10 transitional suites for Youth aging out of care, two emergency suites for Youth at risk of homelessness, and two suites allocated to family reunification. Construction was completed in early 2025.

ADDRESSING RED RIVER MÉTIS HOMELESSNESS: MMF'S RAPID SERVICES

Launched in 2021, the MMF's Rapid Services Program in Winnipeg aims to tackle housing instability by reconnecting Red River Métis Citizens to their community and providing essential support for securing and maintaining suitable housing. Rapid Services now operates out of 670 Main Street in a building we call Fre Maachi, which translates to "New Beginnings" in Michif. Fre Maachi is a 20-unit transitional housing project which includes programming for access to computers, basic needs assistance,

housing support, advocacy, help obtaining identification, workshops, and Rapid Services Financial Assistance.

Funded by Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, Rapid Services addresses the root causes of homelessness – such as land dispossession, cultural disconnection, mental illness, addictions, and poverty – through three pillars:

- ∞ **Housing first:** This approach provides immediate access to permanent, subsidized housing without prerequisites, offering rapid housing with supports, client choice in housing, and integration into the community.
- ∞ **Repatriation and reconnection:** The program aids Métis Citizenship registration and fosters cultural connections by linking participants to Elders, Knowledge Holders, MMF events, and facilitating family reunification.
- ∞ **Coordination and access:** The program advocates for access to health, employment, training, and educational supports, addressing barriers to these services.

During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, Rapid Services Programming has supported close to 500 individuals, both Métis and non-Métis. The program's impact included financial assistance to 174 individuals, which includes securing transitional or permanent housing for 37 people and 34 evictions prevented. Rapid Services also provides transportation services, Citizenship assistance (64 people), and advocacy support to 200 individuals.

For more information, visit mmfrapidservices.com or contact Rapid Services at 204-589-1613.

THE MMF HOME ENHANCEMENT LOAN PROGRAM (HELP)

The MMF launched the Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP) in April 2020 to assist Red River Métis homeowners with repairs, adaptations, and improvements. Despite starting during the pandemic, HELP has consistently met high demand with quality service. Unlike reimbursement programs, HELP supports homeowners throughout the process, pairing them with inspectors who offer advice and help them find contractors, with a priority on employing Red River Métis contractors.

From April 2024 to March of 2025, HELP has completed repairs, renovations, and adaptations for approximately over 240 homes, while starting work for an additional 55 homes. HELP received 472 applications and invested over \$5.3 million in Red River Métis homes. The program will continue to adapt to high demand while providing excellent service.

For more information, visit mmf.mb.ca/home-enhancement-loan-program-help or contact the Housing Department at 204-586-8474 ext. 2680.

THE MMF FIRST TIME HOME PURCHASE PROGRAM (FTHPP)

The MMF initiated the First Time Home Purchase Program (FTHPP) in 2019 to assist Métis Citizens in purchasing their first

homes. This needs-based program is administered by the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) and has shown remarkable success. The FTHPP contributes funds to successful applicants as follows:

- ∞ 5% of the home purchase price up to a maximum of \$18,000 towards the down payment.
- ∞ 1.5% towards closing costs (legal, land transfer, home inspection, etc.) up to a maximum of \$2,500.

In late spring, 2024, the FTHPP reached its 1000th home purchase. The fiscal year of 2024/2025 was a busy one for the FTHPP. A total of 250 homes were purchased during the year, bringing the grand total for the program to 1224 homes on March 31, 2025. During 2024/2025, the program leveraged close to \$64 million in mortgages and disbursed \$3,879,900 in funding. Additionally, it has created 102 jobs and generated over \$12.7 million in economic benefits for Manitoba.

For more information, visit lrcc.mb.ca, call the LRCC main office at 204-589-0772, toll-free at 1-800-387-6004, or email info@lrcc.mb.ca.



RENTAL HOUSING PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The MMF has enhanced Red River Métis Citizens' access to affordable housing by constructing, owning, and managing residential properties. In 2023, the LRCC expanded its work with the Housing Department to include residential property management. LRCC primarily helps with accounting for the residential portfolio through its management software. At present, Housing and LRCC jointly oversee 42 residential properties across 17 locations in Manitoba. There are 147 units in total, with 20 designated as transitional housing units. This portfolio includes the completion of our 49-unit, 55+ apartment building in Selkirk, six new units for seniors in The Pas, and six units in St. Georges.

In 2014, when Property Management was added to Minister Goodon's portfolio, LRCC became the entity managing commercial properties owned by the National Government of the Red River Métis. The property management division exercises its due diligence by ensuring all revenues and expenses are collected

and recorded, that all buildings meet provincial and municipal regulations, and that all repairs and financial obligations are estimated, performed, and paid in a timely manner.

In 2024, LRCC was responsible for 24 office/industrial properties across Manitoba, one property in Ontario, and eight parking lots. The annual revenue for the properties totalled more than \$11.5 million for 2024/25 fiscal year, with a total combined estimated market value of all properties totaling more than \$150 million.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

To support the work of the Housing Department and the needs and priorities of our Red River Métis Citizens, the MMF has been implementing a new engagement and communications strategy for the Housing sector. An ongoing Regional engagement

process, piloted in the Thompson Region this spring 2025 and a new online survey to be repeated every five years will help give us greater insight into the best ways to meet the housing needs of our Citizens.

BEYOND BORDERS

Like all departments within the National Government of the Red River Métis, the Housing Department recognizes the demand for services of those Citizens who live beyond the colonial borders of Manitoba. To date, the Housing Department has provided assistance via the HELP Program and through Rapid Services. Programming support through the FTHPP is still under review. We recognize the vital importance of working with the Director of Beyond Borders to determine demand for services outside of Manitoba and how to appropriately deliver program needs.







WE'RE
HIRING

...d you like to have a real chance
...le's lives with lots of opportu
...growing government? Th
...itions within the fol
... Employment

Travis Zastre

Katelynn Paun
Talent Acquisition Specialist
Human Resources

HUMAN RESOURCES

HUMAN RESOURCES



ANITA CAMPBELL
MINISTER

Human Resources (HR) is an essential service department whose mandate is to focus on human capital management addressing compensation and benefits, health & safety, recruitment and onboarding of employees, performance management, employee relations, training and professional development, and workplace culture.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

HR continues to pursue our Strategic goal of becoming an Employer of Choice. With the dedication of 14 professional HR staff members, we have made significant advancements towards our objectives.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We are proud to announce the following significant accomplishments:

1. Implementation of ADP Workforce Now

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve employee services and streamline HR operations, we are pleased to announce the successful implementation of **ADP Workforce Now**, our new integrated Payroll and HR Information System (HRIS). The new system went live on May 17, 2025.

Impact to the MMF:

- ∞ **Improved Payroll Accuracy** and timely processing
- ∞ **Self-service access** to pay statements, accruals, benefits, and tax documents
- ∞ **Streamlined onboarding and HR workflows**
- ∞ **Enhanced data security and compliance features**

The transition to ADP Workforce Now marked a significant step towards modernizing our HR infrastructure and supporting our growing workforce with efficient, user-friendly tools.

2. Competitive Salary Scales

Accomplishment: HR has completed the development of a comprehensive new compensation structure for the MMF Government, encompassing competitive salary scales for over 280 job positions. This will have a significant impact to our competitiveness and help reduce recruitment costs, retain high-performing specialized staff and compete with municipal, provincial and federal governments for talent and leading us closer to our strategic goal of becoming an employer of choice.

Key Highlights:

- ∞ **Extensive Research and Benchmarking:** Conducted a thorough market analysis and benchmarking against industry standards to establish competitive salary ranges.
- ∞ **Inclusive Process:** Engaged with key stakeholders, including department heads to gather input and ensure the new structure meets staff and MMF government needs.
- ∞ **Position Analysis:** Evaluated and categorized over 287 job roles to create tailored salary scales that reflect responsibilities, required skills, and experience levels.

3. HR Policy and Compliance Updates

Accomplishment: Implemented significant updates to HR policies and compliance initiatives to align with evolving regulatory requirements and organizational needs.

Key Updates and Changes:

1. Policy Revisions:

- ∞ **Updated Existing Policies:** Revised employee policies to reflect recent changes in provincial employment standards, including updated leave policies, remote work guidelines, and respectful workplace policies.
- ∞ **Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols:** The MMF now has a full-time dedicated Health & Safety Officer on staff that has made a significant impact including updating protocols for workplace safety and health measures.

2. Compliance Initiatives:

- ∞ **Regulatory Alignment:** Ensured all HR policies are compliant with current federal and provincial regulations and reflect the unique culture of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF).

4. Group Benefits Updates

Accomplishment: The MMF has made additional improvements to our Group Benefits plan adding audiology benefits.

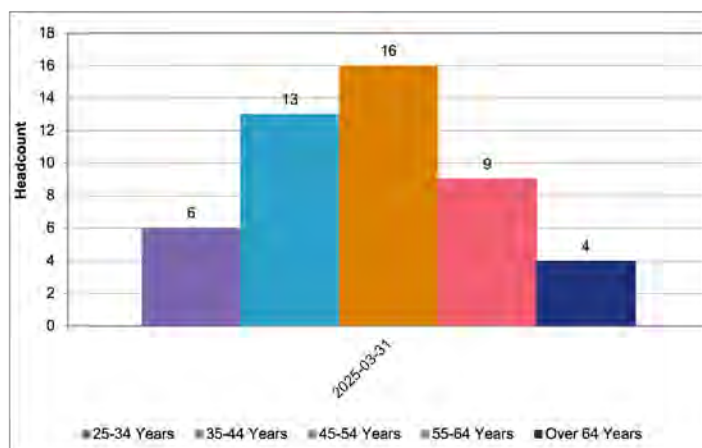
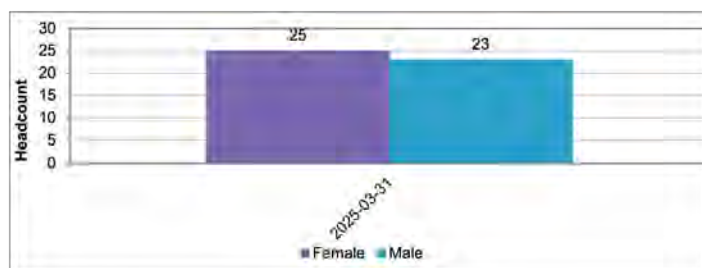
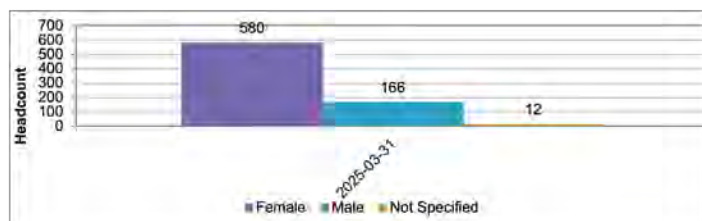
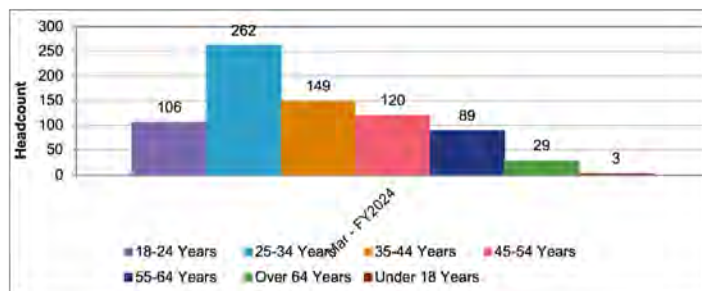
MMF WORKFORCE

Recruitment continues to be a key HR Function; the following statistics provide an accurate composition of our team.

MMF Direct Employees: 662

MMF Direct Employees, Affiliates, & Regional Employees: 1201

The following data demonstrates the MMF is an employer who respects diversity and appreciates the skill and experience of all persons, regardless of age.



During this fiscal year, the MMF advertised approximately 320 positions and filled approximately 599 positions, including internal promotions and transfers. Given the consistent growth in most programs, we are actively recruiting for approximately 36 positions to be filled, and we expect this to continue. If you are interested in submitting your resume or have any questions about current career opportunities within the MMF, please email jobs@mmf.mb.ca or visit www.mmf.mb.ca for a complete list of current opportunities.

A five-year strategic plan was developed outlining the priorities of the department with a focus on building programs to empower employees of the MMF and ultimately become officially recognized as an employer of choice.

As the HR Department continues to evolve with the growth of our government, we stand ready to respond to the challenges. The department offers their thanks and appreciation to the Citizens, leadership, and employees of the MMF – The National Government of the Red River Métis.





INDIGENOUS IDENTITY FRAUD SUMMIT

Preserving truth,
honouring heritage



IDENTITY PROTECTION &
INTER-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

IDENTITY PROTECTION & INTER-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS



WILL GOODON
MINISTER

INTRODUCTION AND PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

In April 2025, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), National Government of the Red River Métis, established the new Ministerial portfolio of Identity Protection and Inter-Indigenous Relations. I was honoured to be appointed as the first Minister responsible for this critical mandate.

This portfolio was created in response to increasing concerns about the theft and misuse of Indigenous – particularly Red River Métis – identity. As our Nation continues to make significant political and legal advancements, including the signing of the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty* on November 30, 2024, our unique and distinct identity is increasingly under attack. This Ministry was formed to protect, promote, and preserve our distinct Red River Métis identity while building strong, respectful relationships with other Indigenous governments.

FOCUS AREA: IDENTITY THEFT AND FRAUD

One of the key reasons this portfolio was created is to address the growing issue of Indigenous identity fraud, which falls into two categories:

1. Individuals falsely claiming Indigenous identity – often for education, employment, and personal gain.
2. Organizations and collectives issuing false identifications and claiming historic Red River Métis roots where none exist.

This type of fraud has real consequences. It dilutes legitimate rights, diverts funding from rightful recipients, and undermines the very concept of Indigenous Nationhood.

The MMF has taken a strong and clear stance, particularly regarding Bill C-53 (a federal bill that would have recognized the fake communities in Ontario) and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). These communities, lacking historic and cultural ties to the Red River Métis, have attempted to claim legitimacy under the guise of being “new historic” Métis communities – something

that is both logically and historically inaccurate. In my public statement in September 2023, I emphasized that Bill C-53 “rewards Indigenous identity theft and undermines legitimate Métis and First Nations rights.”

MINISTRY MANDATE AND ACTIONS TO DATE

This portfolio has been guided by the following mandates:

- ∞ Work with the Policy and Delivery Unit to develop protocols, procedures, and policies on the preservation of our unique Red River Métis identity;
- ∞ Work with the Policy and Delivery Unit to work with external and internal researchers and commission new research that will help protect Red River Métis identity;
- ∞ Educate institutions on the unique identity of the Red River Métis and share our distinct history and messaging through presentations to scholars, Citizens, politicians, as well as in the media as appropriate;
- ∞ Work with fellow Ministers to establish protocols with other governments and institutions that will ensure opportunities meant for Red River Métis are protected for Red River Métis; and
- ∞ Work with the MMF's Ambassador of International and Inter-Indigenous Relations to establish lasting partnerships, negotiate relationship agreements, and foster collaboration with Indigenous governments across the world.

In May 2024, the MMF co-hosted a national Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit alongside the Chiefs of Ontario. This event brought attention to the issue and demonstrated our united front with First Nations partners. This growing alliance reinforces that our concerns are not isolated. We are part of a broader Indigenous movement to project identity and self-determination.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

A key goal of my Ministry is to educate others, especially scholars, policymakers, and Canadians at large, on what it means to be Red River Métis.

Our identity is not simply mixed ancestry. It is a distinct People rooted in a place, with a shared political history, culture, language, traditions, and governance. As I've stated publicly, “If your father is Swedish and your mother is Nisga'a, why would you give away all the cool aspects of those two cultures and become something completely different? Neither of those cultures play the fiddle or dances the jig.”

In the year ahead, we will launch a speaker series, educational workshops, and institutional outreach to better explain our Nation's history, our distinctiveness, and the importance of protecting our rights and identity.

We will compile a literature review to compile a library of written, audio, video, and other materials in a way that is easy to access.

RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING WITH OTHER INDIGENOUS NATIONS

This portfolio will also focus heavily on building respectful and cooperative relationships with other Indigenous governments, particularly First Nations, in areas outside of our Homeland who have faced similar issues of identity fraud.

Through intergovernmental dialogues and relationship agreements, we are working to advance mutual understanding, coordinate advocacy, and promote Indigenous-led solutions to identity theft and rights protection.

It is also important to continue work with the MMF Ambassador Clément Chartier, to promote and protect our national identity at the international level. We are aware that there are representatives of fake Métis organizations who speak at United Nations and other international forums.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the next year, the Ministry of Identity Protection and Inter-Indigenous Relations will continue to focus on:

- ∞ Developing formal identity protection framework
- ∞ Enhancing public education on the Red River Métis
- ∞ Finalizing inter-Indigenous relationship agreements
- ∞ Supporting MMF departments and affiliates in protecting integrity of Red River Métis programs and services

CONCLUSION

The threats to our identity are real, and the consequences will be generational if left unaddressed. Through this new Ministry, we are taking action – protecting our past, securing our future, and honouring the sacrifices of our Ancestors. I look forward to continuing this important work in partnership with my colleagues in MMF leadership, our Citizens, and our Indigenous relations across Canada and beyond.







**INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



ANITA CAMPBELL
MINISTER

FISCAL YEAR REPORT: APRIL 1, 2024 – MARCH 31, 2025

Over the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Department of Information Technology (IT Department) continued to support the MMF's operations through secure, scalable, and innovative technology services. With a focus on reliability, security, and service modernization, the department made significant progress in advancing digital governance and improving connectivity across the Homeland.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

Throughout the year, the IT Department led infrastructure upgrades across multiple MMF properties, deploying enterprise-grade network equipment and expanding high-speed internet access. A major initiative involved the installation of Starlink satellite systems at rural and remote MMF sites, ensuring that all staff – regardless of geographic location – had reliable access to corporate systems, video conferencing, and support services. These upgrades contributed to a more cohesive and connected government.



CYBERSECURITY AND ELECTORAL SUPPORT

In support of MMF's democratic functions, the department implemented advanced cybersecurity measures to secure internal elections and consultation processes. System-wide multi-factor authentication was expanded, email security was enhanced, and endpoint protections were reinforced. The IT Department also provided critical backend support for Citizen engagement platforms and online forums, ensuring integrity and accessibility during election-related activities.

SERVICE DESK AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

The MMF IT Help Desk experienced a marked increase in service volume during the fiscal year. In response, the department implemented new ticketing automation and tracking tools to streamline support operations and reduce response times. Service quality was further improved through the expansion of remote support capabilities and proactive maintenance protocols across the MMF property network.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND INNOVATION

The MMF IT Department launched several exploratory initiatives in artificial intelligence (AI), with a focus on responsible and ethical integration within MMF operations. Early-stage development of AI tools were undertaken to support workflow automation and Michif language preservation. An AI developer was hired to support these projects, and work commenced on a governance framework policy to ensure all AI use aligned with cultural, ethical, and operational standards.

DATA CENTRE MANAGEMENT AND CLOUD TRANSITION

Ongoing oversight of MMF's centralized data centre ensured continuous availability of core services and internal applications. The department advanced its hybrid cloud strategy, enabling enhanced backup integrity, geographic redundancy, and greater alignment with data sovereignty objectives. These efforts improved MMF's overall IT resilience and future scalability.

EVENT TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

The department provided comprehensive technical support for high-profile MMF events, including the Annual General Assembly, ministerial town halls, and community consultations. Services included livestreaming, audiovisual coordination, on-site IT staffing, and post-event digital media management. These efforts helped strengthen the MMF's engagement with Citizens both in-person and online.

CAPITAL PLANNING AND SHARED COST RECOVERY

Collaborating with the MMF Finance and Economic Development Department, the IT Department helped design a shared cost recovery model to ensure sustainable investment in information technology infrastructure. A capital planning framework was proposed to fund structured cabling, connectivity, and base-level equipment at new or renovated MMF properties. This model promotes equity across departments while ensuring technology readiness at move-in.

CYBER MONITORING AND INCIDENT READINESS

No major cybersecurity incidents were recorded during the year, a result of proactive monitoring, routine vulnerability scans, and staff awareness campaigns. The department improved its cyber incident response protocols, conducted internal audits, and expanded logging and alerting systems to reinforce its threat detection posture.

GOVERNANCE BUDGET AND FEDERAL ADVOCACY

In alignment with the MMF's pursuit of long-term, distinctions-based funding, the IT Department submitted a dedicated governance budget outlining core technology requirements in support of self-governance. This submission formed part of broader advocacy efforts seeking a federal fiscal financing agreement. The proposed budget detailed the foundational IT infrastructure, staffing, and cybersecurity investments necessary to uphold a modern digital government and ensure sustained service delivery to Red River Métis Citizens.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT AND PROJECTS

A key priority throughout the fiscal year was supporting MMF Departments in achieving their operational goals through integrated technology planning. The IT Department played a central role in several major system transitions, including a multi-phase cutover to a new payroll platform, ensuring data continuity and secure access for all administrative staff.

In parallel, the IT Department was included early in the planning stages of all technology-related property improvements, renovations, and capital projects. It coordinated structured cabling, audiovisual needs, telecommunications systems, and workstation readiness in alignment with departmental timelines.

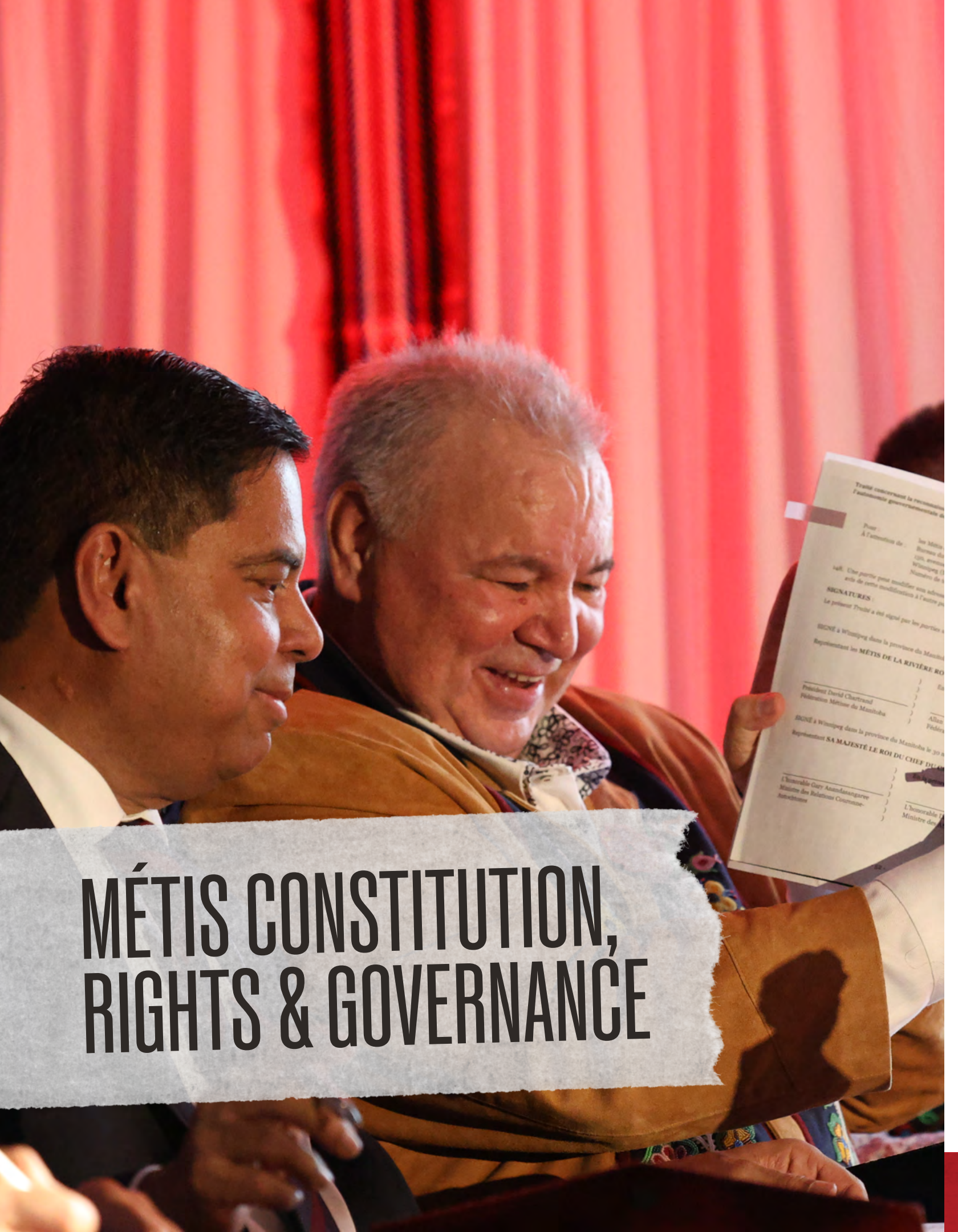
The team also worked directly with general contractors, architects, and project managers on numerous new construction initiatives. Notably, IT was embedded in planning and infrastructure decisions for the new museum, multiple MMF-operated daycares, and regional service centres. By integrating IT requirements into the construction phase, the department ensured that each new facility would be technologically future-ready upon occupancy.

CONCLUSION

The MMF IT Department remains committed to securing the technological foundation of the Red River Métis self-government. As the MMF continues to grow, the department will focus on expanding infrastructure, enabling digital inclusion, and pursuing innovative, culturally respectful technology solutions that serve all Red River Métis Citizens.







MÉTIS CONSTITUTION, RIGHTS & GOVERNANCE

MÉTIS CONSTITUTION, RIGHTS & GOVERNANCE



JUDY MAYER
MINISTER

INTRODUCTION

As the Minister of Constitution and Governance, I am pleased to share with you all an update on the work undertaken since our last assembly. This work is central to protecting the democratic strength of our Nation, advancing our Treaty, and ensuring that the voices of the Red River Métis continue to guide our governance.

Together with my colleagues on the Governance Committee, and under the leadership of our President, I remain committed to strengthening all institutions so that they reflect our values, protect our rights, and serve our Citizens both within Manitoba and beyond its borders.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

As the chair of the Governance Committee, I am joined by three Cabinet members whose portfolios align with the committee's mandate:

- ∞ Minister Denise Thomas – Engagement and Consultation, 60s Scoop, and Associate Minister of Land Claims
- ∞ Minister Julyda Lagimodiere – Justice and Pemmican Publications
- ∞ Minister Will Goodon – Identity Protection, Inter-Indigenous Relations, and Housing and Property Management

Together, with staff and technical experts, the Governance Committee advises on key governance matters. Over the past year, our work has centered on the Treaty-transition process, strengthening our Nation's institutions, and ensuring that the Red River Métis continue to exercise our inherent right to self-determination and self-government.

TREATY AND TRANSITION

On November 30, 2024, Canada signed the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the National Government of the Red River Métis. This historic agreement affirms our inherent rights and commits Canada to a renewed Nation-to-Nation relationship. The next step is federal legislation to bring the Treaty into effect, giving it constitutional protection.



Once implemented, the MMF Inc. will dissolve and the MMF will continue solely as the National Government of the Red River Métis. To prepare, consultations are underway to update our Constitution and Local By-Law, ensuring that our institutions reflect government-to-government relationships and continue to recognize Locals as the “backbone of our democracy.”

LOCAL BY-LAW CONSULTATIONS

From February to June 2025, the Governance Committee launched a layered engagement process, including:

- ∞ A workbook generating 2,700+ pages of submissions;
- ∞ Seven regional workshops with Local Executives;
- ∞ Surveys with over 2,500 Citizen responses; and
- ∞ A virtual townhall (rescheduled due to wildfires).

Feedback confirmed that the Local By-Law is a strong foundation but requires updates in areas such as governance roles, accountability, transparency, financial management, records, and training.

Citizens also called for stronger roles for Locals in membership, community identity, and communication. Draft changes will be developed by the Governance Committee and Cabinet, with final proposals presented to the Assembly at the 2026 Annual General Assembly (AGA).

RED RIVER MÉTIS RESEARCH ETHICS

In response to Resolution #3 (2024), the Governance Committee advanced the Red River Métis Research & Ethics Protocol (RRMREP) to protect our data sovereignty, cultural heritage, and collective intellectual property. This work included:

- ∞ Drafting a unified Red River Métis research standard;
- ∞ Creating interim tools like research licences and guidance sheets;
- ∞ Launching a central research inquiry system; and
- ∞ Drafting phased implementation plans for a Research Ethics Law, data governance regulations, and a digital repository.

This protocol ensures research reflects Red River Métis reality and identity and protects against identity theft and misinformation.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Governance Committee continues to advance a wide range of policy-related initiatives aimed at strengthening the internal practices and protocols of our National Government. This work ensures greater clarity and consistency across our departments while also building a unified understanding of external processes. These efforts are central to reinforcing transparency, accountability, and strong governance, and will continue through the remainder of 2025 and into 2026.

CLOSING

This past year has been historic for our Nation. The Governance Portfolio has worked to prepare for Treaty implementation, strengthen Locals, advance research protections, and expand our government’s reach Beyond Borders. Together, these steps ensure the Red River Métis remain strong, self-governing, and united for generations to come.





MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION AND THE
MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION INC.
CONSTITUTION



AS RATIFIED BY THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



MÉTIS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

MÉTIS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING



JOAN LEDOUX
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

For decades, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF)'s Métis Employment & Training Department (MET) continues to be a cornerstone of economic advancement for Red River Métis Citizens. Through culturally grounded programs and targeted supports, MET equips Citizens with the skills and opportunities needed to thrive in today's labour market.

As the MMF's designated delivery agent under the 10-year Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Agreement with Canada, MET delivers flexible, client-centred services that respond to evolving labour market needs and strengthen the Red River Métis Nation.

In 2024–2025, MET continued to adapt its programming to connect Red River Métis Citizens with high-demand careers across diverse sectors. Employer partnerships remain central to this work, linking clients with long-term job opportunities while addressing industry workforce needs.

With a strong focus on responsiveness, innovation, and culturally focused service delivery, the MET Department remains committed to helping Red River Métis Citizens blaze their trails to success – *one skill, one job, and one future at a time.*



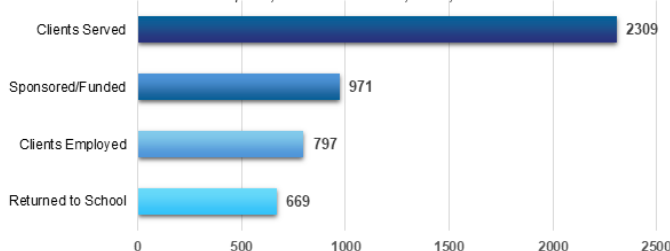
2024–2025: KEY RESULTS

This fiscal year marked another phase of measurable impact through targeted investments in employment, training, and community partnerships:

- ∞ **Clients Served: 2,245**
- ∞ **Clients Employed: 810**
- ∞ **Clients Supported in Sponsored/Funded Programs: 971**
- ∞ **Clients Supported in Project-Based Training: 391**
- ∞ **Clients Returned to School: 669**

2024-2025 Key Results Summary

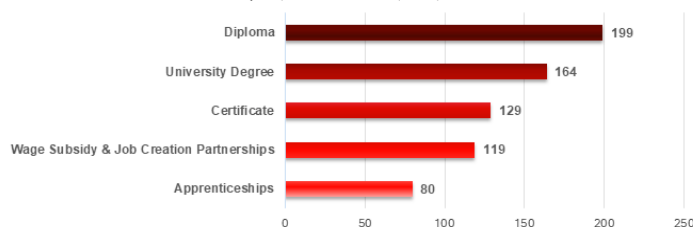
April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, P12



From diploma, degree, and certificate programs to targeted wage subsidies, job creation partnerships, and apprenticeships, these interventions reflect MET's commitment to delivering flexible, results-driven supports that lead to both immediate job placements and long-term success in the labour market.

Summary of Interventions Completed

April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, P12



Together, these results demonstrate the MET Department's continued success in aligning program investments with client goals, employer needs, and the evolving labour market.

INVESTING IN SUCCESS: FROM SUMMER EMPLOYMENT TO LIFELONG ACHIEVEMENT

The Summer Employment Strategy continues to be a powerful driver of opportunity for Red River Métis Youth. By connecting students with meaningful placements, the program fosters

essential skills like communication, teamwork, and time management – critical for lifelong success.

∞ **Summer Employment Strategy Positions Supported:** 318

∞ **Employer Partners Engaged:** 177

∞ **Total Commitments:** \$2,608,807

These early employment experiences increase the likelihood that Red River Métis Youth will complete their education, pursue post-secondary studies, and build sustainable careers.



LOOKING AHEAD: 2025–2026 AND BEYOND

The MET Department remains steadfast in its mission to support Red River Métis Citizens in navigating a fast-changing and increasingly complex labour market. Looking ahead to 2025–2026, MET's focus will be on expanding access to in-demand skills training, fostering greater Youth engagement, and enhancing the quality and accessibility of client services.

Strengthening employer partnerships will also be a key priority, ensuring that training aligns with real workforce needs and that Red River Métis Citizens are connected to meaningful, long-term employment opportunities. Through innovation, collaboration, and culturally grounded service delivery, MET will continue to invest in the potential of Red River Métis Citizens and drive lasting impact for individuals, families, and communities across our Homeland.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR 2025–2026

To continue meeting the evolving needs of Red River Métis Citizens, the following strategic pillars will guide MET's work in the year ahead, ensuring programs and services remain client-centric, accessible, and impact-driven. These priorities reflect MET's ongoing commitment to delivering meaningful results for Red River Métis Citizens, communities, and employer partners alike.

∞ **Skills Development:** Expand support for skill development in high-demand sectors including health care, trades, and technology, backed by long-term investments in endowments.

∞ **Employment Access:** Enhance job search supports and wage subsidy programs to support re-entry and real-world work experience.

∞ **Youth Empowerment:** Boost career exposure and readiness by supporting student employment opportunities and Youth engagement activities including conferences.

∞ **Client-Centred Services:** Dedicated to providing services that are responsive, inclusive and tailored to the unique needs of each client, co-designing pathways with clients.

∞ **Service Optimization:** Streamline processes, strengthen data collection, and improve outcome tracking, aligning client support with labour market needs.

∞ **Crisis Response and Recovery:** Support wildfire-impacted communities with targeted retraining, employment access, and local economic recovery efforts.

In the year ahead, MET aims to continue empowering Red River Métis Citizens with the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to achieve sustainable employment and long-term success.

REMEMBERING MINISTER JOHN FLEURY

Leader. Veteran. Champion of the Red River Métis.

This year, MET honoured the memory of Minister John Fleury, whose sudden passing leaves a profound void in our Nation. A proud Canadian Armed Forces Veteran and tireless advocate for the Red River Métis, Minister Fleury dedicated his life to the advancement of our Nation.

Minister Fleury served the Red River Métis Government for decades. As the Minister responsible for MET, his impact was nothing short of transformative. Under his leadership, the MET Department became one of the most successful ISET agreement holders in Canada – empowering tens of thousands of Citizens to find meaningful work, support their families, and build stronger futures.

Minister Fleury's dedication was personal, grounded in his belief that every Red River Métis Citizen deserves the dignity of purpose and the strength that comes when you Believe in Yourself and Believe in Métis. Minister Fleury's legacy lives on in every Citizen who found their path through the MET Department, in every family that gained financial stability, and in every person who now believes they can achieve more – because someone believed in them first.

Though he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in the work of the MET Department, rooted in a core belief that continues to shape our work: *“When we invest in our people, believe in each other, and believe in Métis, there's no limit to what we can achieve.”*

For more information about MET programs and services, employer partnership opportunities, and our current recruitment activities, please visit the MET Department booth in the AGA tradeshow, connect with us online at mmfemployment.ca, call 204-586-8474, or email MET@mmf.mb.ca.



**National Government of the
Red River Métis**





**MÉTIS JUSTICE
INSTITUTE**

MÉTIS JUSTICE INSTITUTE



JULYDA LAGIMODIERE
MINISTER

The Métis Justice Institute (MJI) continues our work toward our mandate of focusing responsibility and authority for justice issues within the Red River Métis Government. Our department focuses on several key areas towards the creation of opportunities for our Red River Métis Government's inclusion to develop justice services and programs, including:

- ∞ Our Red River Métis Community Justice Program continues to deliver court diversion within our Regions;
- ∞ The Red River Métis Court Work Program continues to provide court support to Red River Métis Citizens involved in the court system and operates within the Interlake, Southwest, and Winnipeg Regions;
- ∞ The MJI's Red River Métis Family Support Project offers services and support to Red River Métis Families impacted by missing and murdered loved ones;
- ∞ The Red River Justice Support Program has been active in correctional centres, providing service to Red River Métis Citizens to assist them in their reintegration.



The Red River Métis Community Justice Centre provides wraparound justice navigation services to Red River Métis requesting support to navigate the justice system and provides our Citizens with information on resources. The centre has also developed a partnership with the Métis Child and Family Services Authority to support Youth and their social workers who find themselves needing justice navigation supports.

The MJI worked collaboratively with the federal government over the year to develop a Red River Métis distinctions-based justice strategy that identifies our unique priorities and recommendations from our engagements with our Citizens regarding justice. The Red River Métis Justice Strategy has been utilized to support our Red River Métis Government in achieving our own MMF Section within the Federal Métis Chapter of the Indigenous Justice Strategy titled: Priorities of the Red River Métis as represented by the Manitoba Métis Federation. The Red River Métis Chapter identifies our Red River Métis Government as the representative to advance and collaborate with federal counterparts to distinctively support Red River Métis in the justice system.

CURRENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

RED RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

The Red River Métis Community Justice Program (MCJP) is a court diversion program that provides Red River Métis culturally appropriate justice alternatives that support the diversion of our Citizens from the mainstream justice system to a community-based alternative.

MCJP provides culturally relevant support, alternatives, advocacy, and resources to individuals who are referred to us from the provincial court to deal with justice involvement through a restorative justice process. Our program builds relationships to repair the harm done by individuals who are diverted to the program at a community level.

MCJP currently operates within the MMF Northwest Region, The Pas Region, Interlake Region, Southeast Region, Southwest Region, and Thompson Region.

For further information please contact: mjicourtdiversion@mmf.mb.ca

RED RIVER MÉTIS COURT WORK PROGRAM

The Red River Métis Court Work Program facilitates and enhances access to justice by assisting and supporting Red River Métis Citizens in the court system.

The Red River Métis Court Work Program provides two areas of service:

∞ **In court services** – Assisting Red River Métis Citizens with legal process navigation, court liaison and advocacy, Youth advocacy and client support;

∞ **Out of court services** – Assisting Red River Métis Citizens with education and outreach, cultural sensitivity, collaboration and partnership as well as information and referral.

The program currently offers service in the Southwest Region, Interlake Region, and Winnipeg Region.

For further information, please contact metiscourtworkprogram@mmf.mb.ca.

RED RIVER MÉTIS FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT

MJI's Red River Métis Family Support Project (FSP) assists and guides families of missing, at risk, and/or murdered loved ones with support to Red River Métis distinctions-based resources.

FSP's objectives include:

- ∞ Raise community awareness of the issues faced of missing and murdered Red River Métis Citizens;
- ∞ Provide education and preventative resources to Red River Métis families;
- ∞ Provide referral to support and services;
- ∞ Provide information and intake for family's requests for support through the Pey-Key-Way-Ta-Hin – Bring me Home Reward Project.

For further information, please contact mjireception@mmf.mb.ca.



RED RIVER MÉTIS JUSTICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Red River Métis Justice Support Program (JSP) was developed by the MMF to focus on the delivery of an efficient and effective reintegration process for Red River Métis Citizens in conflict with the justice system.

The goal of the JSP is to assist Red River Métis men, women, and youth that are currently incarcerated or remanded, have been released from provincial or federal correctional facilities, or those who have received community dispositions.

The JSP assists individuals to identify and access resources to overcome barriers and address basic needs. The JSP can help connect clients with MMF Departments, release planning supports, justice specific programming, as well as programs and external service providers.

For further information, please contact mjireception@mmf.mb.ca.

RED RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE – JUSTICE NAVIGATION PROGRAM

The Red River Métis Community Justice Centre - Justice Navigation Program connects Red River Métis Citizens with culturally appropriate information, resources, and supports by:

- ∞ Connecting justice-involved Citizens with MMF Programs and Services;
- ∞ Helping to identify Citizen justice needs and identify appropriate resources and refer to resources, programming and supports;
- ∞ Assist in navigating different aspects and processes throughout the Justice System for justice involved Red River Métis Citizens and their families.

For further information, please contact mjireception@mmf.mb.ca.

PILOT PROJECT: RED RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE – YOUTH JUSTICE NAVIGATION PARTNERSHIP WITH MÉTIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AUTHORITY

The MJI, in partnership with Métis Child and Family Services (MCFS), piloted a Youth focused approach to ensure Youth in care and their social workers feel supported while navigating the criminal justice system. As a part of our Justice Navigation Program, this project is a supportive auxiliary and conduit of information to bridge the gap between Child and Family Services and the criminal justice system. The Justice Navigation Team coordinates MJI staff to attend court with Youth and their social worker, to provide information on justice-related terms and processes. Additional support navigators also assist with identifying programming and resources and attend the Manitoba Youth Centre to set up reintegration planning.

For further information, please contact
mjireception@mmf.mb.ca.

DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES

RED RIVER MÉTIS ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INDIGENOUS JUSTICE STRATEGY

The MJJ's relationship with the Department of Justice Canada over the last three years has been dedicated to the development of the Federal Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS). This relationship established a government-to-government collaboration for co-development that produced the federal IJS publication release in March of 2025.

Of significant importance, the IJS includes a distinct Métis Priorities chapter that establishes a Section specific to the distinctions-based priorities of the Red River Métis. This chapter includes section two, titled *Priorities of the Red River Métis as represented by the Manitoba Métis Federation*.

This chapter identifies our Red River Métis Government as the representative to advance and collaborate with federal counterparts to distinctively support Red River Métis in the justice system.

If you would like further information, you can find the report on the federal government website at: www.justice.gc.ca.

JUSTICE PROGRAMMING

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ANGER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMING

The MJJ continues to deliver domestic violence and anger management programs as part of MCJP for individuals requiring

programming as part of their court diversion process. The programming is utilized as an integral component of our sanctions process, and supports restorative justice options for the Red River Métis Community.

JUSTICE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The MJJ continues to work toward the safety and well-being of Red River Métis Citizens and our community through the continued development of justice programming. The MJJ has focused on distinctions-based development in the following areas:

RED RIVER MÉTIS LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMMING

The Red River Métis Life Skills Program is built to assist MJJ clients involved in our Justice Support and Court Diversion Programs to empower participants to acquire skills and access supports and resources that will effect positive change in their own lives.

RED RIVER MÉTIS MEDIATION SERVICES PROJECT

The Red River Métis Mediation Services Project was developed as a Red River Métis distinctions-based support for Citizens to access as part of their involvement in our Métis Community Justice Program. The program supports Red River Métis Citizens and the community with access to mediation services to repair relationships within the community.

RED RIVER MÉTIS IDENTITY WITHIN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM PROJECT

The MJJ's Red River Métis Identity Within the Justice System Project is a Red River Métis distinctions-based education and training resource developed for justice professionals. The project provides Red River Métis context to address the underlying biases



and racism in the justice system that have led to the continued overlooking of the needs of the Red River Métis.

This project provides the Red River Métis to inform those working with our Citizens with a context about the history of who we are, our distinct experiences within the justice system, and our Red River Métis Government's response to support change within our community.

NEW PROJECTS FOR 2025-2026

The MJI has secured funding to enhance services within the department going into the next fiscal year.

RED RIVER MÉTIS VICTIM NAVIGATION SERVICES

As an enhancement to Navigation Services, the MJI will expand services to include a Red River Métis Victim Navigator. This enhancement will provide resource navigation and supports to Red River Métis Citizens who need support navigation regarding victim services. The program will ensure that service will take a trauma-informed and victim-centered approach to ensure that care is taken when providing services to our Citizens who have been victimized by crime or require assistance while involved in the criminal justice system.

More information will be available in the coming year as the service becomes available.

RED RIVER MÉTIS GLADUE SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

The MJI has obtained approval from Manitoba and Canada to begin looking at the current Gladue Report Sentencing Process to better reflect the needs of Red River Métis Citizens. The MJI is working towards the development of a distinctions-based Gladue System Framework for Red River Métis Citizens to better service our Citizens regarding sentencing supports and reintegration.

More information will be available in the coming year as the framework develops.

RED RIVER MÉTIS TRIBUNAL SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes that revitalization of Indigenous laws must be inclusive of all Indigenous perspectives. The MJI obtained funding from Canada to reform current justice concepts to be inclusive of the Red River Métis.

As a distinct Indigenous people with our own history, culture, and distinct needs, the current Indigenous concept of justice has identified the need to develop our own framework for justice that is inclusive of our unique needs as a people.

The MJI over the next two years will work towards the development of a Red River Métis Tribunal Systems Framework

that will lay the foundation for a revitalization of Red River Métis Traditional Laws and Legal Traditions.

More information will be available as the framework is developed.

CONCLUSION

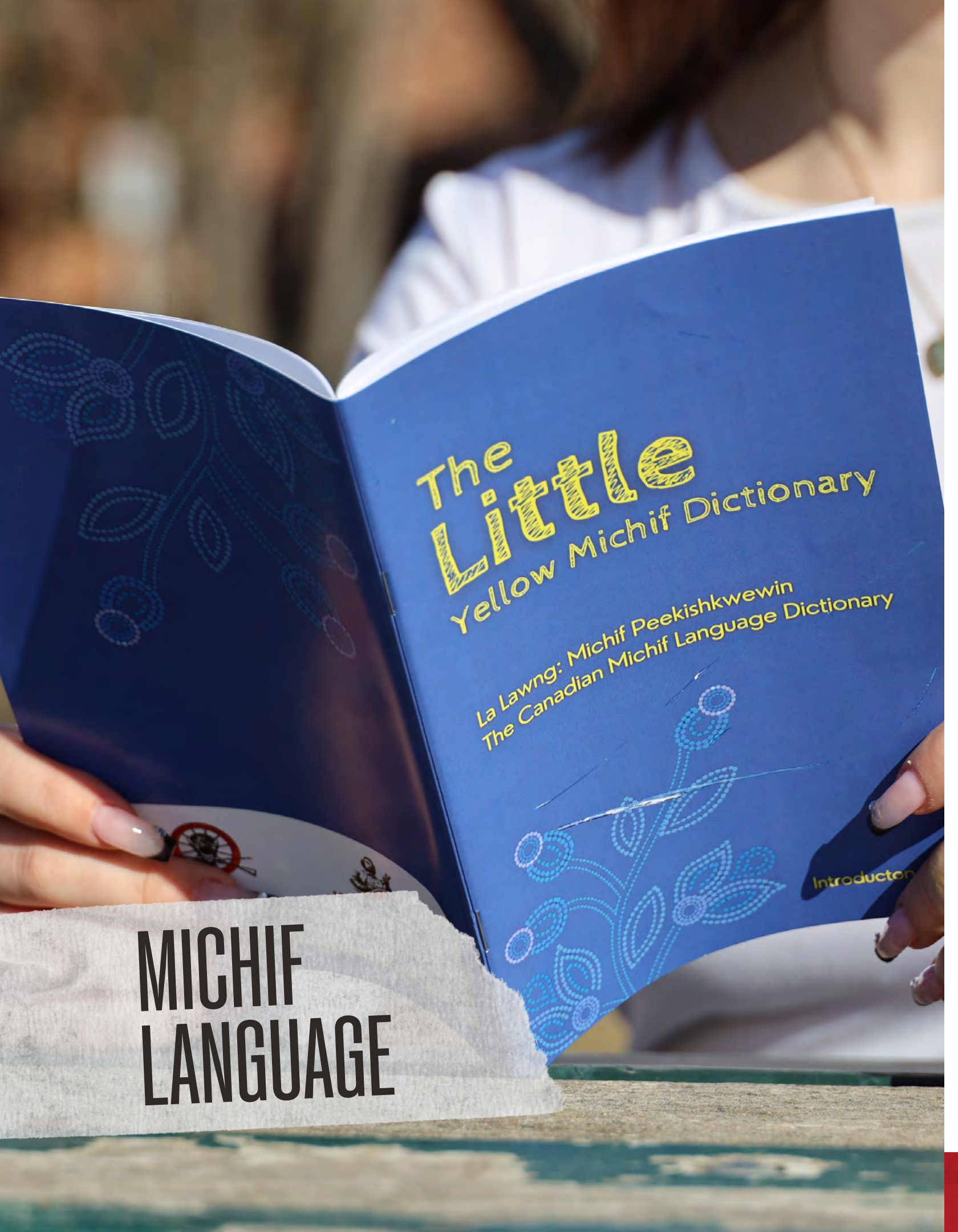
Our department would like to thank all Red River Métis Citizens who offered their voices to engage and consult with the MJI over the last year. Your knowledge, advice, and shared experiences have provided direction to the work we undertake on your behalf, and your contributions guide new and exciting projects to fulfill our mandate.

Our department will continue to work towards the development and delivery of justice programs and services that meet the unique needs of our Red River Métis Citizens.

If you would like further information on any of the initiatives through the MJI, please feel free to contact our office at:

Métis Justice Institute
560-200 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1A8
Direct Line: (204) 949-9557
Reception: (204) 586-8474
Toll Free: (800) 665-8474
Inquiries: Mjireception@mmf.mb.ca



A person is holding an open book. The book has a blue cover with yellow text and white dotted line art. The left page has a large white dotted line design. The right page has the title 'The Little Yellow Michif Dictionary' in yellow, followed by 'La Lawng: Michif Peekishkwewin' and 'The Canadian Michif Language Dictionary' in white. At the bottom right of the right page, the word 'Introduction' is partially visible. The book is being held over a wooden surface.

The Little Yellow Michif Dictionary

La Lawng: Michif Peekishkwewin
The Canadian Michif Language Dictionary

Introduction

MICHIF
LANGUAGE

MICHIF LANGUAGE



ANDREW CARRIER
MINISTER



MARIELLE GAUTHIER
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Michif Language Department is a new department within the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), created in response to the growing need for Indigenous language revitalization. The Michif Language Department's presence marks a vital step in reclaiming, preserving, and celebrating the Michif language – recognized as a living link to the identity, heritage, and cultural legacy of the Red River Métis.



LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

The foundation of this department is rooted in the understanding that language is who the Red River Métis are and a substantial part of the culture. Michif is not only a means of communication; it is a vessel for traditional knowledge, stories about our heritage, and community identity. It holds important ties to the land and to the long history of the Red River Métis. The revitalization of Michif is critical to the survival of Red River Métis culture and values, as well as the passing of knowledge through generations.

Our work responds directly to the call to action by Red River Métis Citizens and Elders who have emphasized the importance

of reclaiming and strengthening the Michif language. This department shows the MMF's commitment to ensuring that the Michif language continues to be spoken, taught, and celebrated for generations to come.

The Michif Language Department engages in a variety of initiatives designed to increase accessibility to Michif language learning and resources across the Red River Métis Homeland. Our main areas of work include:

- ∞ **Funding Projects:** Offering financial support for grassroots and community-based language revitalization projects;

- ∞ **Language Resource:** Development: Producing and distributing culturally relevant educational materials for learners of all ages;

- ∞ **Collaboration:** Partnering with Métis communities, schools, institutions, and other MMF Departments to promote Michif learning and teaching.



The Michif Language Department has been conducting surveys at various MMF events and Regional meetings to gather quantitative data in the hopes of grasping a better picture of how many Red River Métis Citizens are Michif speakers, how many would like to learn, as well as a few other notable figures. Although the Red River Métis Nation does have strong leaders, Knowledge Keepers, and Citizens who are keeping our language alive and well, it has been found that most survey participants were beginners in Michif language fluency (63% average), meaning they understood little to no Michif. A multitude of responses state that time and a lack of resources was the most significant barrier to learning Michif. This data further emphasizes the need for the Michif Language Department to be present within the MMF. Uplifting and amplifying leadership and innovators of Michif language

programming, the Michif Language Department aims to create a future where Michif and other Indigenous language revitalization projects and programs are bountiful with resources, accessibility, and Citizen engagement.

MICHIF LANGUAGE FUNDING APPLICATION

One of our cornerstone initiatives is the Michif Language Funding Application. This funding opportunity supports projects that contribute to the revitalization and protection of the Michif language among the Red River Métis.

Key information:

- ∞ The application and funding guidelines are available online at <https://www.mmf.mb.ca/michif-language>;
- ∞ Completed applications, along with all required documentation, should be submitted via email to Michifapplications@mmf.mb.ca;
- ∞ Applicants with questions regarding eligibility or the application process are encouraged to reach out for support.

All applications are reviewed by the Michif Funding Committee to ensure proposed projects align with our goals and priorities; primarily, the strengthening of Michif language use and the development of new opportunities for Red River Métis Citizens to engage with their language and heritage.

To date, the Michif Language Department has funded several projects aiming to revitalize and strengthen our language. There are a number of exciting initiatives on the go, including some that embrace today's technology in order to reach and attract a whole new demographic of Citizens.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

On January 9, 2025, the MMF and Taleeb Noormohamed, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, announced a \$15 million agreement to aid the efforts of revitalizing the Michif language that will span from 2023-2028. This new funding model provides greater control to the MMF in managing the funds and implementing language strategies that best suit the Red River Métis. This marked a significant step in supporting the MMF's commitment to revitalizing and preserving the Michif language.

The Michif Language Department is proud to lead the efforts in revitalizing one of the most significant aspects of Red River Métis culture. Through meaningful community collaboration, targeted funding, and strong leadership, we are laying the foundation for a future where Michif is once again a vibrant and widely spoken language within our Nation.

We invite all Citizens to participate in this revitalization journey and to join us in celebrating the strength, beauty, and resilience of the Michif language.

Michif is the root of Red River Métis culture and serves as a connection to community, traditional knowledge, and our Homeland. Revitalizing and protecting the Michif language is essential for ensuring the continuation and celebration of Red River Métis culture and history.







MINING

MINING



VINCENT PARENTEAU
MINISTER



MILDRED DORION
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Manitoba is home to many of the world's critical minerals and, to date, remains under-explored. With the growing demand for many of these critical minerals, driven by the push towards net-zero emissions, mineral exploration and development have increased rapidly across the province, particularly following the release of Manitoba's *Critical Minerals Strategy* in November 2024.

Mining and mineral development projects can have both positive and negative impacts on the lives of Red River Métis Citizens. In many northern communities, mining has been the primary economic driver and source of employment for many years. The benefits of economic development have allowed for a sense of self-reliance and financial stability for many Red River Métis families. However, mining has also caused significant environmental impacts, which have affected the health and well-being of Red River Métis Citizens.

Your Red River Métis Government continues to advocate for your rights by actively engaging with mining proponents and participating in Crown consultation with the provincial government on current and future mining exploration and development projects.

From April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Mining Portfolio worked on the following files:

TANCO MINE – TANTALUM MINING CORPORATION OF CANADA

Sinomine Rare Metals Resource Co., Ltd., a mineral development company based in Hong Kong, China, has acquired the Tanco property near Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. The Tanco Mine currently produces tantalum, cesium, and lithium.

Following notification of a proposed expansion, Tanco provided funding to the MMF to engage with Red River Métis Citizens and conduct a Red River Métis Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study to better understand the potential impacts of operations. In April 2024, the MMF hosted a community consultation

meeting to inform Citizens of the project and gather feedback and concerns. In 2025, the MMF met with Tanco to review the study findings and discuss mitigation and accommodation measures. The MMF is currently working with both Tanco and the Bird River Cottage Owners Association to conduct environmental monitoring surrounding the mine; monitoring is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2025.

VIVIAN SILICA SAND PROJECT - SIO SILICA

In January 2025, the MMF met with Sio Silica to discuss the company's plans to resubmit an application for a silica sand extraction project in Vivian, Manitoba. The initial project was denied an Environmental Act Licence (EAL) by the Manitoba Minister of Climate Change in 2024 due to environmental concerns about the project's activities.

The MMF has expressed concerns to Sio Silica regarding potential environmental impacts and effects on Red River Métis. The MMF proposed to conduct a Red River Métis Knowledge and Land Use Occupancy Study to get a better idea of current Red River Métis land use in the area surrounding the project. The MMF will continue to advocate for Red River Métis Citizens who exercise their rights in and around the project area.



WANIPIGOW SILICA SAND MINE AND SELKIRK PROCESSING FACILITY – CANADIAN PREMIUM SANDS INC.

Canadian Premium Sands Inc. (CPS) proposed construction of the Wanipigow Silica Sand Mine near Seymourville, Manitoba, and a Solar Glass Processing Facility in Selkirk, Manitoba. The extraction project has a projected lifespan of over 50 years and includes an open pit silica sand mine, a silica sand processing facility, a six-kilometre access road, a six-kilometre powerline, and progressive annual site reclamation. The extraction project and processing facility were submitted as two separate Environment Act Proposals.

CPS has received EALs for both projects. CPS is required by the province to negotiate an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA)

with the MMF on behalf of Red River Métis Citizens. The MMF recognizes the economic development opportunities associated with both projects and will continue to engage with the proponent to ensure the Red River Métis are meaningfully included in these opportunities.

ORPHANED AND ABANDONED MINE – SHERRITT-GORDON MINE IN SHERRIDON, MANITOBA

The Sherritt-Gordon Mine is considered an orphaned and abandoned mine (OAM), for which the province of Manitoba is responsible for addressing remaining environmental impacts and conducting long-term monitoring. The MMF has been actively participating in the Sherridon Collaboration Table, initiated by Manitoba Environment and Climate Change. The MMF continues to engage with Manitoba to advocate for Red River Métis rights, claims, and interests, and has formally requested meaningful inclusion in future decision-making regarding all OAM sites, including participation in site monitoring and remediation activities.

T2 METALS CORP.- SHERRIDON COPPER ZINC EXPLORATION PROJECT

T2 Metals, an Australian mining exploration company, is currently conducting drilling activities near Sherridon to explore for copper, zinc, gold, and silver. The MMF is advocating for Red River Métis rights and has recommended that T2 Metals follow the Resolution No. 8 process. This would allow the MMF to carry out a Red River Métis Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study to assess the potential impacts of mining exploration on Red River Métis rights.

LYNN LAKE GOLD MINE - ALAMOS GOLD INC.

On March 25, 2025, Alamos Gold Inc. began construction on the Lynn Lake Gold Mine. The MMF participated in the Indigenous Environmental Advisory Committee (IEAC), which was part of the licensing conditions outlined in the federal Decision Statement for the project. In January 2025, the MMF withdrew from the IEAC due to its feedback and concerns about impacts to Red River Métis rights being disregarded.

Since withdrawing from the IEAC, the MMF has met with Alamos to discuss concerns about the project and the committee. The MMF is also working with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to support a compliance review they are undertaking on the Lynn Lake Gold Project.

HUDBAY MINERALS INC.

Hudbay Minerals Inc. began formal engagement with the MMF in May 2024. In July 2024, the MMF held a community consultation meeting to discuss the elevated levels of selenium concentrations in fish tissue collected from Schist Lake, Manitoba. MMF staff also toured Hudbay's Snow Lake Lalor Mine in July 2024.

Since then, the MMF has fostered a positive relationship with Hudbay and continues to meet on a quarterly basis to receive updates on project activities and engage on upcoming exploration projects. Currently, the MMF is engaging with Hudbay on three exploration projects proposed in the MMF's The Pas Region. The MMF will continue to ensure impacts to Red River Métis rights are appropriately and meaningfully mitigated.

GRID METALS CORP.

In February 2025, Grid Metals Corp. triggered the Resolution No. 8 process to formally engage with the MMF and Red River Métis Citizens on their upcoming mining exploration projects. Currently, the MMF is engaging with Grid Metals Corp. on two exploration projects planned in the MMF's Southeast Region in the summer and fall of 2025. The MMF will continue to engage with Grid Metals Corp. to ensure that necessary mitigation and accommodation measures are in place to protect the rights of Red River Métis Citizens.

POTASH AND AGRI-DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MANITOBA LTD.

On February 28, 2025, Potash and Agri-Development Corporation of Manitoba Ltd. (PADCOM) signed a Royalty Agreement with the MMF, cementing an important relationship that will benefit the MMF and Red River Métis Citizens.

Currently, the PADCOM Potash Mine is operating at a low capacity to ensure it has the proper procedures in place. The MMF is continuing to engage with PADCOM regarding environmental monitoring and education opportunities.



MULTI-PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH INITIATIVE – RED RIVER MÉTIS OIL SPILL IMPACT STUDY AND RESPONSE PLAN.

Natural Resources Canada has provided funding to the MMF through its Multi-Partnership Research Initiative (MPRI). In March 2025, funding was awarded to support the MMF's research initiative, conducted in collaboration with the University of Winnipeg titled: *Red River Métis Oil Spill Impact Study and Response Plan*.

This research project aims to develop a better understanding of the biological effects of oil on species of importance to the Red River Métis, and to assess the threat of oil spills in aquatic and shoreline areas across the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. The project will assist the MMF in identifying and prioritizing potential spill areas and support planning and decision-making for oil spill response procedures.

The MMF held its first mapping meeting with Red River Métis Citizens in March 2025 to gather feedback.

Keep an eye out for mapping meetings in your Region!

DIGGING DEEPER: RED RIVER MÉTIS EXPLORATION OF MINING

In March 2025, the MMF received funding from the Prairies Economic Development Canada Fund to launch the Digging Deeper Program. This program will provide educational programming to Red River Métis Citizens including Youth.

The goal of the Digging Deeper Program is to increase awareness of mineral exploration, mine development, and the potential impacts of mining projects. The program also aims to create opportunities for Red River Métis Citizens interested in the mining industry by fostering strong relationships with proponents in the mining industry.

Through collaboration with industry partners and the MMF's Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow and Stewards of the Homeland Program, both field and classroom events are available for Red River Métis Citizens to participate in.

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



**DIGGING
DEEPER**
Red River Métis Exploration of Mining

CONSULTATION WITH MANITOBA ON MINING EXPLORATION PROJECTS

The Government of Manitoba has begun to consult the MMF and Red River Métis Citizens on mining exploration projects. From April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, the MMF participated in seven consultations with Manitoba.

Through the consultation process, the MMF advocated for the section 35 rights of Red River Métis Citizens by ensuring that any potential impacts from mining projects are mitigated and that appropriate accommodation measures are in place should impacts occur.

RED RIVER MÉTIS MINERAL DEVELOPMENT PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

In April 2024, the MMF received the first round of funding for the development of a Red River Métis-specific Mineral Development Protocol Agreement. The first draft of the protocol is currently being reviewed. Once a draft has been completed, community consultation meetings will be held with Red River Métis Citizens to ensure your feedback and priorities are included in the agreement.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about mining projects that are impacting you or someone you know, please contact minesandminerals@mmf.mb.ca. We are always looking for Red River Métis Citizens feedback and for those with knowledge of culturally and ecologically important areas that are at risk of being effected by mining operations.





NATURAL RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCES



PETER FLEMING
MINISTER



LEAH LAPLANTE
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Natural Resources Portfolio is within the Energy, Infrastructure & Resource Management (EIRM) Department and led by the appointed Minister of Natural Resources, Peter Fleming, and Associate Minister of Natural Resources, Leah LaPlante.

HARVESTING

Red River Métis Harvesters must comply with public safety laws, adhere to the *Métis Laws of the Harvest: Revised 3rd Edition*, and hold a validated MMF Métis Harvester Card with the current year's Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) sticker. In the event a wrongful harvesting charge directly infringes upon section 35 rights, Red River Métis Harvesters should reach out to the MMF's EIRM Department. After contact is made, your Red River Métis Government will gather information about the harvesting charge and determine the necessary steps as to whether support and legal assistance can be provided. The MMF reminds all Red River Métis Harvesters that harvesting outside of the MMF Recognized Métis Harvesting Area (RMHA) comes with risks, as the provincial government continues to charge and harass Red River Métis Harvesters exercising their constitutionally protected right to harvest, in disregard of Canada's Constitution, which protects Métis harvesting rights.

MÉTIS LANDS HARVESTING INITIATIVE

Your Red River Métis Government launched the first annual *Métis Lands Harvesting Initiative*, providing Red River Métis Harvesters with the opportunity to harvest on Red River Métis-owned lands in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Manitoba. To ensure safety, conservation, and sustainability, participants were selected through a lottery system, with each being given a seven-day period to harvest one big-game animal on their chosen property. The sites were equipped with basic amenities and adhered to a "no-trace, minimum impact" camping policy to honour and protect the lands.

MOOSE CONSERVATION HARVESTING INITIATIVE

For the fifth consecutive year, your Red River Métis Government reopened the Duck and Porcupine Mountains for limited moose harvesting under the *Moose Conservation Harvesting Initiative*. This decision to reopen these areas was guided by a conservation-focused approach, informed by provincial survey data and consultations with the provincial government's Wildlife Branch.

PROJECT CARIBOU

Your Red River Métis Government continues to address concerns from Red River Métis Citizens regarding the declining caribou populations and the urgent need for conservation efforts to better understand and protect caribou throughout Manitoba. Over the past four years, 60 motion-activated cameras have been set up to capture photos and videos of caribou and other wildlife in critical northern wintering habitats. Passive trail camera monitoring is a non-intrusive method that helps to:

- ∞ Identify when and where migratory corridors occur;
- ∞ Determine cow-to-calf ratios;
- ∞ Detect other species, including Species at Risk;
- ∞ Confirm the presence and habitat use of Boreal Woodland Caribou; and,
- ∞ Supplement surveys of the Cape Churchill Caribou Herd, part of the Eastern Migratory Caribou population

Additionally, an ongoing partnership with Parks Canada supports this crucial work. This collaboration involves travelling to remote regions within Wapusk National Park to deploy, maintain, and collect data from trail cameras in key caribou summer calving areas.



MMF TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

Your Red River Métis Government has committed to planting two million trees across our National Homeland through the *Make Our Homeland Green Again Initiative*. This commitment aligns with the Government of Canada's 2019 goal of planting two billion trees nationwide by 2031.

The initiative is tailored to meet the diverse needs of Red River Métis Citizens and is organized into five main streams:

- ∞ Shelterbelt Stream: Establishes new shelterbelts and restores existing ones to create natural windbreaks and snow barriers on Red River Métis lands.
- ∞ Citizen Yard Improvement Stream: Enables Citizens to plant trees and shrubs to enhance property aesthetics, improve well-being, and enrich existing landscapes.
- ∞ Edible Forest Stream: Focuses on planting fruit and nut trees to increase local food production and build community resilience.
- ∞ Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Stream: Supports the creation and restoration of wildlife habitats by planting native trees and shrubs to benefit mammals, insects, and birds.
- ∞ Riparian Area Revegetation Stream: Focuses on lakes, rivers, and wetlands to enhance shoreline vegetation, decrease erosion, improve water quality, and create habitat for aquatic species.

Red River Métis Elders and individuals with physical disabilities can apply for assistance through the Tree Planting Initiative to receive support from MMF technical staff in planting trees on their private properties.

The *Make Our Homeland Green Again Initiative* successfully supplied 13,293 trees and shrubs to 327 Red River Métis Citizens across our National Homeland this year. Citizens interested in participating can access the application form on the MMF website or contact trees@mmf.mb.ca for more information.

HORTICULTURE-BASED EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Educational workshops are crucial to the long-term success of the *Make Our Homeland Green Again Initiative*. These workshops provide Red River Métis Citizens with essential knowledge and skills in plant care, covering maintenance, watering techniques, propagation, and pruning. This year, workshops took place at the MMF's Annual General Assembly in the EIRM Department's event tent, as well as at other significant gatherings, such as the Red River Métis Climate Symposium and the Early Learning and Child Care Conference.

PARKS CANADA

The MMF has been working diligently to ensure there is Red River Métis involvement in the establishment and management of new protected and conserved areas, including Parks Canada-

administered sites such as National Historic Sites, National Urban Parks, Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, Marine National Parks, and Ecological Corridors. Through this work, the MMF is advancing the rights and interests of the Red River Métis within National Parks, engaging and consulting with Red River Métis Citizens about their concerns and priorities, and promoting Red River Métis-led stewardship. Key initiatives include:

A) INDIGENOUS OPEN-DOOR PROGRAM

The Indigenous Open-Door Program provides free entry for Red River Métis Citizens to Parks Canada-administered National Historic Sites and national parks throughout Manitoba. This encompasses locations such as Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site, Riel House National Historic Site, and Riding Mountain National Park. Red River Métis Citizens can gain free access by presenting their MMF Citizenship Card or MMF Métis Harvester Card. While general admission is covered by the program, additional fees for tours, workshops, special programming, and other site services may still be applicable.

B) RIEL HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Your Red River Métis Government has taken the lead in maintaining the Riel House National Historic Site to support its long-term care and improve its appearance. This work complements other departmental and affiliate initiatives, such as seasonal cultural programming and traditional garden planting. Similar efforts are underway at the Frog Plains site, another culturally significant location administered by Parks Canada. The MMF remains dedicated to the repatriation and stewardship of sites with deep historical and cultural importance to the Red River Métis, with a particular focus on advancing this work at Riel House.

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

The Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) Initiative lays the foundation for strengthening Red River Métis leadership in environmental protection and conservation. Since 2020, your Red River Métis Government has been advancing two IPCA proposals in alignment with Canada's Target 1 Challenge and the federal goal to conserve 30% of Canada's lands and waters by 2030. These IPCAs are designed to protect wildlife and habitats, ensuring that conservation efforts are rooted in Red River Métis values, culture, and priorities, with Red River Métis Citizens taking a forefront role in stewardship.

A) KETTLE HILLS BLUEBERRY PATCH IPCA

The MMF's proposed Kettle Hills Blueberry Patch IPCA aims to protect and revitalize the Red River Métis Breadbasket in the MMF's Northwest and The Pas Regions. Key activities undertaken this year include the development and implementation of environmental monitoring plans, as well as engaging Red River Métis Citizens in monitoring, land-based learning, and knowledge sharing.

B) THOMPSON REGION IPCA

The MMF's proposed Thompson Region IPCA focuses on protecting boreal and eastern migratory caribou populations within the Region. Key activities undertaken this year included collecting and analyzing trail camera data to assess caribou herd sizes, seasonal ranges, and the number of calves and cows observed. The monitoring also documented incidental sightings of other wildlife, including wolverines, a Species at Risk, and revealed important winter migration routes.



ADDITIONS TO RESERVE / TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT

Under the Manitoba Framework Agreement, Treaty Land Entitlement First Nations may select or acquire provincial Crown Land as Additions to Reserve (ATR) or in fee simple title. The MMF continues to engage in discussions with the Government of Canada to develop a formal consultation process to identify and address the potential impacts of proposed ATRs on the rights, claims, and interests of Red River Métis Citizens.

MANITOBA CROWN LANDS

Manitoba's Lands and Planning Branch is responsible for managing extensive areas of Crown Land, including the development of policies, issuing approvals, and coordinating consultation processes related to land use and disposition. As part of its duty to consult, the Government of Manitoba engages with your Red River Métis Government on Crown Land decisions that may impact the section 35 rights of the Red River Métis. The MMF continues to participate in these consultations through its

Resolution No. 8 Framework, which directs the review of proposed permits, leases, land sales, licenses of occupation, and easements, ensuring that the rights, interests, and perspectives of the Red River Métis are acknowledged and upheld.

SPECIES AT RISK (SAR)

Your Red River Métis Government continues to advance conservation initiatives led by and for the Red River Métis, with a focus on protecting Species at Risk. Key programs undertaken this year include the Monarch Monitoring Blitz and the Chimney Swift Monitoring Program, which promote education, raise awareness, and contribute to national monitoring efforts.

In collaboration with MMF affiliate, Métis N4 Construction, an artificial Chimney Swift tower was built on MMF-owned land to address habitat loss affecting this species. The tower is specifically designed to create an optimal environment for Chimney Swifts to roost and breed, thereby supporting population growth. Following installation, the site will be regularly monitored to track usage, assess breeding success, and ensure habitat effectiveness. This initiative showcases the MMF's commitment to proactive, community-driven conservation efforts that protect threatened species while fostering Red River Métis stewardship of the land.



For questions concerning the Natural Resources Portfolio, please use the following link to contact technical staff: <https://www.mmf.mb.ca/natural-resources>.



RED RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

RED RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEPARTMENT



ANDREW CARRIER
MINISTER

INTRODUCTION

The Red River Métis Community Resource Department (MCRD), under the leadership of Minister Andrew Carrier, is the heart of community support within the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). Our department exists to connect Citizens with essential services, advocate on their behalf, and respond to urgent and emerging needs – particularly for those in northern and remote communities where access to services is limited.

This year has been one of both challenges and achievements. Our team has supported Citizens through personal crises, medical travel, Elder care, and bereavement, while also stepping into critical emergency response role during the 2025 wildfire summer season. These experiences have reinforced the need for dedicated resources, strategic growth, and a vision for a Community Resource Centre that will serve Citizens directly.

KEY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

1. Personal and family supports and casework & advocacy

MCRD provided direct support to Citizens within Manitoba and beyond who are navigating complex systems and life challenges. Often, Citizens require assistance in situations that fall outside of other MMF programming, and MCRD fills that gap.

Areas of support include:

- ∞ Employment and Income Assistance;
- ∞ Employment Insurance;
- ∞ Workers Compensation Board;
- ∞ Canada Revenue Agency – Benefits & Credits;
- ∞ Child and Family Services;
- ∞ Human Rights Commission and Labour Board matters;
- ∞ Old Age Security and Canadian Pension Plan;
- ∞ Residential Tenancies Board;
- ∞ Reunification and reparation; and
- ∞ Elder support and general community development.

Through direct advocacy and system navigation, MCRD ensures Citizens are heard, supported, and connected to the right resources.

2. Elder supports & community initiatives

Elders are anchors of the Red River Métis Community and supporting them is a central part of MCRD's mandate.

Highlights from 2024/2025 include:

- ∞ Linking Elders and Seniors to cultural-based programs, including wellness activities and community gatherings;
- ∞ Providing supports for Elder safety and mobility, including referrals for home adaptations and equipment; and
- ∞ Active participation in community events, ensuring that Elders remain connected and celebrated in our community.

3. Medical assistance

Access to healthcare remains a major barrier for many Red River Métis Citizens, especially those living in rural



We commit to being a strong team within the Manitoba Métis Federation – National Government of the Red River Métis, with knowledge, training, and resources. We commit to building relationships and partnerships so that we can connect Red River Métis Citizens with the programs, services, and supports they need to lead their best quality of life.

or northern regions. MCRD provides direct and cost-shared support to ensure Citizens can access essential care.

Supports provided in 2024/2025 included:

- ∞ **Medical accommodation aid:** Booking and covering hotel stays for Citizens travelling to medical appointments;
- ∞ **Medical equipment assistance:** Walkers, wheelchairs, canes, bathroom bars, and shower/tubs seats. Working in partnership with the MMF's Health and Wellness Department;
- ∞ **Medical transportation fuel donation:** Providing gas support for long-distance travel to medical appointments; and
- ∞ **Ambulance cost relief:** Cost-sharing ambulance services with the MMF Health & Wellness Department to reduce financial strain on families.

4. Bereavement and memorial supports

Losing a loved one is an incredibly difficult time for families. MCRD provides both emotional and financial support to ensure Citizens can honour their loved ones without stress or tolls.

2024/2025 program outcomes:

- ∞ **Memorial Service Financial Support Program:** Provided up to \$5,000 per family to assist with funeral home expenses; and
- ∞ **MMF Bereavement Fund:** Supported Red River Métis families with \$200 contributions, funded primarily through silent auctions at MMF events.

These programs reflect the heart of the Red River Métis, committed to standing together in times of grief and mourning.

5. Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

MCRD continues to participate in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program to provide free basic income tax preparation services for eligible Citizens.



Where services are not available through MCRD, referrals are made to Community Financial Counselling Services to ensure Citizens receive the benefits they are entitled to.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In May 2024 the MCRD Department assisted with the evacuation of the northern communities that were affected by the 2024 wildfires. MCRD deployed staff to The Pas Region to provide direct support to families that were displaced. MCRD set up a donation center with all necessary items families needed from snack, clothing, hygiene supplies, baby supplies and toys, and activities for children.

Staff conducted proactive wellness calls to at-risk individuals, ensuring their safety and access to essential resources. These calls offered emotional support, helped assess immediate needs, helped arrange temporary housing and connected residents with necessary services.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS

MCRD staff were proud to stand with our Citizens and communities at events, including:

- ∞ Ste. Madeleine Métis Days;
- ∞ Elders and Youth Gathering;
- ∞ MMF Treaty signing ceremony;
- ∞ MMF Annual General Assembly;
- ∞ Survivors Symposium – serving as mental health support workers; and
- ∞ Indigenous Veterans Day in Portage la Prairie

These events reflect our department's commitment to being present and connected in every corner of our community.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Staff development remains a cornerstone of MCRD's work. In 2024/2025, team members participated in the following trainings:

- ∞ EMO Crisis Response Training;
- ∞ Elder Abuse and Safety workshops;
- ∞ Mediation workshop;
- ∞ First Aid & CPR; and
- ∞ Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).





RED RIVER MÉTIS VETERANS DEPARTMENT

RED RIVER MÉTIS VETERANS DEPARTMENT



SHAWN NAULT
MINISTER

The Red River Métis come from a long tradition of standing up – for our rights, for our families, and for our Homeland. When our ancestors courageously defended their future generations, their spirit of service became deeply woven into the fabric of who we are as Red River Métis. They knew that defending our Nation meant more than battle. It meant building strong communities, protecting our stories, and ensuring that no one was left behind.

As descendants of these leaders, protectors, and caregivers, the Red River Métis Veterans Department is guided by this spirit of service. Over the past year we have continued to honour this shared responsibility by protecting our past, present, and future generations of Red River Métis.

It is my privilege to present the accomplishments of the Red River Métis Veterans Department over the 2024/2025 year.

RED RIVER MÉTIS VETERAN ARCHIVE

Our department is committed to preserving and honouring the legacies of our Red River Métis Veterans by documenting their stories, commemorating their achievements, and recognizing the sacrifices that have given us the freedoms we enjoy today.

We are proud to announce that in February 2025, the Red River Métis Veterans Department was approved for \$400,000 from Veterans Affairs Canada through the Veteran and Family Well-being Fund to support the next three years of the Red River Métis Veteran Archive project.

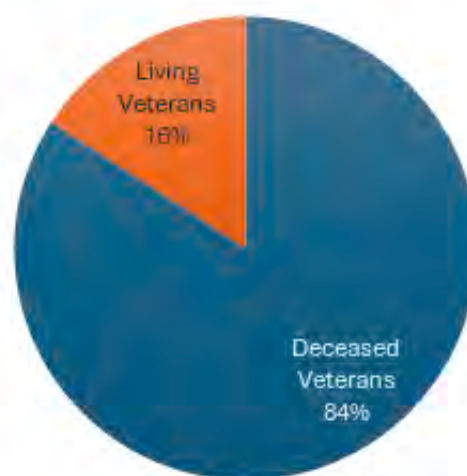
The Archive will help identify past and present Red River Métis Veterans, active service members and their families. It will provide opportunities to establish collaborative relationships with the Red River Métis Veteran community, understand their needs, and connect them with the culturally appropriate supports to improve their well-being.

The Archive research project will be conducted through a series of interviews with Red River Métis Veterans and kin of deceased Red River Métis Veterans, which will cover basic service information, personal stories, pre- and post-service experiences, and a needs assessment survey. To do so, all department staff have equipped themselves with the knowledge and skills to conduct these interviews through multiple professional development training opportunities. Since the project was launched, RRMVD staff have completed two Veteran interviews and four interviews with the kin of deceased Veterans. To date, the RRMVD has identified 405 Red River Métis Veterans in total, with 64 living Veterans and 341 deceased Veterans.

Over the past year, the RRMVD has identified 122 programs and services for Red River Métis Veterans offered by Veteran-serving organizations, which have been compiled for publication on the RRMVD's webpage to assist the Veteran community access the care they need. To date, the RRMVD has met with 23 of these organizations to familiarize them with the distinct identity and needs of our people.

Over the past year, our department has collaborated with the Central Registry Office to develop the Red River Métis Veterans Archive Database. This database will provide a secure method of gathering our Veterans' stories, photos, artefacts and more, to ensure that our Red River Métis Veteran history is never forgotten.

Total 405 Veterans Identified



If you are interested in participating in the Red River Métis Veteran Archive, please contact rrmvreception@mmf.mb.ca.

HONOURING OUR VETERANS

INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY 2024

Every year on November 8th, the RRMVD proudly hosts an Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony to honour the remarkable bravery and sacrifice of our Red River Métis Veterans, active service members and their families. This past year, we partnered with the Royal Canadian Legion Portage La Prairie Branch #65 and the Portage La Prairie Local to host the event. The ceremony was held in very high regard by our 200 Citizens and special dignitaries in attendance in-person, as well as the 343 virtual attendees.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2024

Last Remembrance Day, Veteran Minister Andrew Carrier and Veteran Citizen Steven Choquette attended the national Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa on behalf of the National Government of the Red River Métis.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF UN PEACEKEEPING IN CYPRUS

In November 2024, Minister Shawn Nault attended the Veterans Affairs Canada delegation to Cyprus to commemorate Red River Métis Veterans among all Canadians who served with the UN Peacekeeping mission to Cyprus. This ceremony marked the 60th anniversary of the conflict and the 50th anniversary of the 1974 war.



INVICTUS GAMES 2025

The Invictus Games are an international sporting event for wounded and injured Veterans and service members, that aim to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation, and foster a wider understanding and respect for those who serve their country. This year, the Games were held in Vancouver/Whistler.

The Red River Métis Veterans Department nominated Red River Métis Veteran Cheryl LeBlanc to represent our Métis Veteran community on the international stage as a delegate with the Veterans Affairs Canada Indigenous Veteran Engagement Team.

Upon returning from the event, Veteran LeBlanc shared her experience attending Invictus as a member of the Indigenous Veteran community in an interview with MMF, stating, "I thoroughly enjoyed the [camaraderie] between all the veterans on the VIP Indigenous delegation team and the collective views on Veteran wellbeing and initiatives that are starting up across the country." LeBlanc expressed how inspiring and uplifting the event was for her, noting that she is eager to participate at Invictus 2027.



RED RIVER MÉTIS VETERAN SPOTLIGHTS

The Red River Métis Veterans Department proudly promotes the accomplishments of our Red River Métis Veterans.

VETERAN ARMAND BUORS

In February 2025, MMF Communications department partnered with the RRMVD to interview Red River Métis Korean War Veteran Armand Buors of St. Laurent, Manitoba, for his service and sacrifice on behalf of our country. He was awarded the Canadian Korea Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal for his contributions to the Korean War, which resulted in the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953.



VETERAN LAWRENCE LALIBERTE

The Red River Métis Veterans Department is proud to honour late WWII Red River Métis Veteran and war hero, Sgt. Lawrence LaLiberte. Veteran LaLiberte was in his 70s when he felt the courage to share his wartime experiences with his son, Glenn, while they were out hunting. Glenn LaLiberte graciously donated his father's artifacts to the RRMVD and shared the stories that were passed down to him in an interview with the MMF Communications Department and the RRMVD. This interview will be made public in the coming year to commemorate the accomplishments and life experiences of Veteran LaLiberte.

MÉTIS VETERANS OF MANITOBA: FROM BUFFALO TO BATTI

**Laliberté, Sergeant Lawrence M., CD
H 20843**

Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

Sergeant Lawrence M. Laliberté, was born in 1923 in San Clara, Manitoba. He joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada in 1941. Lying about his age, he joined when he was only 17 years old. After his training in Canada, he was shipped overseas to England for further training and then went to France with his regiment.

On the 8th of August 1944, he was wounded during a night operation at 'Falaise Ridge', against the 12th Panzer Division. He was sent to England to recover, and then returned to his regiment in March of 1945 in Belgium. The regiment then fought from Belgium into Germany, then to Holland, and back to Germany to Olenberg in 1945, when the war ended.

Upon his return to Canada, Sgt. Laliberté remained with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders until 1957, and is still a member of the Cameron's Association today—out of the Minto Armoury.

Sergeant Laliberté M., CD, has an impressive rack of medals, which include:

1. Wound stripe
2. 1939–1945 Star
3. France Germany Star
4. Defence Star
5. Canadian Volunteer Service Medal
6. War Medal 1939–1945
7. Canadian Forces Decoration
8. Normandy Star
9. Commemoration Medal
10. Dutch Medal of Remembrance

Sergeant Laliberté spoke of one event where his unit was clearing out a village and he went into a barn and was prepared to shoot anything that popped up when someone actually did "pop-up" from behind a haystack. He was going to pull the trigger when he recognized his buddy Bill Burwash (see page 96), another Métis soldier from his home town.

Sergeant Laliberté passed away on March 29, 2008.



MÉTIS VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) entered a service delivery agreement with the Métis National Council (MNC) in September 2020 to administer the Métis Veterans Legacy Program (MVLV). In 2022, the MMF entrusted this program to the RRMVD to ensure that the program was administered with efficiency, accountability, and respect. Over the past year, the MVLV has continued to deliver Recognition Payments and the Commemoration Program in the best interest of Métis Veterans and their families.

RECOGNITION PAYMENTS

With these Recognition Payments, the MVLP acknowledges the pre- and post-war experiences of WWII Métis Veterans which may have negatively impacted their demobilization success. If the Veteran has already passed, the Recognition Payment is presented to their spouse/common-law partner. If the Veteran and their partner have both passed, the Recognition Payment is evenly distributed amongst the Veteran's living children (if the Veteran passed on or after January 1, 2016)

COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

Although the MVLP continues its search for WWII Métis Veterans and their family members that may be eligible for Recognition Payments, the program's primary focus has shifted towards the Commemoration Program to support projects that will preserve and promote the legacies of all Métis Veterans throughout Canadian history.

To promote the legacies of our Métis Veterans for years to come, the MVLP has published a book entitled *Remembrances: Métis Veterans* (2nd edition). Twenty years since its original publication in 1994, it became imperative to revisit and enhance the content of the original edition, which captured firsthand recollections of Métis Veterans' experiences during and after serving in WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. This book will be shared with students, educators, researchers, and the broader public, in our shared efforts to ensure that our Métis Veterans are never forgotten.

For more information on Recognition Payments and Commemoration Program eligibility, please visit <https://metisveterans.ca/>.



The Métis Veterans Legacy Program (MVLP) recognizes the experiences of living WWII Métis Veterans or their surviving family members through \$20,000 Recognition Payments and promotes their heroic sacrifices and contributions among the Canadian public by supporting community project development through the Commemoration Program. The MVLP has made significant

progress in recognizing the war efforts of our Métis Veterans and advancing the ongoing business of reconciliation between Canada and Métis Veterans by issuing multiple Recognition Payments and Commemoration Program approvals over the past year.





RIGHTS RESEARCH

RIGHTS RESEARCH



DAVID CHARTRAND
PRESIDENT

The Rights Research Department, established in September of 2023, is one of the newest departments within the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). The department conducts meticulous and rigorous historical and contemporary research which provides the necessary evidence to support MMF projects. Rights Research strives to create a rightful place for Red River Métis citizens in Canada's Confederation by helping to address the unique needs and rights of the Red River Métis residing both inside and outside of Manitoba.



MISSION STATEMENT

To advance the knowledge and understanding of the Red River Métis through accurate, rigorous, innovative, and impactful research that addresses the critical investigative challenges and needs of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and its Citizens.

MANDATE AND FOCUS

Our research activities are designed to build on existing information, generate new knowledge, solve real-world problems,

and uphold the mission of the MMF in its support of Red River Métis Citizen rights.

The Rights Research Department's responsibilities and areas of focus are:

- ∞ To build on existing Red River Métis rights-related research;
- ∞ Identify and direct new Red River Métis rights-related research opportunities;
- ∞ Create an archival database of research papers and historical documents for use by MMF Departments and Affiliates;
- ∞ Coordinate and recommend approaches to inform MMF negotiations and policies;
- ∞ Assist on outstanding claims to be addressed in future MMF agreements, court cases and other important projects; and
- ∞ Support the rights research needs and priorities of the MMF.

LEADERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITIES

Presently, the department consists of two individuals:

Bret Nickels (Director): Responsible for strategic initiation, planning, and management of projects; data analysis; dissemination of findings (report writing etc.); engagement, collaboration and partnerships with internal/external stakeholders; Ensure research projects adhere to ethical guidelines and regulatory requirements, ensuring resources are allocated properly, managing and submitting budgets; and supervising staff.

Lejana Dela Pena (Research Assistant): Responsible for accessing, appraising, transcribing and collecting digital and hardcopy documents from various archival repositories; coordination of research projects and management of the Rights Research database; administration of budgets; ensuring research projects and agreement deadlines are met and driving progression on critical files; implementing and monitoring a consistent procedure for office administration including records, tracking invoices, expenditures, and reporting to management.

KEY PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

- ∞ Historical and contemporary research for legal/political cases and cultural/heritage requests;
- ∞ Use and occupancy mapping and/or report projects;
- ∞ Archival primary & secondary research for projects and database entry; and
- ∞ Inform, evaluate and/or recommend policy initiatives based on research projects.

PAST COMPLETED PROJECTS – 2024-2025

2024: Red River Métis flag research and report for the Victory at Frog Plain Commemoration – for the Culture and Heritage Department.

2024: Research and assistance on a PowerPoint presentation for the Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit – for the Policy Delivery Unit (PDU) and President's Office.

2024: Applied for and awarded the 2024 Manitoba Archivist Grant.

2024: Constructed Red River Métis Harvesting Map – for Beyond Borders Department.

2024: Round Prairie Grave Site research and report – for Culture and History, Beyond Borders and Consultation and Engagement Departments.

2024: Andre Nault Kinship Research - for Culture and Heritage

2024: MNO Turner Family Kinship Fact Check - for President's Office and PDU

2024: Digital Archives Committee and data governance research – for Culture and Heritage, Information and Technology (IT), Heritage Centre and Engagement and Consultation Departments.

2024-2025: Various research assistance – for multiple Veterans Department projects.

2024-2025: Various book reviewing, editing and research assistance – for Pemmican Publications.

2024-2025: Review and update of the Manitoba Métis Community and Research and Ethics Protocol (MMCREP) committee and appraisal of various external Red River Métis research projects - for the Engagement and Consultation Department.

2024-2025: Research and editing for Métis 101 content – for Louis Riel Institute (LRI).



2024-2025: Workshops and presentations on “Who are the Red River Métis” – for the staff of the Culture and Heritage Department, Pemmican Publications and LRI.

2024-2025: Red River Métis Housing History: Displacement and Resilience Report – for Pemmican Publications and the Housing and Property Management Department.

2024-2025: Turtle Mountain Red River Métis Quotes – for the Communications Department and President's Office.



CURRENT PROJECTS – 2025

Duck Bay/Pine Creek, Treaty and Reserve research – for the PDU/President's Office.

Paint Lake and Environs Historical Occupancy and Use Research - for PDU and EIRM

Timeline & Occupancy and Use Report; research used to counter the Dakota claim of exclusive title to all or parts of Manitoba which may lead to a future court case – for PDU, the President's Office and MMF legal counsel.

General background research; Occupancy and Use Report for the R. v. Poitras, Boyer and St. Pierre case in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan; Rights Research Director to be expert witness for the case – for MMF Legal Counsel, PDU, and MMF Inter-Nation and International Ambassador.

Traditional Red River Métis medicines pamphlet research – for Culture and Heritage Department and the Energy, Infrastructure, and Resource Management (EIRM) Department.

Batoche Kinship Project – for PDU and President's Office.

Francois Malhiot, Mary Makogonne, and Quinton Foulston Red River historical and genealogical chart research – for Central Registry Office (CRO) and Culture and Heritage Department.

Map Lab Transfer Committee (relocation of Map Lab from the University of Alberta in Edmonton to Winnipeg (MMF) – for PDU, President's Office, and Dr. Frank Tough.





SIXTIES SCOOP & RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT

SIXTIES SCOOP & RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT



DENISE THOMAS
MINISTER



ANDREW CARRIER
MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTERS

We are proud to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report for the Sixties Scoop Residential and Day Schools Department. This year has been one of growth, healing, and deepened commitment to the Red River Métis survivors and their families. Through our collective efforts, we continue to honour the past while building a more just and inclusive future.

As Ministers, we have witnessed firsthand the strength and resilience of survivors who continue to share their stories, advocate for justice, and support one another in healing; their courage inspires every initiative we undertake. This past fiscal year, we expanded our outreach, deepened our partnerships, and launched new programs that reflect the lived experiences and needs of our communities.

We recognize that the path to healing is not linear. It requires sustained effort, cultural grounding, and a willingness to listen. Our department has prioritized trauma-informed approaches, intergenerational dialogue, and cultural-based healing practices to ensure that survivors and their families feel seen, heard, and supported.

We also acknowledge the critical role of our survivors. Their guidance has shaped our policies and programs, ensuring that they reflect Red River Métis values and traditions. The launch of the Bridge to Justice Fund, the success of our Talking Circles, searching for our missing children through our Pekeywaytahihnan nutr zanfaan leur zispriiand (Bringing Our Children's Spirit Home) research project, and the Bringing Our Children Home Symposium are just a few examples of how collective action can lead to meaningful change.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to advancing truth, reconciliation, and justice. We will continue to advocate for Red River Métis-specific supports, amplify survivor voices, and work

toward systemic change that honours the dignity and rights of all Red River Métis people.

We thank you for your trust, your stories, and your strength. Together, we walk forward – grounded in history, guided by community, and driven by hope.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Sixties Scoop Residential and Day Schools Department is deeply committed to addressing the intergenerational trauma and historical injustices endured by Red River Métis Citizens as a result of the Sixties Scoop, Residential Schools, and Day Schools. These colonial policies forcibly removed Métis children from their families, communities, and cultures – causing profound and lasting harm that continues to affect survivors and their descendants today.

Our department was established to serve as a beacon of healing, advocacy, and cultural restoration. We work to ensure that the voices of survivors are not only heard but are central to shaping the policies and programs that impact them. Through culturally grounded services, trauma-informed care, and community-driven initiatives, we strive to restore dignity, identity, and connection for those affected.

Our mission extends beyond support – it is about fostering awareness, promoting education, and advancing reconciliation within and beyond our communities. We collaborate with Elders, Youth, Knowledge Keepers, and partner organizations to create safe spaces for truth-telling, healing, and empowerment.

By honouring the lived experiences of survivors and advocating for systemic change, we are helping to build a future where the rights, histories, and contributions of Red River Métis people are fully recognized and respected. Our work is a testament to the strength of our people and our unwavering commitment to justice, healing, and cultural resurgence.

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGEMENTS

Pekeywaytahihnan nutr zanfaan leur zispriiand (Bringing Our Children's Spirit Home) Research Project

Conducting research to identify former residential school sites, document their locations, and engage directly with survivors to guide and inform this work.

Maamwi Bigiwwininaanig Ginijaanishinaanig Council Meetings

Collaborative discussions with First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis representatives on residential school-related efforts in locating and documenting burial sites and graves associated with former Residential Schools.

Commemoration Sub-Committee Meetings

Ongoing planning for a commemorative piece to honour survivors who did not come home from attending former Residential Schools.

IRS Mapping Network Meeting (June 2024)

National coordination on mapping former residential school sites.

Advisory Committee Meetings (July, December)

Providing advice to the Minister of Residential and Day Schools to ensure survivor voices guide policy and programming initiatives.

Virtual Talking Circles (June, August, December)

Safe, supportive spaces for survivors and families, led by a facilitator with health support workers.

National Knowledge-Sharing Events

Participation in forums hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools and partners on unmarked graves and missing children.

Kitchen Table Talks (October, November)

Healing-based and interactive cultural repatriation sessions fostering trust and resilience for survivors.

Elders and Youth Gathering (August 2024)

Department staff engaged in the annual intergenerational event promoting cultural identity and dialogue.

MMF Annual General Assembly (October 2024)

Departmental updates, information sharing and launch of the \$2-million Bridge to Justice Fund.

Bringing Our Children Home Symposium (March 2025)

A three-day gathering of over 170 survivors and families, featuring keynotes, ceremonies, and wellness supports.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Key achievements for the year include:

- ∞ Continued survivor intakes and Citizenship support;
- ∞ Trauma-informed community engagement and referrals;
- ∞ Strengthened partnerships for improved survivor access;
- ∞ Launched the Bridge to Justice Fund, increasing survivor engagement by approximately 20%;
- ∞ Refilled key staffing positions to enhance direct support;
- ∞ Delivered multiple Talking Circles and KTTs across Manitoba;

- ∞ Reviewed historical research and archival findings;
- ∞ Advocated for systemic change and Métis Survivor rights.

LOOKING AHEAD: 2025-2026 PRIORITIES

Our priorities for the upcoming year include:

- ∞ Continue our work locating and documenting burial sites and graves associated with former Residential Schools;
- ∞ Expand outreach through the Bridge to Justice Fund;
- ∞ Encourage community participation in identifying unregistered survivors;
- ∞ Develop more regional, community-based engagements;
- ∞ Advocate for sustainable, Red River Métis-specific funding frameworks;
- ∞ Deepen research into Métis Day and residential school experiences.

CONCLUSION

The 2024-2025 year has marked a pivotal chapter for our department – one defined by resilience, progress, and a deepened commitment to the Red River Métis Community. Despite the challenges we've faced, we have continued to grow stronger, guided by the voices and experiences of survivors.

Our work remains rooted in truth, healing, and justice. Through sustained advocacy, culturally grounded services, and meaningful community engagement, we are building a future that honours the past while empowering the next generation. Every initiative, every conversation, and every act of remembrance brings us closer to reconciliation.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our survivors, MMF Leadership, Citizens, and partners. Your unwavering support and wisdom continue to shape our path forward. As we look ahead, we are committed to continuous learning, innovation, and collaboration – ensuring that our efforts remain impactful and inclusive.

This Annual Report reflects not only our accomplishments, but also our aspirations. We are proud of the strides we've made and remain dedicated to delivering meaningful outcomes for our people.







TRADITIONAL ECONOMIES

TRADITIONAL ECONOMIES



DARREL FERLAND
MINISTER

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Traditional Economies Portfolio is within the Energy, Infrastructure & Resource Management (EIRM) Department and led by the appointed Minister of Traditional Economies, Darrel Ferland.

FISHERIES

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Your Red River Métis Government has continued to engage with Red River Métis commercial fishers to gather information on concerns, goals, and priorities regarding the commercial fishing industry. The MMF continues to work with the provincial and federal governments, advocating for the Red River Métis and stressing the significance of consultation before implementing any proposed changes to lake management plans.

COMMERCIAL FISHER NET PROGRAM

Established in 2020 to support commercial fishers, the Commercial Fisher Net Program has continued to provide valuable resources to Red River Métis commercial fishers. The MMF has supported over 200 Red River Métis commercial fishers through the program, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

In July 2024, EIRM staff hosted a Commercial Fisher Net Repair Workshop in collaboration with an experienced commercial fisher and net repairman to learn about fishing and traditional net maintenance methods.

MAPLELEAF MUSSEL EDNA SAMPLING

Your Red River Métis Government conducted research and remediation efforts for the Mapleleaf mussel, a federally listed Species at Risk in Manitoba. This work has improved the understanding of the distribution of Mapleleaf mussels in Manitoba and raised awareness among Red River Métis Citizens.

Two rounds of eDNA sampling have been conducted as part of the survey, and laboratory analyses have successfully identified waterways containing the Mapleleaf mussel.



LAKE WINNIPEG BASIN RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

The riparian zone, where land meets the river, is a vital component of a healthy aquatic ecosystem. In 2024-2025, your Red River Métis Government identified Red River Métis Citizens who own property along Lake Winnipeg tributaries and would benefit from riparian restoration efforts. Restoration work to remove invasive species and enhance the riparian zone is scheduled to occur throughout the summer of 2025, resulting in an improved natural habitat.

RESTORATION PRIORITIES

Your Red River Métis Government hosted three restoration priorities community consultation meetings in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Thompson with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The purpose of these consultations was to identify areas significant to Red River Métis Citizens that may benefit from targeted aquatic restoration efforts. Restoration activities undertaken by DFO include the removal of debris, planting native species to promote healthy riparian zones, removing invasive species, and stocking waterways with native fish.

FISHERIES ACT AUTHORIZATIONS

DFO has consulted with your Red River Métis Government regarding the issuance of Fisheries Act authorizations for several projects, including the Alamos Gold Mine, E.B. Campbell Hydroelectric Station, and Oak Lake Dam. Fisheries Act authorizations are required when a project may cause harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat. The MMF engaged with Red River Métis Citizens and provided reports to DFO outlining the impacts of each project on the rights, claims, and interests of the Red River Métis.

OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

Your Red River Métis Government continues to work with the Canadian Coast Guard on various initiatives within its Oceans Protection Plan. Community engagement sessions are being organized for 2025, focusing on marine emergency response preparedness in the Arctic. These sessions will help ensure that the Red River Métis is heard and considered in future planning.

FORESTRY AND PEATLANDS

Forestry and peatland projects share common elements such as proposed timber harvesting, access development, access control,

renewal activities, and road development or decommissioning, all of which directly affect Red River Métis harvesting rights. Your Red River Métis Government ensures the provincial government recognizes and upholds its duty to consult and accommodate in a meaningful way regarding forestry and peatland operations in Manitoba.

The MMF has held forestry community consultation meetings on Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation's 20-Year Operating Plan and Louisiana Pacific's 2024-2026 Forest Management Plan.

Given that these projects may affect the rights, claims, and interests of the Red River Métis, it is essential that Crown consultation takes place meaningfully to ensure that opportunities for accommodation and mitigation are thoroughly explored and implemented.

To learn more about the Traditional Economies Portfolio, visit the MMF's website at <https://www.mmf.mb.ca/traditional-economies>.







YOUTH DEPARTMENT

YOUTH



RICHARD GENAILLE
MINISTER

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Youth Department delivers a wide range of diverse programs, activities, and events designed to support and uplift Red River Métis Youth. The department has grown significantly in its capacity and reach, creating meaningful opportunities that contribute to Youth development and strengthening the broader Red River Métis community.

Programming includes both short-term and long-term strategies that reflect the evolving needs and interests of Red River Métis Youth – laying the foundation for sustained growth. Initiatives are designed to promote inclusivity, cultural preservation and connection, skill-building, and the development of transferable skills that support personal and professional success.

INDIVIDUAL YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Individual Youth Support Program provides an annual reimbursement of up to \$350 to Youth aged 29 and under for participation in sports, recreational, and cultural activities.

Total Youth Supported in 2024-2025: 2,253

BELIEVE ELITE ATHLETIC AND ARTISTIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Believe Elite Athletic and Artistic Support Program aims to make a positive influence on the future accomplishments of Red River Métis Youth for excellence within athletic and artistic performance. Through this program, high-level athletes and performers were able to access support – allowing them to participate in competitions, dedicate time to training efforts, and continue to pursue goals with alleviated financial burden.

∞ **Youth supported: 123**

∞ **Youth supported – National Aboriginal Hockey Championships 2023: 26**

∞ **Total Youth supported in 2024-2025: 149**



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The MMF ensures Youth play an active role in shaping their futures by incorporating their insights into the planning, development, and delivery of programs. The Youth Department fosters Youth engagement by centering the Youth voice in all aspects of project coordination. This involvement is essential to creating initiatives that respond to the real needs of Youth and their families.

∞ **Provincial and Regional Youth Advisory Committees (PYAC and RYAC):** These committees meet regularly to discuss strategies, share perspectives, and offer input on Youth-focused initiatives. Members serve in an advisory role, helping to shape programs, events, and conferences, ensuring the Youth voice is reflected at every level.

∞ **Youth Gathering:** This event provides a platform for Youth to connect, share interests, and express their ideas. The gathering informs future programming and strengthens Youth involvement across the Red River Métis Homeland.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

The MMF offers a range of programs and workshops that build cultural pride and reinforce Red River Métis identity. These experiences equip Youth with skills and knowledge that enrich their personal and professional lives. Many activities foster entrepreneurship and lifelong hobbies while preserving culture and traditions for future generations.

- ∞ Fiddle lessons;
- ∞ Jigging lessons;
- ∞ Moccasin making;
- ∞ Beading workshops; and
- ∞ Gauntlet making.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

The Youth Department organized a variety of sports and recreational camps and events, allowing Youth to try new activities and build key life skills. These experiences promote confidence, teamwork, and personal growth in physical, mental, and social areas.

∞ **Goldeyes Métis Family Night:** A celebration of culture and community through baseball, with Métis entertainment and family-friendly fun.

∞ **Sea Bears Basketball Clinic and Game:** Youth participate in skill-building clinics led by professional coaches and attend the Sea Bears National Indigenous Peoples Game Day.

∞ **Winnipeg Jets Indigenous Game:** Youth attend a special game celebrating Indigenous culture, fostering pride in Red River Métis heritage.

∞ **Winnipeg Blue Bombers Truth and Reconciliation**

Game: Youth are invited to attend this meaningful event, complete with tickets and orange shirts to reflect on truth and reconciliation.

∞ **Intro to Archery:** Participants gain hands-on experience in archery, learning safety, technique, and sportsmanship.

∞ **Curling with Kerri:** Youth receive mentorship and curling instruction from Olympian Kerri Einarson in a unique community-based camp.

By prioritizing Youth engagement, empowerment, and cultural connection, the Youth Department continues to strengthen the voice and presence of Red River Métis Youth. These initiatives have positively impacted thousands of young Citizens and contributed to cultural preservation, skill development, and a more connected Red River Métis Nation.







AFFILIATES





INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT

INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT



ANITA CAMPBELL
SPOKESWOMAN

Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) is a proud affiliate of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the National Government of the Red River Métis. As a Red River Métis woman-led organization with vast experience in addressing the issues that Red River Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ members face, IWS is a role model, advocating for members' needs. Having grown substantially since its incorporation on April 23, 2013, IWS now engages with 2,500+ members.

The IWS Board of Directors is comprised of a Spokeswoman, seven Regional Directors, and an appointed provincial Youth Representative, in addition to 28 staff in two sites.

Throughout history, Red River Métis women have long-held meaningful, strategic roles in inspiring positive change, and are the heart of our families and communities. IWS is built on the foundations of culture, values, and kinship, as our matriarchs lead with wisdom, sharing their experiences, their voices, and impacting the lives of our members. Standing together as a sisterhood, IWS inspires change within our Red River Métis communities, all throughout the National Homeland.

VISION

Red River Métis Women uplifting each other to feel fully alive!

MISSION

Infinity Women Secretariat is a non-profit organization that connects and empowers Red River Métis women by providing culturally specific programs, services, and support. We foster a sense of belonging and sisterhood for all Red River Métis women and our communities.

MANDATE

To promote, empower, and enhance the well-being of Red River Métis women, girls, 2SLGBTQ+ members, throughout the Province of Manitoba, and beyond.

CONTACT US:

Phone: 204-586-8474 ext. 2775

Email: infinitywomen@mmf.mb.ca

Website: infinitywomen.org



IWS PROGRAMS, SERVICES, SUPPORTS, AND RESOURCES

IWS takes pride in creating and delivering culturally appropriate, holistic programming that supports the diverse needs of IWS members and addressing the issues they continue to face. IWS is reviving Red River Métis culture through beading, art, and education of the Michif language. Furthermore, issues of family and gender-based violence (GBV), relationship/intimate partner violence, and concerns over Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people (MMIWG2S+) continue to impact members. These issues remain a priority. Using multiple tools to bring resources and supports to IWS members within our Red River Métis communities continues to positively impact our overall strategic and community plan.

In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, over 1,700 IWS members attended our workshops, consultations, cultural activities, and events. Similarly, over 1,300 participants completed our socio-economic survey and programming evaluations. Our social media reach

rose to over 95,000, which has enhanced the awareness of IWS and what we do.

ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT, CONSULTATION, AND ADVOCACY

Working in collaboration with the MMF, The National Government of the Red River Métis, IWS aims to improve engagement, consultation, and advocacy (ECA) capacity, to better advance the equity and equality of Red River Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ members.

The strategy developed for this project provides a clear framework for IWS to advocate for the priorities of its members, build alliances and partnerships, leverage various communication channels, and facilitate grassroots-level consultation sessions. Through strategic engagement with policymakers, IWS aims to influence government agendas and address unique challenges faced by its members. This strategy emphasizes collaboration, evidence-based research, and inclusive engagement. By implementing this approach, IWS seeks to foster a society where IWS members have equal opportunities and access to resources.

In addition to these efforts, IWS is in the process of formulating a more systematic Research and Data Strategy. This strategy aims to enhance the data collection process, data analysis, and the overall research agenda, contributing to a comprehensive understanding

of the needs of IWS members. This strategy will inform IWS to design evidence-based programs, services, and supports, tailored to members' unique needs.

GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS PLUS

Red River Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ members have faced socio-economic disparities and significant obstacles in education and employment, heightened risks of GBV, and notable underrepresentation in civic and civil society organizations.

IWS is using Red River Métis-specific Gender Based Analysis plus (GBA+) to assess the potential impact of policies, programs, and initiatives on diverse gender identities. Going beyond traditional gender analysis, IWS has been assessing and analyzing intersecting identities such as race, ethnicity, and age. GBA+ has been enhancing the design and delivery of IWS programming and helps to ensure that policies and programs are responsive to the needs and realities of all IWS members, regardless of their gender identity or background. Considering intersectionality has contributed to creating equitable outcomes for members.

Using the feedback gathered from IWS members, stakeholders, experts, and our partners during facilitated information sessions and consultations, we have developed the IWS GBA+ Toolkit as a guide for members to refer to when applying GBA+ at their workplaces to advance gender equality.

INCREASING CAPACITY TO ADDRESS GBV

IWS commissioned Probe Research Inc. to conduct the 2024 Member Socio-Economic Needs Assessment Study between November 4 and 25, 2024. As a token of appreciation for their valuable feedback, IWS distributed 200 “Wellness Care Packages” to IWS members who completed the study.

The Data collected reported that IWS members continue to experience family and gender-based violence, with emotional abuse being reported as the most pervasive type of violence experienced (80%) by members. Intergenerational trauma was identified as a contributing factor, driving the cycles of violence, poverty, and poor health.

In a proactive approach to address GBV, IWS has assisted members access to GBV-related supports, services, and programs. The IWS Resource Guide and online GBV Portal contains useful resources and support services Manitoba-wide. Hotlines, shelters, food banks, health support services, as well as guidelines on safety planning have been supporting IWS members.

ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE

IWS has developed a coordinated community approach to address family violence, focused on community partnership, community prevention, and subsequent intervention. This is done with a targeted approach to increased awareness, education, and consultation. The aim was to improve access to community-level



supports for IWS members to foster solidarity and empower members to take collective action against violence, create a safer Red River Métis Community.

Family Violence workshops provided members with practical tools for understanding and addressing issues related to abusive relationships. This included understanding barriers to leaving an abusive relationship, safety planning, why those in abusive relationships stay with their abuser, and how to support those in unhealthy relationships. The goal was to increase awareness of bystander intervention and postvention skills, learning how to support themselves or others who may benefit from these skills. IWS helped members learn about resources and how to find them, and ultimately, to build their own reference guide.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

IWS has been working in partnership with the MMF and Métis N4 Construction to build IWS Transitional Housing, a facility that will provide survivors and families a safe supportive place to live, for up to two years after leaving violent situations.

Ten fully furnished apartment units will provide a comfortable, temporary home. The facility will include offices for support staff, a kitchen, laundry for the members, a much-needed healing space, a garden space, and communal recreational areas. A second “Little Infinity Child Care Centre” will provide 42 child care spaces for children.

Our facility differentiates itself from other transitional housing projects as members will be embraced by a culturally familiar environment. Using a Red River Métis-centric approach to healing, women and their children will have access to wrap-around services, resources, and support tailored to their specific needs. Trauma-informed counselling, support groups, life skills training, and assistance with finding permanent housing and employment will help survivors re-establish themselves, encouraging them to make meaningful lifestyle changes towards independence and long-term stability, thus inspiring new possibilities for the future.

PEY KEY WAY TA HIN – BRING ME HOME

In partnership with the MMF, we have been supporting Red River Métis impacted by the MMIWG2S+ genocide. MMIWG2S+ has continued to be a grave concern within Red River Métis communities, yet members continue to be unaware of what resources to turn to if someone they knew went missing.

In addition to providing resources and referrals for support services, IWS is coordinating the use of billboards that share images and details of missing individuals. By strategically placing billboards in Manitoba, we are reaching those who may hold crucial information, assisting families to find answers and justice. The MMF provides financial support for information that leads to successful convictions with the Crime Stoppers Tips Program.

REVITALIZING RED RIVER MÉTIS CULTURE AND IDENTITY

As a strong matriarchal society, Red River Métis women carry and guard the traditions of our people. Red River Métis women have traditionally been the heart of families and community. One of the greatest strengths of IWS is bringing women together and connecting members to programs, services, and resources that enable them to access healing and holistic supports, that are rich in Red River Métis culture. Reconnecting members to their roots, IWS is helping them discover for themselves what it means to be a proudly Red River Métis.

Fun and engaging workshops have been educating members about beading, Métis dot-art, and quilting. This fiscal year, over 100 participants created sash pins, fringe earrings, and lanyards, in addition to two beautiful quilts. We are very proud that our virtual beading sessions has created a network of artisans and Red River Métis women entrepreneurs, many of whom have launch their own micro-businesses.

IWS, in collaboration with the MMF Departments of Michif Languages & Information Technology (IT), has been “Reviving Michif through AI” in an innovative way, using an interactive large language model (LLM) that specializes in the Michif language. The LLM, named ‘Infinity’ has been processing and generating accurate Michif text at an extraordinarily fast rate, in a natural sounding way. In a multi-generational world where language diversity is prevalent, ‘Infinity’ offers a powerful tool for language acquisition and communication.

‘Infinity’ will work with individual learners, ensuring their understanding, using a comprehensive curriculum for conversational Michif, for different levels of language proficiency. Culturally relevant material will emphasize the significant heritage of Southern Michif as the historical language spoken by the Red River Métis. Sharing circles hosted by IWS and the Michif Speaker Advisory Committee will facilitate the use of broader conversational Michif.

RED RIVER MÉTIS WELLNESS

Through the “IWS Leadership Through Wellness” event, we implemented a coordinated community approach to enhance the holistic health and well-being of our members --, providing a culturally focused weekend experience for our members. The event featured a talent show showcasing members’ unique abilities in singing, jigging, artistry, and comedy. A two-hour self-defence workshop was conducted, focusing on real-life scenarios to impart life-saving knowledge. Members engaged in canvas dot-art painting that emphasized Red River Métis cultural heritage, while sharing personal life experiences through storytelling.

IWS was also approved for a new project, titled “Moving Red River Métis Garden-to-Table”, that intertwined physical activity at home and in the community, with mindful cooking and eating

practices, rooted in Métis culture and tradition. Gardening, as a physical endeavor, enriches the body while it calms the mind, integrating movement, and reducing stress.

Participating members received gardening kits, seeds, and the tools they needed to become gardening experts. Weekly challenges posted on social media over a 16-week period invited members to showcase their gardening, cooking, and creativity. Whether seasoned or new gardeners, all IWS members were welcomed to register!

We have been planning the design and creation of our first ever 'Red River Métis Matriarch's Cookbook', which will be comprised of healthy traditional Red River Métis recipes submitted from our Gardening Wellness Challenge ('Gals who Garden'). Our goal is to distribute the cookbooks in Fall/Winter 2025.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

IWS continued to address the unique needs of IWS Youth members, promoting culturally sensitive, gender-specific programming. IWS has been fostering a sense of belonging through Red River Métis culture, identity, and kinship. The integration of these practices, combined with evidence-based approaches, has offered a promising pathway to achieve our goal: enabling IWS Youth members to overcome life's challenges, creating healthier Red River Métis communities.

IWS has been creating safe spaces where Youth members connected with each other and have been learning new skills at

events, through social media, virtual workshops, and cultural activities that pass on our Red River Métis traditions. Social media campaigns, #Youthvoice Friday and the 'Youth Member Spotlight' provided space to celebrate and connect with our Youth online.

The goal of our new project, "Confidence Through Culture for Healthy Relationships," is to promote healthy relationships and dating safety amongst Red River Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ members, 9 – 24 years of age. Using the 'Circle of Courage' model (Starr Institute of Training), an Indigenous framework for personal development and emotional well-being, the program will empower IWS Youth members. By engaging Youth in focus groups and workshops rooted in cultural teachings, IWS will foster a safe, supportive, and connected environment that promotes the role of self-worth, culture, and emotional intelligence in preventing dating violence.

In the spring of 2025, IWS launched the second "Adulthood 101," an innovative, 8-session virtual workshop series designed specifically for IWS Youth members, aged 15 to 29. Presentations from various MMF Departments included topics on Red River Métis history, employability, finances, female health, and healthy relationships.

The IWS "Summer Student Employment Program" (SSEP) has remained one of our greatest success stories, giving students opportunities to find meaningful employment. In partnership with the MMF Department of Métis Employment and Training (MET), IWS provided 54 students with summer jobs in 2024.



They were placed with multiple businesses Manitoba-wide, along with various MMF Departments and affiliates. Students gained employment, training, and mentoring and employers gained a fully funded Red River Métis student.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

IWS continues to support families by prioritizing early learning and child care. In collaboration with the MMF Early Learning and Child Care Department (ELCC), IWS held the ‘Grand Opening’ of our very first “Little Infinity Child Care Centre” in the Interlake Region on March 24, 2025, and we opened our doors on April 1, 2025. Bringing employment opportunities to 16 staff, with opportunities to further their education, the centre provides child care to 55 children, infant to school age.

Our space consists of a large welcoming entrance that leads children to their age-appropriate program. Each program is an open-concept design with high ceilings and large windows that allows for natural light to shine through and give it a “Home-like” feeling. The outdoor play spaces consist of all-natural products and are designed to meet each child’s developmental needs, allowing for plenty of space and opportunity for learning and exploring. A large state-of-the-art kitchen is fully equipped, and the lunch and snack program has been a hit with families! All children are offered nutritious meals – free of charge, for a full day of play and learning. Red River Métis-centric curricula include music, food, storytelling, playing, and gatherings.

BUSINESS NAVIGATION

IWS is providing Red River Métis women and 2SLGBTQ+ entrepreneurs, with resources to develop and grow their business. In collaboration with the MMF Department of Economic Development and the Louis Riel Capital Corporation’s Métis Women Entrepreneur program, IWS is bridging partnerships for women at all stages of their entrepreneurial journey, connecting them with events, training, and mentoring.

We have been providing 70+ IWS entrepreneurs with networking opportunities, advisory services, professional development, and the tools they need to grow their own businesses. Offering these services has helped our members gain the business skills necessary to overcome obstacles, providing them professional and personal growth opportunities, and encouraging women to start, grow, and thrive in self-employment.

IWS, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, created the “Celebrating Red River Métis Women Entrepreneurs” calendar, showcasing Red River Métis women entrepreneurs in honour of their accomplishments and their successes.

IN CONCLUSION

IWS has always been grateful for our partnerships and relationships, especially with the MMF, for supporting the work of IWS. Our programs and services would not be possible without those that invest in the lives and wellbeing of Red River Métis women, girls, & 2SLGBTQ+ members.





LOUIS RIEL CAPITAL CORPORATION



LOUIS RIEL CAPITAL CORPORATION



DAVID CHARTRAND
PRESIDENT

LRCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Leah (Phyllis) LaPlante
Vice Chair Jack Park
Secretary/Treasurer James Bruce
Director Anita Campbell
Director Gerald Barron

THE LOUIS RIEL CAPITAL CORPORATION

In October 2024, the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) marked 33 years of supporting Red River Métis entrepreneurs through access to capital and business services. Established through the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Tripartite Self-Government department, the LRCC continues to play a vital role in empowering the Red River Métis business community. It provides essential loans and grants to Citizens looking to launch, grow, or acquire businesses. Each year, the LRCC delivers more than \$7 million in combined loan and grant funding to support approximately 100 new business ventures.

Alongside its Business Program, the LRCC has also introduced a new Personal Loan Program, offering loans of up to \$40,000 to Red River Métis Citizens. These funds can be used for various personal needs, including vehicle purchases or home renovations. The program is administered and managed by Louis Riel Capital Investments Inc. and/or its agent, the LRCC.

THE LRCC LOAN PROGRAM

The LRCC serves as one of the economic development arms of the MMF offering loans and non-repayable equity contributions (grants) to Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs. Unlike traditional banks and credit unions, the LRCC is structured to take on higher levels of risk, which allows many clients to access capital they would not otherwise qualify for through conventional lenders.

Through its loan program, the LRCC provides financing ranging from \$30,000 up to \$500,000+. Loan terms can be amortized for up to 15 years, depending on the lifespan of the financed assets and the strength of the security provided. Interest rates are fixed for the full term of the loan and open for early repayment with no penalties. The final interest rate is determined on the level of risk and the quality of the security offered – for instance; loans backed by substantial tangible assets such as real estate may qualify for the lowest rate available. Overall, LRCC interest rates are highly competitive and often more favorable than those offered by mainstream financial institutions.

To learn more about LRCC's programs and how to apply, please visit their website at www.lrcc.mb.ca.



THE LRCC BUSINESS EQUITY CONTRIBUTION FUND (GRANT)

The LRCC continues to administer the Business Equity Contribution Fund (BECF), widely known as the Business Grant Program. This program is designed to provide Red River Métis clients with the equity capital required by financial institutions—such as banks and credit unions – to secure business loans.

Since its launch in spring 2013, the LRCC has distributed over \$17 million through the BECF, supporting the start-up, expansion, or acquisition of more than 500 Red River Métis-owned businesses. The BECF is assessed on an as-needed basis, meaning applicants must demonstrate that the grant is essential for obtaining a commercial loan. In addition, clients must invest a minimum of 10% of their own cash into the project.

We are proud to announce that the LRCC will continue to offer this important non-repayable funding program for the foreseeable future. These grants have made a meaningful impact by helping Red River Métis Citizens launch and grow their businesses. The maximum grant available is \$99,999, which typically supports projects valued at around \$300,000. On average, BECF grants contribute approximately \$50,000, or 30% of total project costs.

When applying for a business grant or loan through the LRCC, applicants should allow four to six weeks for the due diligence and adjudication process, depending on the completeness of their application materials. We strongly encourage all Red River Métis Citizens to contact the LRCC to explore their eligibility and take advantage of this valuable program.

For full program details and to access the application, please visit the LRCC website at www.lrcc.mb.ca.

RED RIVER MÉTIS SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Launched in October 2020, the MMF Entrepreneurship Initiative was created to enhance financial and advisory support for both new start-ups and existing small businesses. This initiative offers tailored funding and training opportunities to young entrepreneurs (ages 18–29), home-based and small businesses, as well as small commercial fishers – delivered through three specialized loan programs designed to meet the unique needs of each applicant group.

Loan amounts and interest rates vary by program, and each includes a non-repayable grant up to 30% for small business and commercial fishers and 40% for Youth. For complete details on the available programs and how to apply, please visit the LRCC website at www.lrcc.mb.ca.

MÉTIS WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Launched in 2022, the Métis Women's Entrepreneurship (MWE) program provides commercial financing to support Red River Métis women in starting or expanding businesses in Manitoba. The program offers up to \$30,000 in funding, which may include a combination of grant and loan. To qualify, businesses must be at least 51% owned and controlled by Red River Métis women. Additionally, applicants must contribute a minimum of 5% of the total project cost as personal cash equity.

Eligible expenses under the program may include, but are not limited to, equipment or inventory purchases, leasehold improvements, insurance, commercial rent, utilities, and marketing or promotional materials.



The MWE initiative also features a Grant & Mentorship Program, pairing eligible Red River Métis women in the early stages of business development with experienced mentors. This one-on-one program runs for six months and includes ongoing support from LRCC staff. Upon successful completion, mentees receive a \$3,000 grant, while mentors are awarded a \$1,000 honorarium.

Please note that space in the mentorship program is limited. Information on upcoming cohorts is shared through LRCC's website and social media channels.

For full program details and application information, visit www.lrcc.mb.ca.

RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The newly redesigned and expanded Red River Métis Business Directory has now grown to include over 800 registered businesses. To be listed, businesses must be majority owned and controlled by Red River Métis Citizens.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The Red River Métis Business Directory showcases Red River Métis-owned businesses and entrepreneurs across Manitoba and beyond. Whether you're a consumer looking to shop local, a procurement team seeking Indigenous-owned vendors, or a Red River Métis Citizen eager to support your community, this is your go to directory.

SUPPORT LOCAL

Choosing Red River Métis-owned businesses and entrepreneurs is a powerful act of reconciliation. Every purchase helps build local economies and support economic participation. When you choose to support Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs, you're helping preserve culture, create jobs, and invest in long-term community prosperity.

To learn more or to add your business to the directory, visit: <https://metisdirectory.lrcc.mb.ca/>



RED RIVER MÉTIS PERSONAL LOAN PROGRAM

Louis Riel Capital Investments Inc. (LRCII) is a separately incorporated entity owned and operated by the LRCC. One of the key programs recently launched through LRCII is the Red River Métis Personal Loan Program (RRMPLP). This interest-bearing loan program offers eligible Red River Métis Citizens access to personal financing of up to \$40,000. Funds may be used for a variety of purposes, including vehicle purchases, home renovations, or other personal needs.

To qualify, applicants must demonstrate the ability to make regular repayments. Depending on the loan amount, purpose, and risk profile, security may be required. Interest rates are fixed for the duration of the loan and are determined based on the applicant's repayment risk, loan size, and collateral offered.

Full program information is available at www.lrcc.mb.ca.

Additionally, LRCII offers small personal loans of up to \$25,000 for full-time employees of the MMF and its affiliates. These loans are available for personal use and feature repayment terms of up to 48 months. To be eligible, employees must have completed their probationary period. If the employee leaves the MMF or affiliated organization, the full remaining loan balance becomes immediately due. Interest rates are based on credit history and the value of any pledged security.

The application process is simple, and funds are typically available within five business days. MMF employees and caucus members interested in this program are encouraged to contact the LRCC office at (204) 589-0772 or email info@lrcc.mb.ca.

MMF FIRST TIME HOME PURCHASE PROGRAM

A detailed report for the MMF First Time Home Purchase Program can be found under the Housing and Property Management report.



5785066 MANITOBA LTD., A DIVISION OF LRCC

LRCC'S PROPERTY INVESTMENTS

The LRCC, through its asset holding company, 5785066 Manitoba Ltd. owns and manages a large parking lot in front of the MMF home office at 150 Henry Avenue, Winnipeg. This parking lot can accommodate up to 185 vehicles, and 100% of the stalls are leased monthly by signed parking agreements.

LRCC'S PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Since 2014, the LRCC expanded with a new division to manage properties owned by the MMF. The Property Management Division maintains its due diligence by confirming all revenues and expenses are collected and recorded, ensuring that all buildings meet provincial and municipal regulations, and that all repairs and financial obligations are estimated, performed, and paid in a timely manner.

Additional responsibilities of the Property Management Division include optimizing existing spaces, while improving revenue generation and the management of maintenance and repair requirements utilizing Red River Métis owned vendors and contractors.

In 2024 LRCC's Property Management Division expanded to include rent collection and some specialty Property Management functions from the MMF Housing Department and Finance Department.

As a result, by March 2025, the LRCC Property Management Division was responsible for:

- ∞ 24 commercial/office buildings totaling over 830,000 square feet.
- ∞ 8 parking lots totaling over 772 stalls.
- ∞ 42 residential properties totaling 147 units.

The annual revenue for the properties totaled more than \$11.5-million for the 2024/25 fiscal year, with a total combined estimated market value of all properties well exceeding \$150-million.

A woman with short grey hair and glasses is speaking at a podium. Behind her is a large screen displaying a video of her speaking. The podium has a decorative banner with a map of Saskatchewan and floral patterns. A red balloon is visible on the right side of the frame.

LRI, LRC & EDUCATION

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
RED RIVER METIS

LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE



JOAN LEDOUX
MINISTER



DAVID BEAUDIN
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

ADULT LEARNING CENTRE (ALC)

The Adult Learning Centre (ALC) program is a non-traditional high school for adults, which offers unique course selections such as Red River Métis Studies and Red River Métis Art. There are two streams that students can attend: Post Diploma Upgrading or Mature Student Diploma. During the 2024-2025 school year, the ALC continued to provide students with an exceptional level of support through the Bright Space Learning Management System, which facilitated the online learning platform. Teachers continued to actively support online and independent study students through correspondence via email, phone, text, and videoconferencing.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the Adult Learning Centre (ALC) enrolled a total of 171 students. Among these students:

- ∞ 76 students were registered in the Mature Student Diploma Program;
- ∞ 95 students were enrolled in post-diploma upgrading programs;
- ∞ 34 students were Red River Métis; and
- ∞ 34 students identified as international students.

A total of 26 students successfully graduated during this period. Of these graduates, 10 students were Red River Métis.



CULTURAL PROGRAMMING DEPARTMENT

The Louis Riel Institute (LRI) Cultural Programming Department continued to deliver a variety of workshops, presentations, and training both virtually and on-site. The department proceeded to work with schools, organizations, and historical sites across Canada to further the appreciation and understanding of Red River Métis knowledge, culture, and history.

RED RIVER MÉTIS HISTORY COURSES

PSESP Red River Métis 101 - 104 Course(s)

These courses were developed specifically for applicants of the Post Secondary Education Support Program (PSESP). Each course is a three-hour online course focusing on specific topics including Red River Métis history and governance, Louis Riel, and Red River Métis women.

Red River Métis History and Culture Course

LRI offers and delivers the Red River Métis History and Culture Course to individuals, groups, schools, not-for-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, and government agencies. This course can be customized to fit various lengths of time and accommodate different group sizes and audiences. It is available both online and virtually. In 2024-25, a total of 1,533 registered learners successfully completed the Red River Métis History and Culture Course.

CULTURAL WORKSHOPS

During the 2024-2025 year, LRI delivered a variety of cultural workshops – including sash-making, jigging, pointillism art, and presentations on Red River Métis history – to diverse organizations and groups such as educational institutions, community organizations, professional associations, and correctional facilities. These workshops collectively engaged 822 participants, significantly contributing to community awareness, cultural education, and the preservation of Red River Métis heritage.

Organization	Workshop	Delivery Date	# of Participants
Fre Machii	Sash Workshop	Aug 29, 2024	22
University of Manitoba	Jigging Workshop	Sept 11, 2024	250
Grantown 200th Anniversary Executive Committee	Cultural Display	Sept 21, 2024	300
Digital Organization & Strategy	Birth of a Nation	Sept 24, 2024	19
College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba	Red River Métis History Presentation	Sept 25, 2024	31
Lac du Bonnet Local	Red River Métis History Presentation	Sept 29, 2024	42
Harvard Developments	Sash Workshop	Oct 4, 2024	20
Stoney Mountain Institution	Multiple Workshops	Sept 4, Oct 7, 15, 21, 28, 2024	13
MB Child Care Association	Pointillism	Oct 10, 2024	25
Red River College	Sash Workshop	Oct 10, 2024	25
Hanover School Division	Pointillism	Oct 11, 2024	75



RED RIVER RED RIVER MÉTIS PRESENTATIONS

The LRI Cultural Programming Department conducted numerous workshops throughout the year, both on-site and virtually, which included children's beading, jigging, paper bag moccasins, Louis Riel collage art, shore fishing, pointillism, bannock making, moccasin making, archery, fire starting, and bison hunt presentations – including custom three-day Red River Red River Métis history and culture educational courses.

CULTURAL EVENTS

The Cultural Programming Department also participated and assisted in events held throughout the province. Some of these events include, The Victory of Frog Plain, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Ste. Madeleine Days, Gimli Red River Métis Days, Child and Family Service Cultural Day, Elders and Youth Conference, Riel House National Historic Site, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Annual General Assembly, Louis Riel Day, Commemoration event in Lewistown, Montana, Michif on the Land event, and Nuit Blanche at The Forks.

RED RIVER MÉTIS HISTORIC TOURS

The Cultural Programming Department provided a series of bus tours and walking tours through the year. Bus tours focused on:

- ∞ “Birth of Province” which tours historic Red River Métis sites such as the Riel House National Historical Site, The Forks National Historic Site, Upper Fort Garry, St. Boniface Museum, Pare Lagimodière-Gaboury, Fort Gibraltar, Pare Elzéar Goulet, and St. Boniface Cathedral, and;
- ∞ “Birth of a Nation” which travels to Seven Oaks Monument, Grantown (St. Francois Xavier), White Horse Plains, Grant's Old Mill, and James McKay Plaque. Additional walking tours have been added to The Forks, Upper Fort Garry, and St Boniface.

- ∞ Walking tours focus on Upper Fort Garry, The Forks, Provencher Bridge and St. Boniface.

RIEL HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE INTERPRETATION PROGRAM

Riel House National Historic Site, managed by Parks Canada, brings the history of the Red River Métis and Louis Riel to life for the last ten years, through historically dressed interpreters and programming. In 2024, the site welcomed 1,897 visitors and offered various programs, including onsite group sessions in June and public events in July and August. Seven new staff members were trained in Red River Métis history, safety, and cultural skills such as beadwork, bannock making, and traditional crafts. The team also explored significant Red River Métis sites on a city-wide tour. School programs taught Winnipeg students about Red River Métis culture and history, including jigging, finger weaving, and building Red River frame houses. The site used social media to promote events like National Indigenous Peoples Day, Canada Day, Midsummer Kids' Day, Soiree, and the annual corn roast. The corn roast, supported by Parks Canada, featured performances, house and garden tours, and activities like sash weaving. The MMF's ELCC Department also provided Youth activities, adding new elements to the annual event.

RESEARCH, ARCHIVES, AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

LRI is delighted to announce the successful launch of our fully operational Content Management System (CMS), now available online for public access. This CMS represents a significant milestone in our efforts to provide comprehensive and easily accessible archival resources. We are committed to continually enhancing the system, with regular updates and new content being added to ensure that our users have access to the most current and relevant information.

In addition, LRI has made significant progress in digitizing an extensive collection of audio and video materials through the Listen Hear Our Voices Grant generously provided by Library and Archives Canada. Over the past 10 months, we have successfully digitized 90 items, and we are diligently working to integrate these valuable assets into our CMS. This initiative underscores our commitment to preserving and providing access to important cultural and historical resources.

LOUIS RIEL BURSARY

In the 2024-25 academic year, the Louis Riel Bursary continued to provide meaningful support to Red River Métis students pursuing post-secondary education. A total of 1,609 applications were received from students across seven institutions, resulting in 868 bursaries awarded and \$1,012,450 in total funding disbursed. LRI bursaries reflect an ongoing commitment to supporting the educational success of Red River Métis students and Citizens.

2024/2025 Endowments

POST SECONDARY INSTITUTION	APPLICANTS	AWARDS	TOTAL AWARDED
Assiniboine Community College (ACC)	41	21	\$39,900.00
Brandon University (BU)	88	65	\$176,000.00
Red River College Polytechnic (RRC)	148	43	\$42,000.00
Université de Saint-Boniface (USB)	94	43	\$103,200.00
University of Manitoba (UM)	913	564	\$420,250.00
University of the North (UN)	12	8	\$36,000.00
University of Winnipeg (UW)	313	124	\$195,100.00
	1609	868	\$1,012,450.00

LOUIS RIEL COLLEGE

MISSION

The Louis Riel College (LRC) promotes educational advancement for the Red River Métis while welcoming diversity through the delivery of programs and services leading to success.

VISION

To deliver quality programs that empower all learners in the pursuit of educational economic success benefiting family and community.

VALUES

As a highly regulated private college operating under the Advanced Education and Training portfolio, LRC traces its origins to 2013 when it began its operations under the auspices of the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) affiliate. Commencing a single diploma program in Health Care Aide, LRC has since expanded its offerings, providing students with a diverse array of educational opportunities. Presently, LRC proudly offers the following five diploma programs:

1. Health Care Aide
2. Business Accounting
3. Medical Office Assistant
4. Indigenous Focused Early Childhood Educator
5. Employment Counsellor
6. Educational Assistant

Each of our diploma programs includes a mandatory Red River Métis culture and history component, nurturing a strong sense of identity and heritage among our students.

ENHANCING HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

In line with our commitment to empowering the health care workforce and promoting career growth, LRC has expanded its Health Care Aide program to offer two additional specialized tracks:

- ∞ **Health Care Aide Challenge Program:** This program is designed for individuals who possess relevant health care experience and wish to challenge the certification exam. By providing targeted training and comprehensive preparation, LRC equips participants to excel in the certification process, enabling them to become competent and certified health care aides.
- ∞ **Health Care Aide Bridging Program:** LRC is proud to offer this program, which facilitates the transition of existing health care aides to meet the requirements of Shared Health.

STUDENT SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

At LRC, we provide unparalleled support to our students. We recognize that individualized attention and guidance are essential for their success. To this end, we have designed unique support services that set us apart from other institutions. Students have access to their instructors seven days a week, from 9 am to 10 pm, through various communication channels, such as text, phone calls, or emails, to address any queries or concerns they may have with their coursework. Additionally, our online training portal facilitates access to course materials and resources, enabling students to enhance their learning experience.

CUSTOMIZED PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

LRC prioritizes career development for graduates, offering personalized support for finding employment through job leads, resume building, and interview techniques. They implement customized pre-employment programs focusing on essential soft skills training, which can be delivered in various formats. Over

1500 students have already secured meaningful employment in different Manitoba communities through LRC's initiatives.



EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS

At LRC, we strongly believe in the power of collaboration to enrich educational opportunities. We have forged valuable partnerships with key stakeholders, including:

- ∞ MMF's Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Department: Our partnership with ELCC has been instrumental in the successful delivery of the Indigenous Focused Early Childhood Educator (IFECE) diploma program. The collaboration with ELCC has yielded remarkable results in equipping our Red River Métis students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in early child care education. By combining the expertise of LRC and the support of ELCC, we have created a program that addresses the unique needs of the Red River Métis community while adhering to the highest educational standards.
- ∞ Métis Employment and Training (MET): Our partnership with MET has enabled us to deliver the IFECE program and is instrumental in our ongoing plans to offer the Employment Counsellor diploma program.
- ∞ Louis Riel Institute (LRI): Our collaboration with LRI enriches our curriculum through Red River Métis culture and history courses, fostering a deeper understanding of the community's heritage.
- ∞ Métis Justice Institute: Collaborating on Elder abuse and mediation curriculum development and training reinforces our commitment to inclusivity and justice.
- ∞ Winnipeg Airports Authority: Delivering lunch and learn sessions for the Winnipeg Airports Authority exemplifies LRC's dedication to community engagement and knowledge sharing.
- ∞ City of Winnipeg: Corporate lunch and learns exemplify LRC's dedication to community engagement and knowledge sharing.
- ∞ Tanco Mine: Corporate lunch and training for 50 employees with a commitment to train 100 additional employees.
- ∞ Number TEN Architectural Group: Corporate lunch and training for 25 employees.

- ∞ Shared Health: Partnering with Shared Health to deliver the Health Care Aide bridging program contributes to our mission of creating a skilled and compassionate health care workforce.
- ∞ Swan Valley School Division: Partnering with the Swan Valley School Division to deliver the IFECE program enhances educational opportunities for the Red River Métis community.
- ∞ Cross Lake First Nation: a fall delivery will take place online for professional development and a Health Care Aide program contributes to our mission of creating a skilled and compassionate health care workforce.
- ∞ Fairford First Nations: a spring and fall online delivery of the Childcare Assistant Certificate (CCA) Program took place in April and September and contributes to LRC's mission of creating a skilled CCA workforce.

GRADUATION AND IMPACT

To date, over 1,900 students have placed their trust in LRC, seeking meaningful careers in their chosen fields. We take immense pride in our role as enablers of growth and development, empowering our students to make positive changes in their lives and communities.

In 2024, employment outcomes for LRC graduates remained strong. Among Health Care Aide program graduates, 97% are employed in their chosen field, while 95% of graduates from the Indigenous Focused Early Childhood Education program have secured employment within their area of study. These results reflect the continued relevance and effectiveness of LRC's career-focused training programs.



EDUCATION



Over the course of the last year, the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Provincial Education Department:

- ∞ Administered the Post-Secondary Education Support Program (PSESP);
- ∞ Worked with the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) and the Province of Manitoba's Indigenous Excellence in Education department to create a curriculum development plan and to ensure that the Red River Métis are involved in curriculum renewal;
- ∞ Met with the Red River Métis Education Strategy Working Group to create an education strategy and framework that will improve the educational outcomes of Red River Métis students in Manitoba's K-12 system;
- ∞ Held numerous events and workshops on the University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba, and Brandon University campuses, organized and hosted by the Red River Métis Inclusion Coordinators;
- ∞ Attended meetings with the presidents of post-secondary institutions from across Manitoba, during which the MMF's Provincial Education department built relationships, discussed issues and successes with the current programs, explored opportunities for further collaboration, and recommended the institutions move towards the shared goal of improving the education journeys and outcomes of Red River Métis students; and
- ∞ Began working closely with LRI to ensure alignment and collaboration on strategies, programs, and services designed to support Red River Métis Citizens as they achieve their education goals.

RED RIVER MÉTIS INCLUSION COORDINATORS

Over the course of the 2024-25 fiscal year, the MMF's Provincial Education Department held numerous well-attended cultural events and workshops on three post-secondary campuses across Manitoba. The events were planned and hosted by the department's Red River Métis Inclusion Coordinators (MICs). The MICs are full-time MMF employees who are situated on the campuses of post-secondary institutions to offer one-on-one support and cultural programming to Red River Métis post-secondary students. The current MICs are situated at the

University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba, and Brandon University. In addition to helping students apply for Citizenship and navigate the appropriate resources within the MMF and their post-secondary institutions, MICs are integral in making sure Red River Métis students feel represented and welcomed on campus. Cultural programming highlights from the last year include hunting and trapping workshops, jigging lessons, slingshot making, beading clubs, and cribbage nights. The MICs also prioritize supporting Red River Métis-owned businesses and artisans to supply all their events.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSESP)

The MMF's Post-Secondary Education Support Program (PSESP) was developed by the MMF's Provincial Education Working Group Committee in 2019 to administer funding awarded to the MMF as part of Canada's Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy. Since 2019, PSESP has continued to provide eligible MMF Citizens enrolled in a post-secondary program with up to \$5,000 per fiscal year.

Over the course of the 2024-25 fiscal year, PSESP awarded funding to 2,346 students. The students were awarded based on part-time or full-time status with a total of \$9,681,843.54. This was the largest intake since the program's launch.

Table 1: Regional breakdowns of the students funded by PSESP in the 2024-25 fiscal year

Region	Total PSESP Funding Disbursed	Number of Students
Interlake Region	\$1,114,743.54	279
Northwest Region	\$402,100.00	97
Southeast Region	\$1,172,200.00	286
Southwest Region	\$919,150.00	233
The Pas Region	\$142,150.00	35
Thompson Region	\$67,750.00	17
Winnipeg Region	\$4,908,750.00	1208
MET Final Year (various regions)	\$955,000.00	191
TOTAL	\$9,681,843.54	2,346

Table 2: Institutional breakdown of students funded by PSESP in the 2024-25 fiscal year

Post-Secondary Institution (PSI)	Amount of PSESP Funding	Number of Students
Brandon University	\$371,500.00	102
RRC Polytech	\$419,193.54	104
Saint Boniface University	\$331,300.00	89
Assiniboine College	\$78,000.00	22
University College of the North	\$24,000.00	11
University of Manitoba	\$3,887,750.00	838
University of Winnipeg	\$1,292,100.00	407
Other – Out of Province	\$2,110,750.00	428
Other – In Province	\$149,750.00	132
Booth University College	\$22,500	12
Canadian Mennonite University	\$40,000	10
MET Final Year (various PSIs)	\$955,000	191
Total	\$9,681,843.54	2,346



MÉTIS CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

MÉTIS CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



MONA BUORS
MINISTER

The Métis Child and Family Services system remains dedicated to delivering well rounded, family-focused services that keep families and communities connected. In collaboration with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the Child, Family, and Community Institute (CFCI), the Métis Child and Family Services Authority (MCFSA), Métis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS,) and Michif Child and Family Services (MCFS), we continue to provide essential support to Red River Métis families across Manitoba.

Our unified system – comprised of three distinct yet interconnected entities – mirrors the strength and unity of the Métis sash, woven together to uphold our families through support, resilience, and cultural pride.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the staff across the Métis CFS Authority; Métis Child, Family and Community Services; and Michif Child and Family Services. Their commitment and compassion drive our work forward.



AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (BILL C-92)

It has been four long years of negotiations with the federal and provincial governments on coordination agreements so that the Red River Métis can draw down law. Countless hours from the Authority Executive Management and the Agencies' Executive Directors have gone into writing the Red River Métis CFS laws, negotiating the coordination agreements between the federal and provincial governments, the asset transfers, and the funding agreements.

Our Red River Métis Government, the MCFSA, and both agencies have been working tirelessly to move these negotiations forward. This has been a enormous endeavour. This Act was enacted in January 2020 and despite the MMF being the first Indigenous Governing Body to give notice, the agreements are stalled.

In 2024, MMF President Chartrand and Premier Wab Kinew wrote a joint letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau regarding the coordination agreement delays and uncertainty. The letter spoke to the fact that the MMF has provided all information requested to the federal government to be able to move the negotiations without resolve. A second joint letter from the Minister Responsible for Métis Child and Family Services, Mona Buors, and provincial Minister of Families, Nahanni Fontaine, was sent to federal Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, Patty Hajdu, re-iterating the concerns of the length of time these agreements are taking to complete.

In the interim the MMF, through CFCI, continues to receive notices of significant measures in line with section 12 of the federal act. This requirement of service providers ensures that the MMF, as the National Government of the Red River Métis, receives notice when service providers seek to take any significant action in relation to a Red River Métis child. It is promising to see service providers from across Canada complying with this requirement.

SINGLE ENVELOPE FUNDING

Single Envelope Funding was supposed to last three years from 2019-2022 with an evaluation of the funding after three years. No evaluation has taken place and on April 1, 2025, we entered the 7th year of the same funding. Our agencies had grown in staffing numbers as well as cost expenditures due to the innovative programs and the Red River Métis philosophy of delivering culturally-appropriate services – focused on reducing the number of children in care and supporting our children, youth, and families in ways that are essential to our core values.

The MMF and the MCFSA have been in discussion with the provincial government over the lack of clarity on our funding. The MCFSA has also met with the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union to help clarify the current funding position that we are in. We have met multiple times with the provincial government regarding where our funding needs to be since it has been inadequate since the implementation of Single Envelope Funding.

The MCFSA has been meeting monthly with the agencies' Executive Managers to develop Red River Métis policies and practices related to Métis Laws.



CHILDREN'S SPECIAL ALLOWANCE

On May 18, 2022, Manitoba courts determined that the practice of the Manitoba government regarding the Children's Special Allowance (CSA) was discriminatory against children in care and unconstitutional.

After years of battling, the monies owed to our former children in care are finally being returned to them. In 2024, the MCFSA was listed in the court-ordered Settlement Agreement as the Administrator and the Distributor of the settlement funds. A team of six staff at the MCFSA have been re-assigned to be the Identification and Verification Team whereby they hold in-person or virtual meetings with Class Members to answer the Identification and Verification package in order for the Class Member to receive their settlement.

Once this part is completed, the Class Member is provided with the opportunity to meet with the Director of CFCI or one of our Verification Team members to discuss supports and services available to them, through the MMF and in the community. Through partnership with other departments and affiliates across the MMF, we have been able to provide valuable resources including walking our class members through the process of

obtaining their Citizenship cards, providing education about the MMF departments and affiliates, and explaining opportunities available to those seeking to be involved with our Nation. The MCFSA has also teamed up with the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) to provide financial literacy services and appointments to meet with an RBC Advisor for financial investing and savings.

MICHIF KASHKIHTAAW

Several key updates were made to our internal information system, Michif Kashkihtaaw to improve data management and workflow efficiency. The restriction pod was enhanced to better clarify file protections, while special rates were refined to include Child Assessment Form scores and levels for easier reporting and faster approvals. The education and medical pods were upgraded to gather more relevant information and added attachment capabilities to centralize materials. Additionally, a mass copy feature was introduced for relationships and participants, simplifying sibling case file creation. Placement tracking was updated to better reflect priorities and highlight out-of-province placements.

New features were added to further streamline case management and improve information accessibility. A case-linking function now allows quick navigation between cases and related investigations. A dedicated vaccination pod was created to consolidate immunization records. Date fields were added to disbursement searches for easier status checks, and mass case transfers were enabled to allow seamless reassignment of entire caseloads. Furthermore, participants now have a "household" status to instantly indicate their presence in the home and role within the case.

Several existing functions were redesigned to enhance clarity and automation. Caregiver annual reviews now auto-populate demographic details into background check sections, facilitating better tracking and reporting. Mechanisms for case openings and closures were clarified to distinctly define each system entry and exit. The attachment functionality linked to legal statuses was also redesigned to better accommodate necessary documents, ensuring all relevant information is more accessible and organized.

OUR AGENCIES

MCFCs and Michif Child and Family Services have gone through unprecedented times over the past year and have proceeded with resiliency and integrity through the many challenges faced. Both agencies remain committed to culturally grounded, family-led decision-making, and continuous improvement in case practice. This ensures children maintain meaningful connections to their homes, families, and Métis identity.

MÉTIS CREATING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS TOGETHER

The Métis Creating Authentic Relationships Together program supports a variety of families at a time with various needs,

including early intervention for parents facing substance misuse and/or mental health challenges. This multidisciplinary team – caseworkers, mentors, addictions and mental health workers – work closely with the Métis/Michif Connect programs to build sustainable networks of care.

MÉTIS/MICHIF CONNECT

The Métis/Michif Connect program continues to promote a “family seeing” approach that welcomes family and community into every step of planning and support. In 2024 alone, the program supported hundreds of families and participated in even more network gatherings, fostering identity, belonging, and intergenerational connection.

20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On June 3, 2024, we celebrated Métis Child, Family and Community Services 20-year anniversary as an agency. To mark this milestone, we hosted two staff appreciation barbecues, where executive members took the lead in barbecuing for staff. These events were held at our offices located at 2000 Portage Avenue and 100 Sutherland Avenue. A celebration video was also created in which we heard from our Minister, executive staff, and long-term employees who have been with us since the beginning.

MCFCS hosted a dedicated staff recognition event on December 4, where employees were celebrated for their years of service. Supervisors delivered heartfelt speeches for 20-year staff, and Minister Mona Buors and Chairperson Brenda Zak presented awards.

ROOM NAMING CEREMONY

MCFCS hosted a room naming ceremony to honour two Red River Métis Citizens and their contributions to the agency: Loretta Boulard, who served as board chairperson and a board member from 2013 to 2016, and MMF Minister Judy Mayer, who served as the Minister of Métis Child and Family Services, the system that governs the MCFCS agency, for 12 years.

BECOME A CAREGIVER

We are always seeking compassionate caregivers – no prior experience is needed. Whether for long or short-term placements, our goal is to place children with immediate or extended family, or within their cultural community. Join us in shaping a stronger future for Red River Métis children.

ONGOING SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Our agencies continued to support youth as they transition into adulthood. Through Agreements with Young Adults and various support programs, former children in care receive help with housing, living costs, education, health, and cultural engagement. Individual supports and group programs like Métis/Michif Spirit ensure they remain connected and empowered.

GRANTS

We are thrilled to announce that our organization has been approved to receive \$75,000 over three years from the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada for the Scotia Stay in School Program. This program is designed to support children and youth in care and those involved with child welfare, fostering academic success and recognizing the efforts and achievements of students facing challenging personal circumstances.

We are also pleased to report that Métis Child, Family, and Community Services Agency Inc. has received a \$20,000 donation from the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund. This generous contribution supports our "Ready to SafeTALK...about suicide" project.

The funding covers one round of SafeTALK training for trainers, establishing a pool of 10 certified SafeTALK trainers. Additionally, it includes the purchase of participant toolkits, enabling these trainers to provide suicide prevention training within communities and organizations moving forward. Some trainer candidates will come from our internal staff, while others will be valuable partners supporting Métis families alongside our agency. With funding from Honda Canada, we launched an Emergency Hamper Program in November to assist families in immediate need. We distributed 39 hampers, providing vital support to families. The program filled a gap for families unable to access food banks right away.

MÉTIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

On December 7, we welcomed over 1,000 guests to our annual Christmas celebration at Red River Exhibition Park. Families enjoyed rides, snacks, and festive entertainment in a joyful and inclusive setting. The event brought our community together in the spirit of the season.

YOUTH CELEBRATIONS

We proudly honour youth transitioning out of care through celebratory events filled with community, culture, and pride. These milestones reinforce their value, accomplishments, and the strong foundation they've built with our support.

IN CONCLUSION

We offer our sincere thanks to the MMF, the National Government of the Red River Métis, for their steadfast guidance. We are also grateful to the Boards of the Métis Child and Family Services Authority, MCFCS, and Michif Child and Family Services for their leadership and commitment. Finally, we extend our warmest congratulations to all our children and youth for their incredible achievements throughout 2024. Your strength, resilience, and success inspire us and represent the bright future of the Red River Métis Nation. To learn more about our system, please review the Métis CFS Annual Reports included in your AGA kit.



MÉTIS N4 CONSTRUCTION INC.

MÉTIS N4 CONSTRUCTION INC., CAPITAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & PROJECT MANAGEMENT



JACK PARK
MINISTER

Métis N4 Construction Inc. (MN4) provides Development and Project Management services for Capital Projects to the National Government of the Red River Métis. Owned by the MEDO Development Trust, MN4 is the fastest growing Indigenous Developer in the Red River Métis homeland.

Métis N4 Construction continues to drive business development initiatives, with a strong focus on both private and public sector procurement. As one of the Manitoba Métis Federation's leading development corporations, N4 is committed to identifying and advancing business opportunities for itself and other Red River Métis enterprises across Manitoba. The company has secured strategic agreements with Joint Venture Partners to pursue major economic development projects in construction and related services.

N4 is at the forefront of creating pathways for Red River Métis small and medium-sized businesses, as well as skilled

tradespeople, in fields such as electrical, mechanical, civil engineering, and construction. In addition, the company is actively expanding service-based opportunities, including waste removal, surveying, safety and security services, real estate and project management. Through these efforts, Métis N4 is fostering a robust and inclusive economic landscape that supports long-term growth for Red River Métis entrepreneurs and workers alike.

Métis N4 provides a range of services to MMF departments and affiliates for Capital Projects. Our team includes experts in planning, design, construction and estimating for every stage of work, especially at the early stages of any project concept. We also lead technical assessment for existing buildings, code compliance analysis and project scoping.

Part of our mandate is to ensure Métis owned businesses and Métis trades have opportunities for economic participation in Capital Projects. In fiscal 2024/2025, nearly 200,000 construction labour hours were tracked on Capital Projects, Métis labour hours accounted for 29% of work with an estimated labour market value of \$2.8M of economic re-investment by the National Government of the Red River Métis re-invested in our Citizens

We lead procurement for design, engineering and construction services and apply the Métis Economic Procurement Policy. When we contract with non-Métis owned companies, MN4 negotiates with industry to provide employment and training opportunities to Métis citizens.

In collaboration with the department of Energy, Infrastructure, and Resource Management, MN4 initiated a construction waste diversion pilot project for 355 Eveline. Diverted waste will be



used as fuel for the biomass district boiler at the Red River Métis Tree Nursery. As the pilot project is expanded, construction waste diversion has the potential to become income generating for the Red River Métis Tree Nursery and a reliable and renewable part of a sustainable green economy.

Active projects from fiscal 2024/2025 were valued at \$133.5 Million. Completion of the multi-family housing and commercial development in Selkirk Manitoba in December 2024 was a major milestone for MN4 and the National Government of the Red River Métis.

PROJECTS AND STATUS

355 EVELINE, 55+ HOUSING

- ∞ Tenants began moving in to Eveline on December 13, 2024
- ∞ By March, 2025, over 75% of the building was leased

335 MAIN STREET, RED RIVER MÉTIS NATIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

- ∞ Interior demolition was completed: including removal of the escalator and banking desk
- ∞ Hazardous materials were removed
- ∞ Roofing was completed
- ∞ Non-historical windows were removed and replaced

1147 BREEZY POINT ROAD: INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT HOUSING AND CHILD CARE

- ∞ Design and engineering completed
- ∞ Site clearing was completed
- ∞ Construction began in March 2025

1147 BREEZY POINT ROAD: RED RIVER MÉTIS TREE NURSERY

- ∞ 12 of 15 buildings have been erected on site
- ∞ Construction began in 2023 and will be complete in 2026.

385 HENDERSON HIGHWAY: MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING & RON-ALD'S PLACE, EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

- ∞ The project was approved to proceed by President and Cabinet
- ∞ The target value project budget is \$30M
- ∞ A Chimney Swift habitat was constructed and the birds have established their nesting site
- ∞ Demolition will occur in summer 2025
- ∞ Completion is targeting spring 2027

200 MAIN STREET LOUIS RIEL COLLEGE

- ∞ New classrooms and offices
- ∞ Construction began in spring 2025 and will be completed in Fall 2025

200 MAIN STREET, EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

- ∞ 50 new licenced childcare spaces will be created
- ∞ Construction began in spring 2025 and will be complete in fall 2025

COMMUNITY FOOD GREENHOUSES

- ∞ St. Laurent, complete
- ∞ Metigoshe, complete
- ∞ Winnipeg, complete
- ∞ Thompson, in process
- ∞ The Pas, in process
- ∞ Swan River, in process
- ∞ Winnipegosis, in process

The needs of Métis citizens are diverse. Métis N4 understands that our work is wholly in service to meeting the needs of our people. Our success comes as a result of respect for our people, our relationships and our land. We are grateful for the opportunities we have to make a lasting legacy in our Homeland.

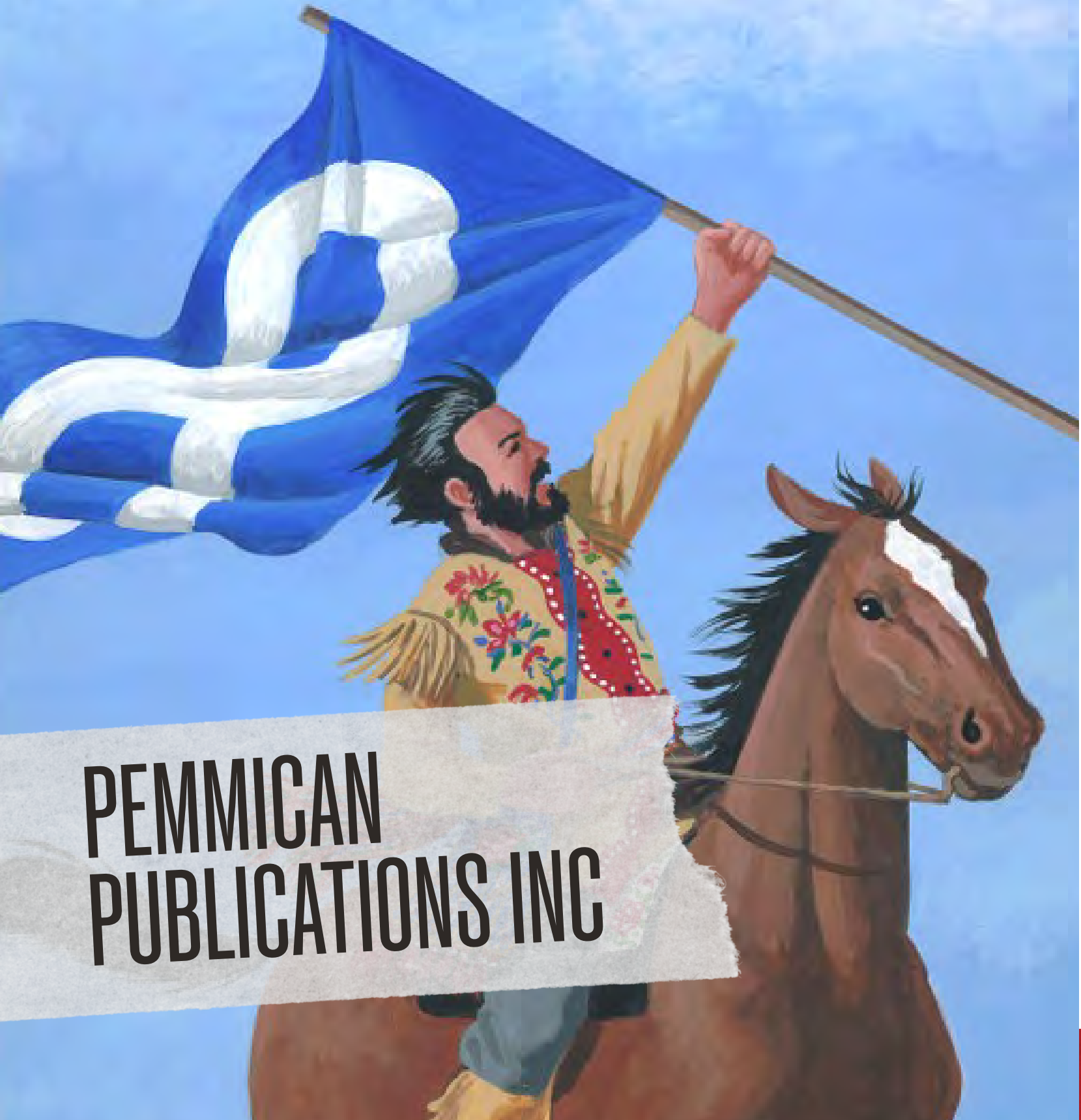




La Naasyoon Michif

Araa Jean LaPrairie

Mashinahum Sheldon Dawson



**PEMMICAN
PUBLICATIONS INC**

PEMMICAN PUBLICATIONS INC.



JULYDA LAGIMODIERE
MINISTER

I welcome Red River Métis Citizens to the 2025 Annual General Assembly. As the Minister of Pemmican Publications Inc. (Pemmican), an Affiliate of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) – National Government of the Red River Métis – I am pleased to report our fiscal year accomplishments.

Pemmican continues to play an important role in acknowledging and publishing information brought forward through literary works. The Red River Métis have a long cultural and heritage-based foundation that needs to be documented for the Red River Métis Nation.

Pemmican continues to be successful in supporting authors and illustrators who have been supplying content and driving excitement for Pemmican Publications. Today's digital era increases accessibility for authors, illustrators, and writers to communicate cultural and historical information.

Pemmican will continue to innovate and generate new and exciting publishing opportunities for Red River Métis Citizens. For Citizens who have a story to tell or an idea to share, Pemmican welcomes an opportunity to publish your ideas and tell your stories.

"Your Story Starts Here".



PEMMICAN PUBLICATION'S MANDATE

The mandate of Pemmican is to promote Canadian Red River Métis writers and illustrators through stories that are informed by Métis experience. With each new year that means a wider spectrum of stories. Our objective is to build a catalogue of informative, entertaining and commercially viable titles that reflects both the history and hopes of Red River Métis people past and present. The objective is to produce stories that will provide affirmation and encouragement for Métis readers, while also offering much to enlighten and entertain everyone who enjoys the timeless value of a good story told with passion and flair.

HISTORY OF PEMMICAN PUBLICATIONS

Pemmican was founded as a non-profit organization in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1980 by the MMF. Pemmican provided the publisher's first inventory through the combined titles of The Métis Press and Editions Bois-Brûlés. Since then, it has published more than 150 titles, including history, biography, Canadian cultural and linguistic studies, adult fiction, poetry, and illustrated stories for young and early readers. Pemmican is the only dedicated Red River Métis publishing house in Canada.

PEMMICAN PUBLICATIONS BUSINESS REVIEW

A viable strategic plan was developed that involved:

1. A review and development of business operations:

- ∞ Established new guidelines for the board of directors;
- ∞ Presented the board of directors' nominees to MMF Cabinet;
- ∞ Obtained control of existing website;
- ∞ Established new author and illustrator submission guidelines.

2. An assessment of business requirements:

- ∞ Financial review and budget development;
- ∞ Developed an operational budget for 2024-2025;
- ∞ Researched new and previous funding opportunities.
- ∞ Dialog with new authors and illustrators;
- ∞ 23 new manuscripts have been submitted;
- ∞ 11 new authors/ illustrators;
- ∞ 15 books are in the works:
 - ∞ 12 external books
 - ∞ 3 internal books

3. Developed Sales and Marketing Plans:

- ∞ Developed Sales Plans:
 - ∞ Prepared a catalogue of existing Pemmican books for sale;
 - ∞ Pemmican was revitalized with an inventory of the previous catalogue. This inventory is essential in generating seed money for new publications.
 - ∞ Examined current day business avenues. eBooks, audible, magazines opportunities, art and entertainment, partnerships;
 - ∞ New business opportunities in publishing are centered around e-commerce. Currently, Pemmican is working on developing an e-commerce platform.
- ∞ Developed Marketing Plans:
 - ∞ Find as many Red River Métis authors as possible to share stories and build content to be potentially published. Finding accurate sources of cultural and heritage based historical material is important and essential.

4. Received Michif Funding

5. Print Services:

- ∞ Internal;
 - ∞ Print and publish services for MMF Departments and Affiliates;
 - ∞ Partnership with Edward Simard General Store Inc. (ESGS) to source materials and fulfill print and request needs;
 - ∞ Researched data for content;
- ∞ External;
 - ∞ Print and publish services.

6. Book Services:

- ∞ Partnership with ESGS to acquire books and fulfill book request needs for MMF Departments and Affiliates.

STATISTICS:

Red River Citizens' requests:

- ∞ 116 inquiries;
- ∞ 9 new author requests;
- ∞ 8 old authors requests;
- ∞ 20 manuscripts;
- ∞ 9 current projects.

Number of Michif Projects Pursuing:

- ∞ Internal Projects (6)
- ∞ External Projects (3)

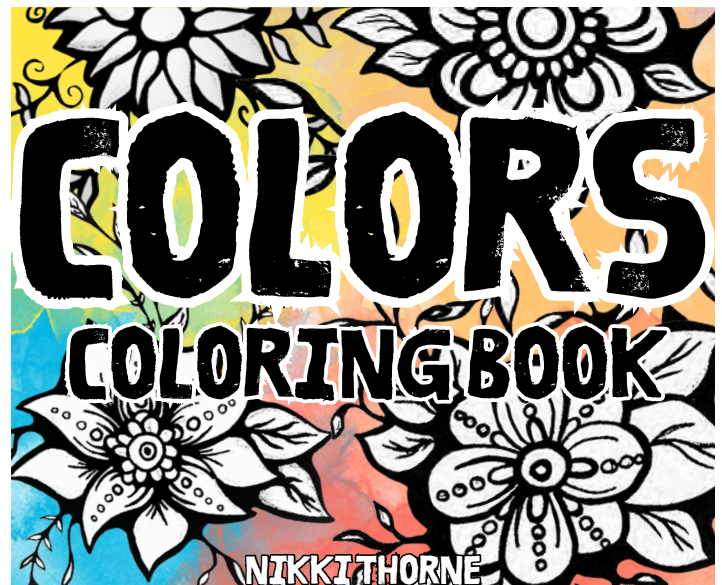
With our partnership with the MMF's Michif Languages Department, Pemmican is the designated printer and publisher for Michif opportunities.

"Help us help you tell your story!"

PemmicanPublications@mmf.mb.ca
www.PemmicanPublications.ca

Tony Chiarelli – General Manager (431) 335-0202 General Inquires (204) 586-8474 Ext. 2734

200 Main Street Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A8





**RED RIVER MÉTIS
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



MMF PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND LAND
CLAIMS

MISSION STATEMENT:

As the newest economic development affiliate of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the Red River Métis Business Development Corporation (RRMBDC) is committed to continually adapting and building programs and services tailored to meet the needs of Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs.



MANDATE:

- ∞ **To lead the Red River Métis Business Association:** Our commitment goes beyond words. We're dedicated to providing highly valuable programs and services exclusively to association members. As we build a resilient and thriving Red River Métis business community, we're investing in your success.
- ∞ **To provide comprehensive business services:** We offer comprehensive business services, meticulously tailored for majority-owned and controlled for-profit businesses within the Red River Métis Community. Count on us for essential support and resources that fuel your growth and success.
- ∞ **To facilitate increased access to capital:** We're on a mission to support access to capital. By bolstering Red River Métis

businesses and entrepreneurs connection to essential capital resources, we ignite sustainable growth and drive economic development within our vibrant community.

- ∞ **To cultivate strong partnerships:** Forge enduring alliances with both private and public sectors, leveraging collaborative efforts to maximize opportunities and support for Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs.

LEADERSHIP AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Board Chair, Minister Anita Campbell.

Her primary responsibilities include:

1. Leading and guiding the board by engaging individual Board Members;
2. Chair board meetings and providing strong leadership;
3. Supporting and supervising the chief executive officer while following transparent and strong governing practices.

Board Vice-Chair, Minister David Beaudin

Board Secretary/Treasurer, Stan Higgins

Board Member, Minister Peter Fleming

Board Member, Elizebeth Palfrey

Chief Executive Officer, John Coutris

His primary responsibilities include:

- ∞ Setting and executing organizational strategy;
- ∞ Operational control over strategy and execution to make decisions about new product lines, service delivery, business growth, and innovation;
- ∞ Building the leadership team: Overseeing the selection and development of management who drive the company's success;
- ∞ Making capital allocation decisions: Allocating financial resources wisely to ensure optimal support for Red River Métis entrepreneurs;
- ∞ Setting vision, values, and corporate culture: Shaping RRMBDC's identity and direction.

KEY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

1. Networking with other Red River Métis Entrepreneurs;
 - ∞ Red River Métis Business Association has been created to support businesses and entrepreneurs by providing resources and tools through conferences, workshops, and network events; making the Red River Métis business community stronger by bringing our members together. **Learn more about the Red River Métis Business Association by visiting our website at <https://www.rrmbdc.ca/business-association> and join the Business Association today!**

2. Programs and services that support and enhance your business;

- ∞ Digital media marketing services that involve utilizing platforms like Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube to create and share content, engage with audiences, run targeted advertising campaigns, and analyze performance metrics to enhance brand visibility, drive engagement, and achieve marketing objectives. **Learn more by visiting our website at <https://www.rrmbdc.ca/digital-marketing>.**
- ∞ Bookkeeping services that involve accurately recording and categorizing financial transactions, maintain general ledgers, reconciling bank statements, and preparing financial statements to monitor the financial health and performance of a business, and support informed decision-making. **Learn more by visiting our website at <https://www.rrmbdc.ca/bookkeeping>.**
- ∞ The group benefits plan is designed to support your employees' well-being and strengthen your business; tailored for businesses with 1-25 employees, our group benefits plan is flexible to meet your changing needs and budget. **Learn more by visiting our website at <https://www.rrmbdc.ca/group-benefits>.**
- ∞ Access to capital to provide financing in the form of equity and/or subordinated debt to support Red River Métis businesses in start-up, growth, acquisition, or expansion business phases. **Learn more by visiting our website at <https://www.rrmbdc.ca/investment-program>.**



3. Events that feature learning, networking, and procurement opportunities; increase your business profile and enhance community engagement;

- ∞ Red River Métis Business Excellence Awards: The inaugural business awards gala was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on May 30, 2024. Businesses competed in four distinctive business awards: Traditional Economies, Young Entrepreneur, Sustainable Economy, and Infinity Women Secretariate Spokesperson's Awards. The MMF also honoured one Red River Métis Citizen with the

President's Lifetime Achievement Award. The finalists and award recipients' videos can be viewed on our website at <https://www.rrmbdc.ca/2024-red-river-metis-business-excellence-awards>.

- ∞ Red River Métis Business EXPO: A two-day event held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, December 3 and 4, 2024. The EXPO was inspired by the entrepreneurial traditions of Red River Métis buffalo hunts and the ingenuity of Red River carts, driven by our rich history of business and trade relations. Over the two days, the EXPO offered workshops, keynote addresses, tradeshow, and an inspirational speech from a world champion Red River Métis athlete. A recap of the EXPO can be viewed on our website at <https://www.rrmbdc.ca/2024-red-river-metis-business-expo>.

4. Connectivity and greater ease of access to other Red River Métis businesses and economic development programs within the MMF and affiliates and corporate partners.

The RRM BDC invites all entrepreneurs to learn more about the Red River Métis Business Association and its professional services that are tailored to support you and your business.

Contact us:

Red River Métis Business Development Corporation
2100-333 Main Street Winnipeg, MB R3C 4E2
Phone: (204) 589-0772 or toll free within Manitoba: 1-800-387-6004

Website: www.rrmbdc.ca

Email: RRMBDC@mmf.mb.ca

Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube.







RED RIVER MÉTIS FUR COMPANY

RED RIVER MÉTIS FUR COMPANY



DARREL FERLAND
MINISTER

The Red River Métis Fur Company (RRMFC) continued its operations to purchase furs and hides from Métis trappers and Harvesters in fiscal year 2024/2025. RRMFC offers prices 25 per cent higher than the current market value, which significantly boosted participation.

The 2024/2025 season has seen 56 trappers.

Total dollar purchases for 2024/2025 totalled \$163,389 compared to \$180,340 in the prior year, representing a decrease of \$16,951.

This variance is primarily due to fur purchases that occurred in March of the prior year but were carried over to April in the current year. In addition, poor weather conditions – specifically a late freeze-up – impacted trappers’ ability to access their traplines, which directly affected the number of pelts produced.

This initiative is crucial as it perpetuates Métis traditions and economic activities related to the fur trade. The Red River Métis Fur Company has a policy of purchasing only from Red River Métis Citizens who hold a valid Citizenship card and a provincial

trapper’s licence in the same name. This policy promotes accountability, and supports Métis economic self-determination.

Additionally, a new program has been established to support Métis initiatives launched at the Annual General Assembly in October 2023, which aims to promote traditional Métis arts and crafts, and sustain the cultural heritage of the Red River Métis. Since being launched in the fall of 2023, 54 artisans have joined the program with a total of \$50,000 provided at cost for materials.

FY 2024/2025: \$163,389 purchased from 56 trappers.
Per region breakdown

∞	The Pas	(3 trappers / \$9,990)
∞	Northwest	(27 trappers / \$54,528)
∞	Southeast	(10 trappers / \$50,707)
∞	Southwest	(4 trappers / \$1,245)
∞	Interlake	(5 trappers / \$10,842)
∞	Winnipeg	(2 trappers / \$13,350)
∞	Thompson	(5 trappers / \$22,727)

Total:
56 trappers
\$163,389

The RRMFC sincerely wants to thank all the trappers and artisans for their hard work. We recognize the time and effort involved in harvesting, pelt preparation, sewing, beading, etc. and look forward to continuing to build relationships with trappers and artisans in the future.





MMF

24 HOURS

24 HOURS





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